

Hand Position – yes, I’m repeating this every week!

A great way to train your picking hand to relax is to take any arpeggio or roll exercise and practice going incrementally from louder to quieter and back. Practicing this way will also lead to better dynamics and a more expressive style. How you pick the strings and how you bar the notes are ultimately far more important than how much fretboard knowledge you have or how many songs you know how to play. Promise me you’ll work on this? Just five minutes per day of conscientious practice will pay off in a big way after a couple of months.

Rhythm

I suggest referring to the class recording if you want to practice the rhythm techniques we discussed in class. I provided a handout, but tablature makes rhythm seem ‘square’ and robotic and can’t convey the feel of the rhythm that we want.

Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie

Once you’ve worked through the assorted rhythm styles on this chord progression a few times, maybe find another song you already sing and try the same techniques. Our goal is to have techniques at hand to reliably provide Dobro backup while singing any song. Certain keys are better than others for solo Dobro. Personally, I like G, C, and D, plus Em and Bm, and Am is ok too. The open strings all work in these keys, and having open strings that can ring through in the background and keep the Dobro sustaining is very helpful.

Q&A Session is at 1pm Central on Nov. 23rd

Feel free to email me questions ahead of time, and let me know if there are songs you think might make for good solo arrangements: ivanDrosenberg@gmail.com

My next workshop series for Nashville Acoustic Camps ????

If you’re interested in more Solo Dobro, please let me know! I’m also curious how you felt about the difficulty level of this workshop series. Just right? Too easy? Too difficult? Would you be interested in learning more-complicated solo arrangements? Or, if this was enough solo Dobro to hold you over for a long while, and you’d be more interested in other topics, that would also be valuable information for me: ivandrosenberg@gmail.com

Dobro lessons Patreon page: <https://www.patreon.com/ivanrosenberg>

As something totally separate from these Zoom workshops for Nashville Acoustic Camps (which I’ll continue doing in 2025), I just started a Patreon page, which I’m using:

- 1) as a repository for my old instructional material: dozens of videos I recorded during the pandemic, some video lessons from “virtual music camps,” my old out-of-print instructional DVD, and endless tab from workshops I’ve taught over the last 20+ years. There are about 60 videos and 50+ hours of instructional material on there already.
- 2) as a platform for new instructional content on a regular basis! “Song of the Week,” practice tips, fretboard knowledge, and more.
- 3) as a way to stay in touch with Dobro pickers in between Zoom and in-person workshops.

Solo Dobro Part 1 with Ivan Rosenberg
Class 4: Nov. 20, 2024—Notes and homework

Each “Song of the Week,” will be an instructional video showing a playable, melody-based solo for jamming standards so you have a coherent arrangement you can learn and hopefully play up to speed with confidence before too long. I’m starting the Song of the Week in January 2025 or when I get 40 paid subscribers to my Patreon, whichever comes first. I’ll write up Tab for the song of the week as soon as I get 60 paid subscribers (Tab is by far the most time-consuming and carpal-tunnel-inducing aspect of teaching music). I’ll put up other lessons whenever inspiration strikes, and will be more inspired the more folks sign up :)

There are a few subscription tiers starting at just US\$8 per month, which provides access to all the videos and tab (aside from a couple of things are for sale separately, e.g. album downloads and a couple of tab books). Subscribers at the US\$15 per month level get all of the above and can also suggest songs and keys for the “Song of the Week,” and subscribers at the US\$50 level get everything at the \$15 tier plus a half-hour one-on-one Zoom lesson each month.

Patreon will also be a great way to support my Dobro endeavors. The reality is that the vast majority of the time I spend as a Dobro player and instructor is unpaid or unprofitable, especially since internet streaming destroyed the independent recorded music industry. So this will one more avenue for me to try to scratch out a living, and I’ll make sure everyone who signs up gets good value for their subscription. Check it out if you get a chance!

[Straight Up Strings](#)

I’ve been using these exclusively ever since I tried them and now have an official endorsement with them. It’s a well-balanced and long-lasting set made by a great family-owned business, and I especially like the B (second) string compared to other sets I’ve used. Like any string set, these won’t be everyone’s favorite, but I can wholeheartedly recommend giving them a try. Here’s a link to their Dobro set:

<https://straightupstrings.com/products/straight-up-strings-for-resophonic-guitar>

Gigantic Dobro [Spotify playlist](#)

I have over 400 songs worth of carefully curated Dobro music on a Spotify playlist that’s exclusively for my Nashville Acoustic Camps workshop attendees, and I add to it all the time. You’ll find some solo Dobro stuff by me, Rob Ickes, Abbie Gardner, and a few others, but it’s mostly Dobro in a band context. This playlist starts off with early Dobro by Brother Oswald and Uncle Josh, but after that it’s not especially chronological. You can access it with a free (ad supported) account or a paid Spotify account. This playlist is a great way to immerse yourself in Dobro music and get inspired!

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6U3qLPXCslkvpZEstalfNL?si=e25e39cde62742d5&pt=c287f130e1af257d826d851117953c9d>

Thanks y’all – hope to see you at the Q&A session on Saturday!
Ivan