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30 Day Beginner Challenge

Guitar Skills



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Smashing The Basics

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 3** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Timing

In this lesson we start to work on your timing. This is such an important part of music but is often overlooked! In the video Dan will take you through practicing with a drum machine. It's great to practice with a drum machine to give a more realistic feel, but you can also practice with a metronome to keep time. When it comes to timing you're trying to sync up your own inner feel of the pulse or beat with the external drum machine. Once they're synced up you'll be perfectly in time!



“

Think of a bar as a group for your beats. It's most common to have 4 beats in a bar, but

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Smashing The Basics

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Welcome to the 30 Day Beginner Challenge! In our first unit we will now tackle the basic knowledge you need to get off to the best possible start. This is where you'll learn how to read the diagrams, hold the guitar and more!

Lessons:

- Getting Started
- Chord Two!
- Timing
- Strumming Patterns
- Notes On The Neck

UNIT 2

Let's Hit The Gym

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UNIT 3

Getting Musical

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UNIT 4

The Nitty Gritty

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UNIT 5

Second Song

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UNIT 6

Getting Ready

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you can have any number. A bar always starts on the '1'.

Dan



Start by putting your drum beat on and counting "one, two, three, four" with the beat. Once you have that, let's bring in our chord changes. We will use the E minor and C major 7 chords, using them every 2 bars. This looks something like this:

This tells us we need to play the E minor chord on the first beat of the bar.

Here we now move to the C maj 7 chord and stay for 2 bars. Remember, 4 beats is 1 bar, so we're playing 2 bars on the Cmaj7.

We stick to the chord for 3 more beats, and then a further 4 beats, dictated by the "slash" lines.

The diagram shows a handwritten chord chart. It starts with 'Em' followed by three slashes '///', then four slashes '////', then 'Cmaj7' followed by three slashes '///' and four slashes '////'. Pink arrows point from the explanatory text to the corresponding parts of the chart: one to the first 'Em', one to the 'Cmaj7', and one to the final four slashes.

In the early days of our learning, the slashes give us a lot of extra information, and you'll see them a lot. Later down the line, we lose the slash markers as we need the guide less (and we can use the slash for other things). The chord charts will end up looking like this:

The diagram shows a clean handwritten chord chart: | Em | Em | Cmaj7 | Cmaj7 |. Vertical bars separate the chords.



“ You need to strum the guitar on that first beat of each bar, just as I do in the video. Try your absolute best to get to that chord. Don't worry about making it sound perfect, just get to it! This is now the focus of your practice! When it's starting to feel comfortable go ahead and try with drum beats at different tempos.

Dan

”



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