

"POWERFULL AND UNIQUE, PAY CLOSE ATTENTION"

RP

GUITAR TRIGGER

*"The Guitarists Clear Roadmap From
Good To Superstardom And
Living Their Dreams
Guaranteed..."*

GUITAR TRIGGER

By Rob Paris
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“You have to go on and be crazy. Craziness is like heaven”

– Jimi Hendrix

“I was impressed by Hendrix. His attitude was brilliant. Even the way he walked was amazing”

– Ritchie Blackmore

Introduction

Do you know what it feels like to have the crowd in the palm of your hand when you take center stage? Wouldn't it be great if you could make a crowd of loyal rock 'n' rollers go wild the moment you start “strumming” your stuff with your guitar? Do you want to know what it feels like? It is your actions that will determine whether you'll get there or not! So let the “action” of reading this book be the next step closer to that dream!

“James Bond has a license to kill, rock stars have a license to be outrageous. Rock is about grabbing people's attention”

– Gene Simmons

Contrary to popular belief, when it comes to guitar solos, the trick to getting a crowd's attention isn't to start banging the strings in the hopes of getting out a tune or two or smashing your guitar at the end of your “routine.”

Rock 'n' Roll might seem to be the most aggressive of musical art forms.

Rock 'n Roll: “The most brutal, ugly, desperate, vicious form of expression it has been my misfortune to hear”

– Frank Sinatra

However, the fact still remains that it requires great discipline and the right techniques to make any form of music something memorable and anticipated. Your guitar solo should be no different.

In other words, a certain level of skill isn't the only thing that you will need. It takes technique and a lot of persistence if you are planning on making it big as a guitar (solo) player.

Playing any musical instrument to perfection isn't a cakewalk. However, some perseverance on your part will help you take your talent to new and unfathomable heights! “It's not necessarily the amount of time you spend at practice that counts; **it's what you put into the practice.**”

It might be tempting to throw caution to the wind and bang it up on stage on your own. The reality is though, it won't help your prospects if you do not take the time to take a lesson or two on how to properly handle your instrument. Even the pros were amateurs first, that is, before they perfected their art and became rock legends.

“Sometimes you want to give up the guitar, you'll hate the guitar. But if you stick with it, you're gonna be rewarded”

– Jimi Hendrix

Why Play Guitar Solos?

First of all: It is COOL! Period!

A solo means putting yourself out there and making the world acknowledge your talents as an independent artist. A good solo has the potential of setting the tune for your entire band. In other words, a revved up solo is the one high point of any song, one that is sure to bring the crowds to their feet. Your job will be to steal the entire show, not stand behind the lead singer and strum to a few tunes! **The spotlight should be on YOU!** The crowd will go wild as you take center stage! Haven't you ever dreamed about that? Maybe, maybe not..



“Sleep my friend, and you will see that dream is my reality”

– James Hetfield

“Gene sometimes... well, he has his dream list”

– Paul Stanley

Be your Own Person

“He (Marilyn Manson) has a woman's name and wears makeup. How original”

– Alice Cooper

“I'm the one that has to die when it's time for me to die, so let me live my life, the way I want to”

– Jimi Hendrix

“I don't want to jump through hoops for people”

– Nikki Sixx

Of course, it won't be a guitar solo if you don't wing it on your own once in a while. Remember, the aim of any solo is to assert **your own unique personality**. Sure it's important to keep the rest of the band in mind, but if you don't take the liberty to tweak the track once in a while you might as well be a fly on the wall. The crowd must know that it is YOU that has managed to ruffle up their feathers so easily. You have to make sure that it's YOU that they call out for!

“What I always try to do is to respond to the song; I've always rebelled against theory”

– Mark Knopfler

This does not mean that you start plucking the strings every which way in the hopes of getting out a tune or two, especially in the middle of an important gig, (and ESPECIALLY if you are not good at improvising.) Sure, you might get a rush as your band takes center stage but it won't help matters if you get too carried away. There are limits to how far you can go in your performance during a live show. There is nothing that puts off a crowd more than a solo gone totally wrong.

Your band is liable to get booed within the first 5 minutes of the show. The last thing your band would need is a bad review because you are the trigger happy lead guitarist who can't contain yourself. Needless to say it is better that you practice any tracks you decide to implement beforehand. **Remember, you do not need to be "the perfect guitarist" from the get go.** All you need to do is to FEEL it in your gut.

"Rock is about finding who you are. You don't necessarily have to play your instrument very well at all. You can just barely get by and you can be in a rock band"

– Gene Simmons

Got it? Okay let's get **You** started!

I can't even read notes. But I can teach someone how to make a guitar smoke.

– Ace Frehley



Guitar Techniques and How to Use Them

You can start off by making your own jam tracks, like record a beat and a rhythm guitar which you can play and improvise to. You can find good free audio recording software that you can download from the internet to record your tracks, or you can simply use your computer microphone. Use whatever works best for you.

Now, before you decide to make your lead debut, it is best that you keep the following tips in mind –

Tips That Will Help You On Your Way To The Top

STEP 1 – HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION

“You can't wait around for destiny to give you what you think you deserve, you have to earn it, even if you think you've paid your dues”

– Slash

It is easy to fall into the same white washed routine as you practice especially with jam tracks. You could end up playing the same tunes countless times and overlook the most important aspects of your training.

Just make sure that you do not start off with anything fancy. Determine how much time you will give your practice sessions, what you will play and with what tempos. Remember, the key to super stardom is persistence and timing. You will want to make sure that you land all the right tunes on stage without missing a single beat. Trust me!

