

Tips for Acoustic and Electric Guitar Players - Pt. 2!

Hello everyone! How have you been getting along with your guitar playing? We really have missed being able to teach you all in person and can't wait to see you all again sometime soon. You might have noticed that we have been adding lots of exciting tutorial videos, worksheets and activities to our website to help keep you occupied throughout lockdown! We hope that this newsletter will give you extra ideas and tips to keep you motivated in your practice, and will guide you through some of the resources we've created online. If you have any questions about your practice you can email the Musica office and they will pass it on to our team and we will do our best to get back to you. Also, if you would like to send us a video of your amazing guitar playing you can send it as a direct message to the Musica Holme Valley Facebook page [#musicakirkleesathome](#). We would love to see how you are all doing!

All of the resources mentioned on this page are available to see all in one place [here](#).

Focus for beginners: open string chords

Mr Scriven has made some videos on good technique with our open string chord shapes, and changing between these chords. Using these videos in your practice will help you develop clear sounding chords, and fluent chord changes in your songs.

[Check out the first one here!](#)

Don't forget, we have plenty of songs up on our resources page that you can try with these chords too!



Focus for our more advanced players: improvising using modes

Modes are like scales. Each one has a very specific sound and identity. We often hear the Lydian mode in films as it has a very cinematic quality to it. It's much like the major scale, just with a sharpened fourth. Learning modes will give your improvisations a new dimension!

Mr Bateman has made two videos on using the Bb major scale and the Bb Lydian mode in your improvisations.

[Check out the first one here!](#)

**Something especially for our electric players:
string bends!**

String bends are an exciting way for us to articulate notes. By bending a string up, we can raise the pitch of the note up (usually either by a semitone or a tone, depending on how far you bend it). It takes a lot of practice to get accurate with your bends and to ensure that your intonation is spot on!

Mr Scriven has done a video to help you with your string bends.



**Something for everyone:
alternate tunings!**

Our guitar is usually tuned to EADGBE. But what happens when we tune it differently? What happens when we move away from what we're used to? We can start to explore the guitar in a very different way through using alternate tunings. Mr Bateman has made a series of three videos on exploring alternate tunings which are suitable for electric and acoustic players alike.

Check out the first one here!

Some inspiring videos!

For our acoustic-ers...

Michael Hedges was a pioneer of a whole new style of acoustic guitar playing in 1980s and 1990s, and a really important figure in the history of the instrument.

Check out his most famous piece here!

For our electric-ers...

Check out the Canadian band Rush. Their guitarist Alex Lifeson has made a huge contribution to the world of rock guitar over the last 40 years...

Check them out here!

