

'GuitarFire: The 7 Steps To Guitar Mastery'

COURSE MODULES

- 1) Setup: Make Things As Easy As Possible
- 2) Chords: Get Comfy With Chord Technique & Transitions
- 3) Musicality: Improve Your Groove & Bring Everything To Life
- 4) Lead Guitar: Learn To Play Heroic Riffs, Licks & Solos
- 5) Scales: Master The Most Useful Patterns
- 6) Dark Arts: Revealing The Tricks Of The Trade
- 7) Theory: Understand Music Theory & Keys

STEP 1) Setup: Make Things As Easy As Possible

An Overview Of The Guitar Journey

In this lesson we give you a bird's eye view of what the ideal guitar journey looks like. (Don't worry if you haven't followed it so far!)

We'll explain what order you should approach things and give you a useful overview. We've found over the years that it's beneficial for students to have an idea of the 'big picture' so they can orientate themselves.

How To Choose A Guitar

Learn the 3 criteria to choose a perfect guitar.

What You Need To Know About Your Guitar

In this lesson we cover the essential things you need to know about your guitar.

How To Use A Guitar Amp & Create The Tone You Want

It can be hard to get a good tone from your amp when you first start playing. In this lesson we explain what the different controls of an amp do and how you should use them to create the tone you want.

4 Game-Changing Pieces of Preparation That Instantly Make You Sound Better

Skip any of these 4 things at your peril!

3 'Must-Know' Pieces of Music Theory

In this useful lesson Mike covers 3 essential pieces of music theory: Notes vs chords; the notes of the musical alphabet (including 'what are sharps and flats?'); and the difference between major and minor chords.

Understanding The Structure of Songs (And Why It Matters For A Guitarist)

What are the different elements of a song and why is this knowledge important for guitarists?

How Are Rhythm, Lead and Bass Guitar Different?

These 3 types of guitar perform very different roles. In this lesson Mike covers the key differences in the styles of play required for each.

How To Read Guitar Chordboxes

In this lesson Mike explains how to read guitar chordboxes. You can find a more thorough explanation (with more examples) in this free lesson on our website: <http://nationalguitaracademy.com/lessons/how-to-read-guitar-chordboxes/>

How To Understand Guitar Tablature ("Guitar Tab")

In this lesson Mike explains what guitar tab is and how to read it.

The Notes of The Musical Stave - Part 1

This lesson explains what the notes are on a musical stave. (AKA "Sheet music".)

The Notes of The Musical Stave - Part 2

This lesson explains what the different note symbols relate to (whole note, quarter note, half note and eighth note).

The All-Conquering Importance of Posture: 6 Tips For Perfect Technique

This is the most important lesson in this programme. In this lesson Mike reveals the 6 vital components in your posture that **MUST** be in place for you to succeed. Mike discusses straps, elbow position, thigh height, wrist & forearm placement, leg choice, foot lifting, guitar tilting & pitch.

How To Strum The Guitar & Why You Should Use A Pick (AKA 'Plectrum')

In this important lesson Mike covers the basic steps of good strumming. Mike discusses:

- 1) The ideal pick for a beginner guitarist
- 2) Playing with fingers vs a pick
- 3) "Thumb plague!"
- 4) How to strum with a pick
- 5) How to correctly hold a pick

STEP 2) Chords: Get Comfy With Chord Technique & Transitions

5 Basic-But-Essential Chord Fretting Tips

This lesson covers some key fretting tips, including finger technique, 'finger tips vs pads', thumb placement and guidance about finger nails.

Understanding The Massive Influence Of Your Wrist

It's not all about fingers. This lesson highlights the importance of how you use your wrist (and how that can make things easier OR harder for you).

How To Fast-Track Your Progress With Stepping-Stone Chords

In this lesson you will learn an approach that will save you many hours of frustration. You can find a full index of Mike's stepping-stone chord guides here:
<http://nationalguitaracademy.com/lessons-category/chords/>

How To Instantly Sound Better: Harnessing the Power of Root Notes

This lesson reveals a killer technique for becoming a better guitarist instantly. (Yes, 'instantly!')

