

Learning to Play Guitar – A Bit of Advice

Learning to play any musical instrument is a straightforward process, firstly you need time to practice, this is the most important element. Without the time to practice, no matter what you have been shown, or learnt from text is wasted.

Secondly you will require direction; this can be obtained via a teacher or text.

There are advantages and disadvantages attached to having a personal teacher. Here is an independent view given by a self taught guitarist:

“Taking Guitar Lessons from a Guitar Teacher”

There are many advantages to taking guitar lessons from a guitar teacher or instructor. Not only do you get the hands on attention, but he or she can help walk you through certain songs etc. that you may want to learn.

Some disadvantages to taking lessons with an instructor:

- 1. Lessons can become expensive*
- 2. Instructor may only teach you what he or she likes or knows*
- 3. They may not go at a pace that you would prefer*
- 4. Theory rather than learning the basics*

My biggest issue with guitar instruction is for example, if you want to learn rock music and the teacher insists on instructing you in the art of folk guitar. Ask searching questions, regarding the Guitar Instructors style and methods of teaching. Ask for example the following questions:

- 1. What kind of music do you teach?*
- 2. Do you teach tablature?*
- 3. How much do you charge for lessons?*
- 4. What are your teaching styles, methods, and credentials?*

Another independent view is offered below:

Many musicians find that teaching is a great way to supplement their income.

And a great musician always makes a great music tutor- right? Wrong! Yes there are a lot of great musician's who are also excellent teachers; however it doesn't always work out like that.

You want your tutor to know his or her way around the instrument – yes, that's true, but the most important thing is to get you playing and progressing as you would like. When you talk to a possible tutor, ask yourself whether this is the sort of person you could get on with? Can they teach more than one instrument? Do they have qualifications or experience? Are their fees competitive? Perhaps most importantly - do you think they have skills in working with people?

In an ideal world the combination of written text and a sound personal teacher, plus plenty of practice and enthusiasm on the part of the pupil, add up to a winning team.

Finally, a good teacher will be interested in keeping his or her pupil's interested, very important and a difficult quality to gauge immediately; from the pupil's point of view.

The best advice is to book no more than 2 lessons in advance, with your chosen teacher and see how you get on.