

# Integrative Guitar



■ A Community for Guitar Education & Innovation ■

## Reading Music:

Anyone who has endeavored to learn an instrument knows how challenging learning to read music can be. Each in our own way, we face a combination of obstacles, which if not approached properly can hinder or even derail our best efforts. Below you will find examples of proven ways of approaching these challenges, which when tailored to an individual learning style, can put our efforts back on track.

### Patterns & Note Recognition

Note discrimination is aided by substituting tonal patterns for the string-by-string method in guitar reading curriculums. The added benefit of ear development further expands musical understanding.



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### Color in String & Symbol Determination

Applying color to differentiate note-string association eliminates some uncertainty and can serve as an aide until you are familiar enough to go without. Making sharps and rests another color will help grab your attention. You can do this yourself with markers or buy instructional materials designed this way.



### Use of Color & Visual Aids in Rhythm:

Making the offbeat a different color or varying the size of numbers can aid in interpreting rhythm.



## Phrase, Motive, & Theme Separation



Separating phrases and learning them out of order can make the task of learning a piece less challenging. Isolating motives, themes, and larger sections of pieces breaks the work down into more manageable sections. It improves your knowledge of the piece so that you can be more confident. Another tactic would be learning a piece measure by measure from the end.

## Organizing Effective Practice:

### Goals:

Setting reasonable and measurable goals allows the teacher and student to keep track of progress and provide reinforcement.

### Technology:

Using technological tools like Google Docs and other web utilities to create spreadsheet logs like the one below can help keep track of practice time and promote communication between teacher and student.

### PRACTICE LOG Oct. 3-9

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Weekly Totals
<b>Technique</b>	10	15	10					<b>35</b>
<b>Rhythm &amp; Ear Training</b>	10	0	13					<b>23</b>
<b>Sight Reading</b>	0	10	0					<b>10</b>
<b>Performance</b>	30	30	20					<b>80</b>
<b>Independent</b>	0	60	0					<b>60</b>
<b>Daily Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>43</b>					<b>208</b>