

Ear-Training

This is one of the most important things you could possibly practice on.

Ear training is actually: memory training.

Every interval (distance between 2 sounds) has its own unique flavor, sound. You are training your memory to recall the sound that is created by 2 notes a certain distance apart from one another.

Since there are only 12 sounds in our music, there are also only 12 intervals (distances between 2 sounds) to remember.

Here's a great exercise:

- 1) Play any random note anywhere on your guitar neck. Use the full range from lowest to highest note you can play on the guitar and anything in between.
- 2) Try to hear the pitch you just played in your head. Capture the sound of the note in your inner ear.
- 3) Then try to sing it. Don't worry if this is too hard. The more you do it the easier it will get.
- 4) Then, without playing it, try to imagine the note a half step up
- 5) Regardless of whether or not you can hear it, sing whatever note you think it might be.
- 6) Play that note a half step up to double check if you sang it right.
- 7) If you were off, no worries: repeat these 2 notes 3-4 times in a row singing them while playing them. This reinforces your memory reminding yourself: "ok, this is how this interval is supposed to sound like".
- 8) If you sang it right, move on to the next note and start over again.
- 9) Repeat steps 1-6 of the exercise over and over again for 2 minutes only. Time yourself; do NOT go over time.
- 10) Then for the next 2 minutes, do all of the above: but now with whole steps.
- 11) Then for the next 2 minutes, do all of the above: but now with 1 ½ steps (3 frets distances)
- 12) Do this 6-minute drill every day. Once you get to the point where you have about 70% accuracy, practice the next 3 intervals. (getting larger 1 half step at a time). Now you have 6 intervals to practice.
- 13) Once you get to the level where you have about 70% accuracy with the 3 new intervals, add the next 3. (again adding 1 half step at a time)
- 14) After that you only have 3 more intervals to go.

Following list of songs should help you in memorizing the sound of all 12 intervals. The idea is that it is easier to memorize the sound of an interval, when you know of a song that starts with that particular interval in the first couple of notes of the song.

<u>Interval</u>	<u>Ascending</u>	<u>Descending</u>
Unison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Happy Birthday To You La Marseillaise One Note Samba 	
Minor 2nd Half step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaws theme song. Spanish/Flamenco chord progression (I-bII-bIII) It's Been A Hard Day's Night. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Für Elise Joy To The World. Stella By Starlight.
Major 2nd Whole step.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frere Jacques Silent Night Do-Re-Mi (Sound of Music) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satin Doll Yesterday. Mary Had A Little Lamb
Minor 3rd 1 ½ steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brahms's Lullaby The Impossible Dream So Long, Farewell Greensleeves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hey Jude The Star Spangled Banner Frosty The Snowman
Major 3rd 2 whole steps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When The Saints (Go Marchin In) Kumbaya Morning Has Broken (Cat Stevens) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summertime Swing Low, Sweet Chariot Beethoven's 5th Symphony Giant Steps (Coltrane)
Perfect 4th 2 ½ steps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Here Comes The Bride Amazing Grace Harry Potter Theme O Tannenbaum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adeste Fideles Star Trek Downtown (on the word "Downtown")
Tritone (Aug 4th, Dim 5th) 3 steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Simpsons opening song Maria (West Side Story) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YYZ
Perfect 5th 3 ½ steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twinkle Little Star My Favorite Things (The Sound of Music) Also Sprach Zarathustra Star Wars Theme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Flintstones theme song Feelings
Minor 6th 4 steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Orpheus Love Story (Francis Lai, 3rd and 4th note) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love Story (Francis Lai)
Major 6th 4 ½ steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Bonny NBC theme tune Take The A-Train. My Way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Music of The Night (The Phantom of the Opera) Sweet Caroline (Neil Diamond, 1st notes chorus)
Minor 7th 5 steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stone Free (Jimi Hendrix, intro) Star Trek theme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watermelon Man (Herbie Hancock) An American in Paris
Major 7th 5 ½ steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take On Me (A-Ha, the chorus) Immigrant Song (1st and 3rd note of vocals in the intro) Theme from Fantasy Island. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Love You (Cole Porter)
Octave 6 whole steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over The Rainbow Immigrant Song (Led Zeppelin) Blue Bossa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doogie Howser M.D. Theme Willow Weep For Me. There's No Business like Show business (2nd & 3rd note)