Learn To Play

SOLOING VIDEO 2

Django-Style Gypsy Jazz Guitar

Taught by Paul Meihling

60-minute Video

This fascinating look at the art of improvisation in the gypsy jazz tradition shows you how to truly swing! Paul Meihling, leader of the Hot Club of San Francisco, has a comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of this powerful and infectious style, and he provides a wealth of information and playing tips to get you off to a solid start.

Before long, you'll be playing exciting solos in the style taught by Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli, and other hot players of this dynamic genre. You'll learn the theory and playing techniques behind the music, including the exercises, scales, modes, and augmented picking ("the heart of the Reinhardt style") that will allow you to come up with your own improvisations. He includes advice on fingerings, use of the mediator, singing your song and how to "focus your attention so your hands can play what your ears hear."

Paul teaches the special elements that give this music its distinctive ring: "sweep" picking ornaments (guitar-shaped, half steps, harmonic, chromatic, etc.), diminished and augmented riffs, triplets and the other special sounds that "put the gypsy in gypsy swing." Includes some hot playing with Paul and Tony Mandracca, rhythm guitarist.

Notes or notecards for the soloing taking hundreds of hours and expert guitar lessons.

Homespun Video, Box 158, Woodstock, NY 12498

Homespun Video • 518/689-1400

© 1987 Homespun Video. Ltd. Color photo: Happy Taun}

Paul Meihling is the founder and lead guitarist of the Hot Club of San Francisco, a group dedicated to performing and recording the music known as Gypsy Jazz. An accomplished multi-instrumentalist (guitar, viola, bass, clarinet and tenor banjo, mandolin), Paul has been a professional musician for over 20 years. As a member of Dan Hicks Acoustic Weston, he appeared on Austin City Limits, among other venues throughout the country. Internationally known as an authority on the music of Django Reinhardt and other Gypsy swing players, Paul conducts clinics and private lessons when not performing and recording with the Hot Club.
Arpeggios

Ex. 1) G major

Ex. 2) G major 6

Ex. 3) G dominant 7

Ex. 4)

Different inversion of G♭ = E♭

Ex. 5) E minor
Ex. 6) Sweep picking  2-octave G\(^6\)

Ex. 7) G minor

Ex. 8) G diminished

(Note: this is a two-finger (r.h.) lick — go insight into Django's strumming)
Scales

Ex. 9) G scale, 3 notes per string

Ex. 10) G scale, starting on A

Ex. 11) G pentatonic scalestring
Ornaments

Ex. 12) Hammer-on

Open string

Hammer-on half step below chord tones

G⁶ chord

Ex. 13) Harmonics

Ex. 14) Pull-off
Ex. 15) Combinaison pull-off and hammer-on

Ex. 16) Pick all notes
Ex. 17) Trills

hammer & pull

picking

(keep the rhythm steady)
"Django" trill lick

Ex. 18) Bends

Ex. 19) Glissando

"Sweet Georgia Brown" intro.
Ex. 20) Tremolo

Ex. 21) Augmented chords

(A Django chord) (chord repeats every four bars)

C whole tone scale
Ex. 22) George Van Eps’ arpeggiated picking

Ex. 23) Django’s diminished lick

chromatic, descending
From The Homespun Mailbag...

"I hope you make the point in your questes that audio and video are complementary, and not duplicative. I had resisted buying videos where I had audio series, until one of the helpful Homespun folks convinced me to try a video as a complement to the series I had. I was delighted with the new dimension added by the audio/video synthesis...the visual presentation often adds the essential spark to assimilation (particularly with respect to improvisational work)."

—Tim Wengen, Loomis, CA

"I've spent years trying to learn on my own without any particular direction—a slow and frustrating process. Each Homespun series has provided me with distinct goals and focus enabling me to...grow by leaps and bounds. I only wish I had started sooner! I am in the Army Veterinary Services and I travel quite a bit. Homespun tapes provide me with a 'teacher' I can take with me wherever I go! Your tapes are convenient, easy to follow and outright enjoyable. And I'm taught by some of the best teachers available in the country. One couldn't ask for more!"

—Joe Vangel, Ft. Meade, MD

"I'm a real believer. The tapes have certainly helped me grow as a musician, but even more importantly, they've given me the World's Greatest Response to an oft-heard question: 'Gee, I've always wanted to play the banjo. Do you give lessons?' Whenever I get that question now, I just do a five-minute testimonial for Homespun tapes and give them the latest catalog."

—Mark Johnson, Fairhope, AL

"I can't imagine (shudder to think) where I'd still be musically if I hadn't discovered Homespun Tapes over ten years ago. I've been a steady student ever since. You've still the best thing going in music instruction. Please put my name on the mailing list."

—Steve Fowler, Augusta, GA

"The lessons are the best learning aids that I've come across in 23 years of playing and what's more, they're offered at a reasonable price."

—Joe Wright, Auburn, AL

"This great piece of American culture would have been endangered were it not for this sort of care in passing it to future generations."

—Eric Krakower, N. Hollywood, CA

"You ought to know how much it all means to me. Since then, my music has become something of a joy to listen to, even to myself!"

—Ron S. Pinschke, Ontario, Canada