

Dobro Crash Course #2 with Ivan Rosenberg

Class 1: February 15, 2024

Notes and Homework

Key of G

Chord arpeggios

Memorize chord arpeggios for G (I) C (IV) and D (V) chords within the first five frets. Also, if you haven't yet, memorize so you can't possibly forget which barred notes within the first five frets match the pitch of the open strings (see video).

Scales

Memorize the two easy G major scale approaches within the first five frets. Memorize them so well that you can never possibly forget. See "Scales" tablature:

→ Easy G major scale from bottom to top and top to bottom using open strings when available.

→ G major scale notes one string at a time from the open strings up to the fifth fret. Work through these low string to high and high string to low. The pattern is easy:

- "home" 2 4 5 on G and D strings
- "home" 1 3 5 on B strings

Memorize the bird's eye map of the major scale using the three chord shapes

- Major (straight-bar)
- Minor (chevrons)
- Diminished (sideways leftward/upward pointing hockey stick?)

The root of each of these chords is a note of the G major scale. From conceptual "home base," our straight-bar 1 chord, the sequence of chord shapes is always the same: Major, minor, minor, major, major, minor, diminished.

We can use these shapes as an easy way to remember where the major scale notes fall – it doesn't tell us HOW to play within the scale, just where the notes can be found. Think of these shapes as stepping stones across the fretboard river. This map can be moved to suit any key by placing "home" aka the 1-chord at the location of the key's straight-bar major chord, e.g. place "home" at the fifth fret for the key of C. See video for a reminder. Don't obsess over the fretboard map if it's not clicking for you yet. There are many ways to learn the fretboard—this is just one way of locating repositories of major scale notes along the fretboard that I find intuitive and helpful.

Blue Ridge Cabin Home in G: practice along with the backing tracks, and be aware of which notes are essential "melody" and which notes are filler (open strings, rolls,

ornaments). 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. There's nothing wrong with just playing the melody!

We'll be applying what we know in the Key of G to other keys, so make it a priority to get a rock-solid understanding of G.

Key of C

Work through the C major scales in the "Scales" tablature

Memorize chord arpeggios for C (I), F (IV) and G (V) chords within the first five frets

Work through Blue Ridge Cabin Home in C

- Pay attention to the sound of your closed-position moves for the phrases based around the fifth fret C chord. The moves from a lower string to the adjacent higher string are especially tricky. It takes some practice to get a clean sound. Don't get frustrated — it's a process and you'll start sounding better over time.
- Pay attention to the pull-off licks at the end: do what you can to have clean sounding pull-offs without too much extra racket. Getting a clean pull-off sound is also a process—keep working on it and you'll sound better in a few weeks...

Key of D

Follow the same process as the Key of C: work through the scales, and work through the arrangement of Blue Ridge Cabin Home along with the backing track at 50bpm. FYI, in the "Scales" tab, I included a version that has you going all the way from open to the 12th fret on the high D string. There are much more efficient and useful ways to play the D major scale in the second octave, but I included this version because playing scales on a single string is a good exercise. In a jam, though, you'll never have occasion to play a full major scale on one string.

We'll be going through the same process with two more songs, and it's going to get easier each week since you'll become more and more familiar with the process.

Let me know if you have any questions about the Dobro instruction:
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And let Megan know if you have any technical difficulties accessing files.

Happy dobro pickin – see you next week!
Ivan