

SOME BONUS BENEFITS YOU GET FROM SINGLE-STRING SOLOING

1. For beginning guitar students

Using a linear approach to learn new scales on the fret board includes the following benefits:

1. It takes less effort and less time to understand and learn the scale because you see the scale laid out in a more structured way.
2. The linear approach makes music theory visual. On one string, it's easy to see how things work.
3. This visual clarity leads to a deeper understanding of the new scale.
4. There's an ear training benefit to this. It appears that there's a link between the visual and the aural that kicks into overdrive when you see scales and music theory mapped out on one line. The ear "hears" the intervals that make up the scale, better, when the eyes see those intervals mapped out more clearly.

2. Advanced players

Sometimes advanced students put up resistance to the notion that they could possibly still learn something from single string soloing. The reasons why advanced guitarists often tend to be skeptical about spending time soloing on one string, are understandable. Playing on one string can seem "too basic" or "too simple." That preconceived notion makes it hard to see how this practice approach can be worth the time and energy. It goes without saying that it's completely normal that students who already have been playing for decades would feel this way. That is... until they try it out for a week.

Here's a selection of excerpts from some student emails I received through the years. I've heard similar comments time and again from advanced students who became ecstatic about their single string soloing experiences after initial resistance:

- ▶ "Hmmm... I was really skeptical about this at first and really thought it was below me to start something as basic as playing one string only after 32 years of playing guitar, but gosh: it made me realize I don't know my fret board half as well as I thought I did."
- ▶ "Interesting... hmm... I don't get it: why is this so challenging, it shouldn't be after I've been playing for so many years?"
- ▶ "Whooawww... after one week of doing this, something radically changed in my playing! I seem to be more musical. My phrases are much stronger and more melodic."

- ▶ “Interesting: I seem to have a much deeper connection with what I play than I ever had before.”
- ▶ “My soloing has become ‘deeper.’”
- ▶ “Thanks man! You helped me out of being in a rut with my soloing after only one lesson.”
- ▶ “I seem to have a better grasp and clearer view of the connections between ‘music theory’ AND ‘what comes out as I am playing.’”
- ▶ “It’s amazing how much freer my playing is now. I can fly all over the fret board now. I never used to be able to do this with confidence. I typically always stuck to one position on the guitar neck that I felt comfortable at.”
- ▶ “It’s somehow much easier for me now to move between the scale positions I thought I already knew really well, after only one guitar lesson with you.”

It’s really all about being open-minded and willing to try out new things. The best learner is always the person who goes into a learning experience as a blank page, without any pre-conceived or preprogrammed notions or judgments. Every new approach or new idea you explore will always open up new possibilities on guitar and change and improve your outlook and understanding, no matter how basic that new approach or practice material might seem at first. You never really know how much you could still benefit from trying out something, until you give it a shot and work on it for a bit.