

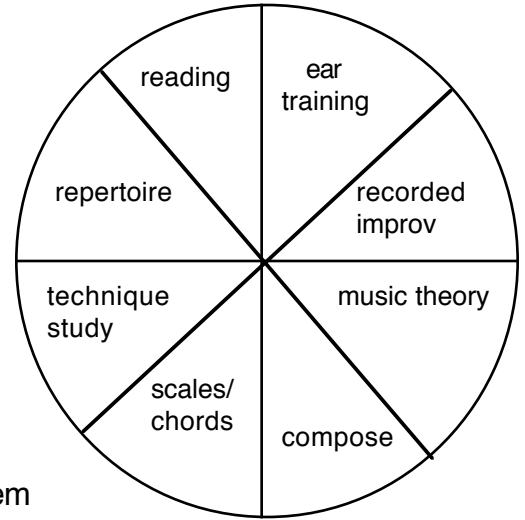
How to Practice Improvisation

Many ask how about the best way to practice. Remember that skills on the guitar are learned through repetition.

There are eight main areas of study:

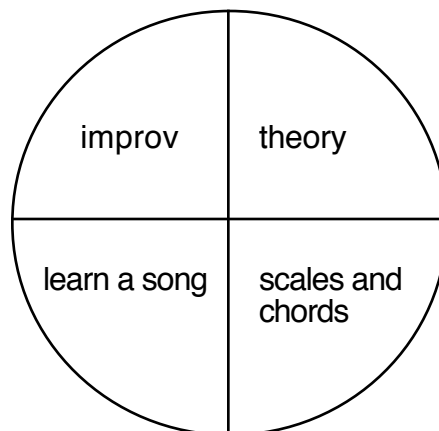
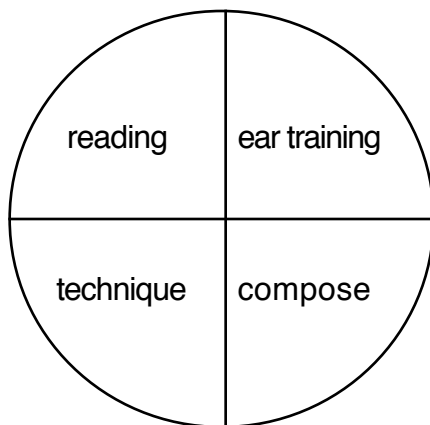
1. Ear Training: Learn songs and solos from recordings. Start easy and move to harder tunes.
2. Tape Yourself Improvising: Study your phrasing, vibrato and note choice.
3. Music Theory: Study the language of music. Write scales and chords in different keys.
4. Compose: Write something and create regularly. Part craft part inspiration make it a part of your practice.
5. New Scales and Chords: Challenge yourself with new voicings for chords and new fingerings for scales. Use them to create.
6. Technique: Study right hand and left hand exercises. They may become part of your style.
7. Repertoire: Memorise a song. Melody, Chords and Bass.
8. Reading: Practice reading charts and notation. This is the written language of music. It is how we communicate.

Practice Chart



“Repetition is the mother of skill”

Pick 4 areas and do them daily dividing the time you have to practice by 4. 20 minutes some days and 2 hours others. No matter the amount tackle 4 of the eight each day. Here are two possible charts.



Mix and match the areas of study as you please. Change the areas daily and keep a log that includes a pie chart for each day so that you can easily see that you are hitting all of the areas.

Very Important! Play with other people and jam! That is where the fun begins! One session jamming an open mike or with friends is worth ten practice sessions at home.