4 Ninja Tips For Changing Chords Quickly & Cleanly

Mike shares 4 slick techniques that will make your chord changes smoother than a puma cheating at backgammon.

A Pro-Tip For Moving Through Chord Progressions Seamlessly

In this lesson you'll learn a powerful secret that all advanced guitarists use.

Increase Your Chord Vocabulary With This 1 Simple Trick

In this lesson you'll learn a strange-but-effective method to grow your chord knowledge.

GRADE 1 (Rockshool) Essentials - How To Play Major chords: A, C, D, E & G

In this lesson Mike explains how to play the major chords you must know to pass the Grade 1 Rockshool exam.

GRADE 1 (Rockshool) Essentials - How To Play Minor chords Am, Dm & Em

In this lesson Mike explains how to play the minor chords you must know to pass the Grade 1 Rockshool exam.

GRADE 1 (Rockshool) Essentials - How To Play Powerchords G5, A5, B5

In this lesson Mike explains how to play the powerchords (fifths) you must know to pass the Grade 1 Rockshool exam.

STEP 3) Musicality: Improve Your Groove & Bring Everything To Life

The Fundamental Difference Between Downstrokes & Upstrokes

Are upstrokes and downstrokes the same thing? Just a mirror image of one another? No! The two strokes serve very different purposes and in this lesson you'll learn how to blend them correctly. If your playing sounds a bit 'robotic' or lacks musicality, this lesson is a 'must-see'.

The 3 Steps To Perfect Strumming Technique For Beginner Guitarists

In this important lesson Mike explains, step-by-step, what good strumming technique looks like and points out common mistakes made by beginner guitarists.

How To Play The Perfect Strumming Pattern For Any Song

In this crucial lesson Mike explains one of his most-loved guitar-learning techniques. You will learn how to play the perfect strumming pattern for any song.

Progress Accelerator: "Keep Strumming & Tidy Up As You Go"

Mike explains how and why you should move through chord progressions even if the chord you're moving to isn't 'ready'. Remember, DON'T STOP STRUMMING (that's a song-killer). Keep strumming, keep moving forward and tidy up duff chords as you go. (Don't wait until they are perfectly assembled before you move to them.)

The Most Common Strumming Mistake That Beginner Guitarists Make (Are You Falling Into This Trap Too?)

In this lesson you will learn a common mistake that most beginner guitarists make, yet must be avoided if you are to progress swiftly.

Guitar Essentials - Why You Must Miss Some Strums Out (& How To Do It)

Learn an important truth about rhythm guitar & strumming chords that will instantly make you a better guitarist.

Guitar Essentials - The Importance of Skipping Strings (And How To Do It)

In this lesson you'll learn why you sometimes need to skip strings while strumming. Mike also shares a great tip for making this difficult technique easier.

3 Powerful Techniques That Will Help You Stay In Time

Poor timing can be fatal to your guitar-learning goal. If you struggle with timing (or start songs ok but drift out of time - a common issue!) then this lesson is a must.

1 Simple Tip That Instantly Makes Your Guitar-Playing Sound More Musical

In this important lesson Mike shares a powerful tip that can genuinely revolutionise how your guitar playing sounds.

STEP 4) Lead Guitar: Learn To Play Heroic Riffs, Licks & Solos

An Introduction To Lead Guitar & Scales

In this lesson Mike will give you an introduction to the most common guitar scales: major, minor and pentatonic.

Understanding Major, Minor & Pentatonic Scales

In this lesson Mike breaks out the trusty whiteboard and shows you how pentatonic scales relate to the major and minor scale. This is must-know knowledge if you want to be able to jam and improvise on-the-fly.

The Minor Pentatonic Scale (The Lead Guitarist's Best Friend)

This lesson introduces you to the minor pentatonic scale. This is the first scale you should learn and arguably the most useful scale for a lead guitarist to know. This is another super-important lesson!

A Sweet Lead Guitar Run: The 'Primary Diagonal'

This lesson is for people who have learnt the standard box 1 minor pentatonic shape and want a little more. (WARNING: This scale will make you look like a guitar hero!!)

