

## Dobro Crash Course 2 Class 4 – March 7, 2024 – Notes and Homework

### Homework:

#### Fills

See if you can pick up some ideas for fills from the class recording, and try to fit them into the backing tracks, or into any other recordings you might have in these keys. I'm including some tab of assorted building block licks in the key of C, but as long as they don't involve open strings, they can be moved to suit any straight-bar major chord position.

Things to keep in mind when playing fills: aim to fill in the spaces while trying to avoid walking all over the vocal. Think about melodically connecting your fills so you pick up the next fill in similar melodic territory where you left off with the previous fill.

#### Questions for Q&A

If you think of it, send me an email with any questions you might have for the Q&A session March 16<sup>th</sup>: [ivanDrosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:ivanDrosenberg@gmail.com)

#### My next Zoom workshop series

If you're interested in taking another Zoom Dobro workshop series with me, please shoot me an email and let me know which of the following is the most interesting. Or if you have another suggestion, please pass that along too.

**1. Deep dive into minor chords and keys:** all the ways of playing minor chords and double-stops (aside from using slants), and how to use those shapes to navigate the fretboard and build licks and solos. This series would entail learning a song in the keys of Em, Am, and Bm (probably different songs to keep it interesting).

**2. Working up Solo Dobro Arrangements** (both instrumentals and using only Dobro to accompany vocals. This class would entail plenty of exercises to get certain arpeggios and string combination 'grips' drilled and would entail extensive work coordinating melodies with bass notes, chords, and open strings to create a full sound. This is a complicated topic that would be suited to intermediate and advanced players.

**3. Old School Dobro:** learning the ways of Brother Oswald and Uncle Josh to get that early country and bluegrass Dobro sound, including assorted slants. This topic is very accessible, but it's really hard to make slants sound good and in tune – it will require a lot of practice time.

**4. Bluegrass instrumentals:** how to "Dobrofy" fiddle tunes and other instrumentals so they're ergonomically playable on Dobro. Lots of hammer-ons, pull-offs, and rolls. I think we'd probably keep it in the key of G, sometimes with a capo.