

GUITAR TECHNIQUE PRACTICE CHECKLIST

AM I USING THE RIGHT FINGERING?

Use the most efficient fingering to make your playing as easy as possible.

AM I USING THE RIGHT PICKING MOTIONS?

Use directional picking for all lead guitar playing. Always use a downstroke to change strings when ascending in pitch and always use an upstroke to change strings when descending in pitch.

ARE MY PICKING MOTIONS EFFICIENT?

Keep your pick inside the strings unless you are skipping over strings.

ARE MY FRETTING HAND FINGERS STAYING CLOSE TO THE STRINGS?

The closer you keep your fingers to the strings, the faster you can play (and the easier your playing will feel).

HAVE I RELAXED EVERY MUSCLE IN MY BODY THAT ISN'T BEING USED TO PLAY GUITAR?

Use just enough tension to play the notes you want and keep the rest of your body relaxed.

AM I MUTING OPEN STRING NOISE?

Mute the lower in pitch strings using your picking hand's thumb. Mute the higher in pitch strings using the index finger of your fretting hand.

ARE ANY OF THE NOTES RINGING TOGETHER THAT SHOULD BE SOUNDING SEPARATE?

Listen closely for any bleeding (ringing) between notes and eliminate this noise from your playing.

ARE MY HANDS IN SYNC?

Practice your guitar unplugged to confirm that your hands are in sync.

IS MY PICKING ARTICULATION CLEAR AND CONSISTENT?

Practice your guitar unplugged to confirm that you can clearly hear every note.

IS MY FRETTING HAND THUMB POSITIONED CORRECTLY?

Keep your thumb behind your middle finger, pointing up towards the ceiling when playing scales & arpeggios.

AM I FRETTING NOTES USING THE PADS OF MY FINGERS?

Fret notes using your fingertips (unless you are rolling the same finger across several strings).