How To Play The Full Major Scale (2 Octave version)

In this lesson Mike shows you how to play the major scale across two octaves. This scale is fundamental to understanding guitar theory. Strap in soldier, it's time to kick forward. Let's do this!

How To Play The Full Minor Scale (2 Octave version)

In this lesson Mike introduces you to the major scale's evil (and much cooler) twin: The Minor Scale!!

STEP 5) Scales: Master The Most Useful Patterns

The C Major Scale (1 octave, open position)

This lesson walks you through the C major scale. This is one of the first major scales that beginner guitarists often learn.

The E Minor Pentatonic Scale (2 octaves, open position)

Mike walks you through one of his favourite scales: The E minor pentatonic scale. (This works well over anything in the key of E minor or G major. It will also add a cool blues feel to anything in E major.)

The A Minor Pentatonic Scale (1 octave, open position)

This lesson will show you how to play the A minor pentatonic scale in its most simple form. (This is a scale that often crops up in grade 1 guitar exams.)

The A Natural Minor Scale (open position, 1 octave)

In this lesson Mike explains how to play the A natural minor scale in an open position.

The G Major Pentatonic scale (open position, 2 octaves)

This lesson will show you how to play the G major pentatonic scale in an open position. This is really cool for jamming in the key of G (over chords like G, C, D, Em, Am and Bm).

STEP 6) Dark Arts: Revealing The Tricks Of The Trade

Guitar Secrets Revealed: Welcome To The Secret Bunker!

Mike explains what you can expect to find in this section.

How To Bring Things To Life With Hammer-Ons & Pull-Offs

In this lesson you'll learn what hammer-ons and pull-offs are and Mike will show you some great examples of when and where you should use them.

An Introduction To Blending Lead Guitar With Chords (Including Grace Notes)

Have you ever wanted to drop some riffs or lead in amongst chords? If so, this lesson is a great place to begin.

How To Blend Lead Guitar & Scales Into Chords (Part 2)

This is an important and useful practical lesson for anyone who wants to move beyond basic chord-strumming and start integrating scales and lead guitar into their playing. This lessons also includes some really cool blues tricks.

4 Easy Tips For Playing Blues Guitar

This lesson highlights 4 quick tips to make your guitar playing sound drenched in blues!

9 Ninja Tips For Strumming Like A Pro

This lesson is a whirlwind! It's jam-packed with high-value tips that will massively improve the musicality of your strumming.

Understanding The Importance of Delivery & Performance

In this lesson Mike explains the importance of how you present music through your personal delivery. Your body language, perceived confidence and how the music appears to affect you are absolutely central to how your audience interpret your 'ability'. Ignore this lesson at your peril!

Boom! How To Create A Groove With Deadening & Syncopation

In this important lesson Mike explains how to unleash a tidal wave of musicality and rhythm in your guitar playing through deadening and syncopation. We're in guitar hero country now dudes, let's do this!

Creating Epic Soundscapes With Suspended Chords

In this lesson Mike explains how to play a cool group of suspended chords using 2 moveable shapes. Perfect for people who want to chill or to create hugely spacious, epic, sweeping soundscapes.

How To Learn The Fretboard Notes At Lightspeed Using 'Springboards'

In this lesson you'll learn how to use 'springboards' to quickly navigate around the fretboard and learn which notes are which. This is a pro technique that will save you many hours of frustration!

Let There Be Rock: An Introduction To Powerchords

This lesson will explain what a powerchord is and how to wield it. This is a must-know chord shape for any guitarist, but especially for people interested in rock or who want to jam with other musicians.

4 Roadie Tips: Straps, Harmonics, Pickslides & Feedback

Mike breaks out his Telecaster and gives you the inside track with 4 pro guitar tips.

STEP 7) Theory: Understand Music Theory & Keys

Musical Fundamentals: The Pattern Of The Major Scale

The whiteboard is back! It's time to do some theory guys. This lesson explains the pattern that underpins the major scale.

Musical Fundamentals: The Pattern Of The Minor Scale

This lesson explains the pattern that underpins the minor scale (and how and why it relates to the major scale).

Understanding Major & Minor Chord Construction

In this video you will learn what notes are inside major and minor chords (and why).

www.NationalGuitarAcademy.com