

Selected Episodes from the Tune In, Tone Up podcast

Guitar Lesson 29: Playing rhythmically, being groovy & practising note durations

In this lesson, we decide to return to rhythm playing: this time looking at staying in time, feeling the pulse, and playing rhythmically, with interest and in the groove. The lesson is divided up into three parts: Firstly, we look at playing funky grooves and using a metronome; secondly, we have a look at how to play Back in Black in time; finally we look at practising different note groupings and note durations over a couple of backing tracks.

Guitar Lesson 31: Double stops, intervallic playing, chord embellishments and making it pretty

In this lesson, Dan reminds me of some of the approaches you can use when embellishing chords, including the use of double stops and different intervallic sounds. You will hear Hendrixisms, discussion on how to connect major scales, chords, and intervals in your thinking, and some interesting approaches to help make your rhythm playing more interesting. Finally, we look at the different flavours created by a variety of intervals.

Guitar Lesson 32: What can we learn and use from the style of David Gilmour

In this lesson, Dan and I take a look at some general ideas which you can take from David Gilmour's playing. He plays with such meaning and purpose and the most incredible tone, and yet what he plays is not usually technically too difficult. Using a style backing track, Dan and I look at how Gilmour uses dynamics, phrasing, bending, vibrato, and intelligent note choices deeply connected to the chords which he plays over. We hope that this type of exploration, rather than note for note copying, will help you incorporate some of this in your own playing.

Guitar Lesson 33: Rhythm playing mechanics with a focus on the song Valerie for an Open Mic Night

In this lesson, Dan and I examine some of the obstacles you might come up against, particularly in your rhythm playing, when playing an open mic night. In this lesson, which is in response to some questions by one of our listeners, we look at the rhythm part to "Valerie", with some hints to help your performance, including pick mechanics, dynamics, muting, percussive hits and compressors.

Guitar Lesson 34: A brief foray into the monstrous rhythmic playing of Eddie Van Halen

In this lesson, Dan and I continue our study of rhythmic playing with a focus on the style of Eddie Van Halen. A true monster of the guitar, Van Halen is someone who Dan has studied closely over the years and he is eager to share his knowledge. Dan introduces a rock lick and looking particularly at the technique of muting slowly builds complexity into it. With some final thoughts on the trem bar and piano technique, there is so much in this lesson.