

Notes for Class

Metronomes

Pro Metronome App (My favorite)

Price: Free

Platform: IOS (+ Apple Watch App & Apple TV) & Android

Overview: Widely used and highly rated. Nearly every feature is customizable.

Key Features: Programmable playlists allows you to set presets for each song within a playlist. Plays in the background when device is in lock mode.

Visual: Modern interface, dark theme. Visual, vibrate and flash modes

Sound: 13 different tones including a voice option.

If you don't have a smart phone, do a Google search for "programmable metronome" then click the shopping tab. There are lots of options for under \$20.

Choose one that allows you to program it to start at "x" beats per minute and gradually increase the bpm. Also make sure it allows for different time signatures.

The metronome is an invaluable tool for practicing technique but it can also be used to learn about different time signatures and can be used to "jumpstart" ideas for new tunes.



How to Play/Practice

"How the heck does one practice? What is the structure? "

Of course practice will be different for every individual. Personally I prefer the word "play" instead of "practice"

The most important tip for every player is to try to play every day even if only for 15 minutes. It doesn't even have to be a "structured practice" - just play a little every day

If you like a structured practice, here's what I would recommend for a 15 minute session:

5 minutes - technique: hammer-ons/ pull-offs, strumming, finger-picking, harmonics etc.

5 minutes - learning/memorizing a tune - start with one or two measures at a time and include the first note of the next measure. Set your metronome to a very slow pace; one that allows you to play each note in the measure perfectly. Play the measure(s) over and over and gradually increase your metronome speed. *It's important to keep practicing this measure until you have it memorized and can play it perfectly BEFORE moving to the next measure(s).*

5 minutes - playing for fun - try a capo on a different fret, try tuning to a different tuning, program your metronome for a different time signature, have fun experimenting

If you have more time you can include time for learning music theory - even the basics will help you immensely and it is very easy



