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# Metal Essentials

**LEVEL 1** • Guitar Skills



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## Metal Primer

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 2** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

### Gear

Setting up to get the right sound is also an important part of the metal way! As everyone uses different gear, we'll give some general advice as to how to get the sound, without being tied to any specific brands, amps or pedals!



“

a word of advice...  
don't go too distorted!

Dion

”

### Top tips



**Mid Scoop** – This simply means that you need to turn down your mids! This is a technique used heavily in metal recording, although live you may want to adjust this to cut through a little more. You simply lower the middle frequency, and on most amps you'll literally find a middle knob that you can turn down.

## Course navigation

### UNIT 1

## Metal Primer

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Before we properly start the course, it is important to cover some key metal concepts regarding the technique and sound you will want to start developing.

Lessons:

– Basics

– Gear

### UNIT 2

## Down-Picking

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## Dropping The

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Humbuckers – Single coils simply won't do here! It's time to put down that beautiful strat that plays Sweet Home Alabama so perfectly and pick up a guitar with humbuckers. The thick and more high gain output is exactly what you need. We'd also recommend using the bridge pickup more often than not for the more aggressive sound that you can achieve. If you only have access to a single-coil guitar one position back from the bridge can do a good impression of a humbucker!



High Gain Amps – We're looking for a saturated, high gain sound. Certain amps will cater to it better than others. For example, if you're rocking a Fender tweed amp, you simply will not get the sound you're looking for. Instead, look to brands like Laney, Boss, Engl, Mesa Boogie, Marshall and many more to boot. Turn up the gain knobs and away you go!



Pedals and Noise-Gates – You can get a fantastic metal tone using a tube screamer pedal in front of the amp, to really help get that scooped sound. We'd also highly recommend a noise gate, either as a pedal or via your computer-based DAW or effects. This will massively help you control the sound of that gain, as without the noise gate the amp will be screaming at you as soon as you stop playing!



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