“Session work makes you more strict. You can't hit notes all over the place. You've got to make each one really count”

– **Ritchie Blackmore**

STEP 2 – THE BEAT

Music sheets will only get you so far. What will really set you apart is hearing the beats by ear and modifying them according to your own tastes.

In other words, you need to be susceptible to how the beats turn out as you play them. Do this by observing where all the main notes land and by hearing the accents.

You need to imagine that a beat is there even if you do not hear it at the moment. Picking up where a beat leaves off and landing on it is what timing your beats is all about. For example, say that you want to play a 4:4 beat by playing a scale over it. The scale itself will include both the notes that will land on the beat as well as those that will be in between it.

STEP 3 – TIMING AND PICK ATTACK

After you have determined your beats it's time to work on your pick attack. In general terms, a pick attack is simply the level of speed and the consistency of which the pick strikes the string. Pick attacks are fairly easy if you are casually strumming out a slow tune. A basic chord progression means that you are applying a loose hand on the string which means that timing your strums won't be an issue.

However, the real test will come when you are jamming it up on stage.

“The way I look at it you can always get better”

– **Zakk Wylde**

Your pick attacks need to be sharp if you are soloing with single notes and with more speed than what you are used to. In other words, the faster you want to play, the tighter your pick action needs to be especially if you want the crowd on their feet.

“Excuse me while I kiss the sky”

– Jimi Hendrix



This also goes for slow tunes. Having deft fingers is integral if you want to dish out tunes that are nice and clean. So it is best that you master such techniques before blending your own tunes to the mix.

However, it **doesn't matter** if going fast isn't your style. You have to train your fingers at your own pace if you want to grow as a solo guitarist. The more you

assert yourself during play, the more unique your tunes will be. So it's better that you **play from your heart**. Trust me! You will be more adept with tunes that you are up to speed with rather than with those that you can't keep up with at all. Who knows, this might just separate YOU from the amateurs. Think about it for a moment! Really, carefully!

“It's about what happens on stage, whether we can deliver it in a hungry way that is who we are in our hearts”

– **Nikki Six**

Thinking yet?

Exercise Techniques to Build your Stamina

Remember, it pays to iron out those kinks beforehand. One of the last things you would want is for your fingers to lock or cramp up during a gig, cramping your style (no pun intended). So make sure that you stretch out those fingers once in a while. This will make you better suited to play any type of solo no matter how complicated it is. The aim of such exercises is to develop your playing techniques but most importantly of all – the strength of your fingers. Not everyone is equipped with agile fingers that are capable of plowing through notes at the speed of light. Pros, like Jimi Hendrix, weren't born with this gift either. It took years of nurtured care and the right attitude that made them great. You can start off by keeping the following tips in mind –

- If you are new to playing solo, you will find that your fingers easily get tired as you play a tune. Even professional lead guitarists have the scars to prove their greatness. You will have to play through the pain if you want to belt out consistent tunes. Your perseverance will make this easier to bear over time. One way you can do that is to practice playing scales on a regular basis. The best thing about playing scales is that it gives you a “feel” of where the notes on your guitar are positioned. This will not only prevent you from hurting yourself but will also improve the speed and dexterity by which you play. The crowd loves a show. Your job is to make sure that they get what they expect from you! ;)

“When I’m on stage the savage in me is released. It’s like going back to being a cave man. It takes me six hours to come down after a show”

– Angus Young

You can also play trills to exercise your playing fingers. Try fretting a note with your ring finger and trilling the next highest note with your fourth one by playing hammer-ons and pull offs. It’s also better that you use a metronome to keep time during this exercise. As

you feel your finger strengthening, try increasing your speed.

- So why do your fingers need to go through this routine? You have to remember that the little finger of your fretting hand is the most important one you can work on if you want to play better. A buffed up fourth finger will



also allow you a greater reach as well as a large number of vibrato techniques. However, it also happens to be one of the weakest of all your fingers and one that cannot work independently like the rest. A short 5 minute workout each day will gear it for some killer tunes.

- Remember to stretch your fingers out before going through any warm-up exercise. Before stretching your fingers out, play a few scales to get the

blood flowing through your hands. You don't want your finger cramping up before a gig!

- Clichéd blues licks might be a good way to warm up. They might come in handy if you want to get rid of the jitters. In fact, they may actually make for good practice especially before a major live performance.

“Simplicity is the key”

– **Ritchie Blackmore**

However, just because they have been around for a while doesn't mean that you belt them out at every performance. Your fans are liable to get bored of the same tunes in time. The trick to making them stay put is to come up with your own melodic bag of tricks. This will all be part of building up your own musical vocabulary.

- Learn to play by ear. When you learn to play guitar by ear you will find your accomplishments more rewarding as you are completely self-taught with no help from teachers or books. In the entertainment industry, guitarists who learn to play guitar by ear are well respected and often called upon for their expertise and experience. Improvisation and creativity will help you interact with the rest of the members in your band as well. Playing by ear can also help you fine tune (no pun intended) your playing skills even more. Not only that, but strumming it up by yourself will also give you a chance to improvise and come up with your own tunes. The more you improvise, the easier you time you will have finding the right tunes. **A lot of freedom in your playing will come with that.**
- Remember, as a guitar player it is your fingers that kill, so make sure you keep them fit for the fight to the top!!!

“This is the most powerful weapon I've ever seen”
– Clint Eastwood



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