

*"Why no lyric sheets with the chords above the words?"*

Because you won't be learning to count. You won't be focused on the form and structure of the song and it's too visually involved with the lyrics. You won't listen as well, and you'll miss out on a chance to work on your ear training.

*"Is it really that important that I play along with you/the recording or practice with a metronome and count even if it's a simplified strum pattern?"*

Yes! Think of me, the metronome and the recording as your sparring or work out partner. We're all here to keep you honest and to hold you accountable. We'll ensure that you're learning how to count and play in time. You're going to learn to keep going even if you stumble a bit. We aren't going to let you stop because you feel a little tired or frustrated. The videos also make it clear what you need to do to get to the next task.

We're also here to keep you out of your head, which means stopping you from convincing yourself you have it down (when you don't) and also to keep you motivated when you think you aren't good enough (you are, and you're going to keep getting better!).

The course is laid out in a linear and organized way. You can go at your own pace and be confident you're acquiring the skills you need without blind spots or gaps in knowledge/technical ability. You're going to learn how to play guitar, and how to learn how to learn to play guitar. This will make you more self-sufficient!

It's very important you don't rush through the open position chord videos, the technique exercises and the song videos. Remember that you're building a skillset, which requires a lot of repetition – usually more than we think it should or want. It's important to be purposeful and intentional with what you're doing, be patient with yourself and to measure your progress every 2-3 weeks instead of daily.

If you're doing the videos in order and following the recommendations, you will see progress. If you rush through things, you'll just have to work on the issues later.

When you start getting into the technique and song videos, begin splitting up your practice time so you're working on a few things at a time.

- For example, if you're practicing 30 minutes a day then spend 5 minutes doing the technique exercise and spend the other 25 minutes working on the open position chord video.
- When you learn a new chord progression, give that one 10-15 minutes and then work on the prior one for 5-10 minutes followed by the picking exercise.
- When you're learning a song, give it 10-15 minutes and then spend 5-10 minutes on a previous chord progression and picking exercise.

The idea being that you're learning a new skill and challenging yourself. You're also practicing something a bit more familiar and improving upon the transitions and techniques required. Giving your hands, and brain, multiple different looks at challenges will get you there faster. You'll begin to integrate knowledge and make connections. You'll start to memorize things more quickly, and you'll consistently improve. This will save you that feeling of frustration people get when they focus on one thing until "it's perfect" and then have to begin again on the next task. Something new and sometime familiar is a great way to go!

Remember, you can always contact me if you have any questions! I look forward to hearing you soon.

Have fun!

Shane