

LESSON

INSTRUCTOR

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STYLE



Writing Challenge

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Any Style

BEGIN



Here's this week's episode of Guitar Insider, where we take a break from the triads to explore one of the most gratifying and powerful topics I know of, which is writing. Even if you don't plan to be a songwriter, writing can be a useful and inspiring tool to use in your learning process. So today I'm announcing the first of many writing challenges, where we'll explore combining any chords you know in different order...

Published: 07/13/2023



High-Strung Acoustic and More on Writing Chord Progress...



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Here's this week's episode of Guitar Insider, where I show a way to get a whole new and inspiring sound of your acoustic guitar - all for the price of a half set of strings. This is similar to what's called 'high strung' or 'Nashville tuning', but note that it's only the sound that changes - Your chord shapes will all look the same. After that we explore some more creative ways to write chord progressions - thi...

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Harmony Cheat Sheet



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This week on GTI I write out and explain a harmony cheat sheet that can be used to write and/or understand chord progressions in the key of C. This is centered around our I, IV and V-chords and then we add in relative minors and secondary dominants offering a harmonic smorgasbord that's worthy of countless songs that have already been written and have yet to be.

Published: 11/06/2023



Writing Your First Lyric



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This week on insider, I offer a stark warning about cheese graters. I also offer my best tips on one of the skills that I always dreamt of acquiring, but for some reason thought was entirely unattainable: lyric writing. I don't know why, but so many of us think lyric writing is a skill you have to be born with, but it is a craft - just like anything else we do in music.

Today I offer some hands-on tips that will help you get started writing your very own lyrics - and if you're already writing lyrics, these are really great tools that I use myself every time I sit down to write.

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Writing Chords and Melody



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This week on insider we continue our deep dive into the songwriting process. We have now reached step 2 of my tried-and-true method for writing a song - a method that works whether you're feeling inspired or not. Some writers wait for the songs to come, but I like to chase them!

In step 2 we pick some reference songs that we would like our song to feel like and with those in mind, we start singing our lyrics over different chords. After that, it's simply a matter of staying with it long enough and keep searching until you find something that feels right. I demonstrate this process and offer all my best advice along the way.

The world of songwriting is for everyone, and I hope you'll join me there.

Published: **05/15/2026**



Formula vs Inspiration



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This week on insider we continue our journey into songwriting. In the last episode, we explored adding melody and chords to the lyrics we had written in the first episode, and today I show you everything that has happened with this song since the end of that last episode.

I basically followed the formula until I got inspired. This inspiration was triggered by an upcoming studio session with friends and something really tragic that happened. It all lead the song to a very interesting and unexpected place, and in this episode I'll walk you through all the decisions I made in the process and offer lots of helpful songwriting tips along the way.

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Harmonic Licks



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Harmonic Licks: Line Cliché



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This week on Insider, we continue to explore the concept of learning harmonic building blocks and chord progressions as "licks".

This is mirroring the way we learn to solo where we make useful phrases (licks) out of the scales and have those "licks" readily available for improvising in different contexts.

This week we explore what's called a "line cliché" progression, and I'm sure you recognize the sound of it from a million classic songs. This progression is fun to jam, solo, sing, and write over.

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