

Dobro Crash Course #2 with Ivan Rosenberg

Class 2: February 22, 2024

Notes and Homework

Spotify Playlist

If you don't have this already from the last workshop, here's a 20+ hour Dobro playlist I made on Spotify just for my Nashville Acoustic Camp students. Enjoy!

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6U3qLPXCSlkvpZEstalNL?si=f12270dc2ef94536&pt=682ff3a6b7a061d5202c2c4ab91704f0>

The playlist is far from comprehensive, but I add to it all the time. It started chronologically with early country and bluegrass Dobro players (Brother Oz, Uncle Josh, Mike Auldridge etc.) but then it soon became just a random playlist. I'm mostly keeping it to G major tuning since that's the only tuning I'm teaching. Enjoy! If you don't have a paid account on Spotify, you can open a free (ad-supported) account. The ads are extremely annoying, but it's worth it to hear all this good Dobro music. Is there some great Dobro song I'm missing? Let me know...

I'm going to pre-record a lesson on playing rhythm

For the sake of efficiency, sometime in the next couple of weeks I'm going to record a lesson that covers a few ways to play rhythm for each song we're doing in each key. It's pretty straightforward stuff, and there's no reason that material needs to be presented live. Pre-recording that lesson will leave me more time in class to go over the solos and explain the ideas behind each move. I'll try to address playing fills on these songs during our last class, but if we run out of time I'll record that lesson as well.

Homework:

Blue Ridge Cabin Home

If you got those arrangements figured out, try them out with the faster backing tracks (75bpm and 90bpm). Or, at whatever tempo is comfortable, try coming up with your own versions that incorporate licks you know or rolls that might come more naturally to you than the ones I used.

Long Black Veil – Key of G

As we did with Blue Ridge Cabin Home, practice along with the backing tracks, and try to be aware of which notes are essential “melody” and which notes are filler (open strings, rolls, ornaments) or licks that are being subbed in for a little chunk of melody. Again, it doesn't matter if you play the song exactly as it's tabbed out. If there are any sections that are too difficult to play, or if the timing of the syncopation seems nonintuitive to you, come

up with something playable that fits in that space, e.g. just the melody, a less-syncopated phrase, the melody without the roll, etc.

Long Black Veil – Key of C

Go through the same process but pay special attention to the slants. Try your best to get them in tune – it never stops being difficult. Just keep at it and develop a good vibrato :) Also try to get a nice flowing sound on the rolls in the early part of the solo.

Long Black Veil – Key of D

Follow the same process, this time paying extra attention to the rolls over the D chord, and to the funky “roll” substitute using the low D notes in the second half of the song.

Let me know if you have any questions about the Dobro instruction:
ivanDrosenberg@gmail.com

And let Megan know if you have any technical difficulties accessing files.

Happy dobro pickin – see you next week!
Ivan