

This is a *video download* (equivalent to the 4 DVD set) that matches **Unit 1** of the book, '**Essential Music Theory for Dobro**'.

This is a video about 'courage'; a program designed to help a first year Dobro student to learn how to play from the heart and rely less on printed sheet music and tablature. It is a practical application of music theory using bluegrass music and other examples that can be applied to real life jam sessions.

This video tutorial will walk you through each chapter, exercise and song in Unit 1 note by note; measure by measure. The tablature is presented to the side of the video screen making it easy to follow along with the program. The music is written in Dobro Tablature (standard G Tuning) with Chords. The songs and examples are demonstrated at multiple tempos, slow, medium and faster with a full band backup. Several video/audio mixes are included; with and without the Dobro; with and without the lead vocals. A full band backup with guitar, bass, banjo and vocals are integrated encouraging you to play along with the 'band' on the video AND be the lead singer! Karaoke bluegrass Dobro!

Program description:

Over the years, as a dedicated music teacher, my students have consistently asked me how to improvise more fluently on their Dobro and to do so without the aid of sheet music, tablature or rehearsing the song beforehand.

It's amazing how many people, including music teachers, who when asked to play a tune they've not rehearsed at a party or jam session reply by saying, 'I can't because I haven't got the music', or, 'I've heard that song, but never played it' or some other excuse like that. If they're not in their 'comfort zone', they shy away from playing. Sound familiar? If you are one of these people, this video program is especially for YOU!

The concept and purpose of this course has four goals:

1. Give the First-Year-Dobro-Student a good foundation of music fundamentals; presented in layman's terms.
2. Keep music theory practical with songs and examples that can be used in the field. If you're going to spend valuable practice time working on a song, it should be something that you can actually use in a real life jam. The play-along video is designed to give you a realistic simulation of a live jam session increasing your courage to get out there and play with other folks.
3. Strategically review the important principles in a progressive way to aid long term memory.
4. Keep it fun! If it isn't fun (and music theory is generally pretty dry), you're probably not going to continue.

'Call and Answer' exercises are strategically inserted throughout the course to aid your ear training. The Dobro on the recording will play a couple of measures and then rest allowing you to 'answer' back with your Dobro, mimicking the 'call'. This is very important to training your ear to hear the notes; their direction and timing.

At the end of the Unit, there will be a brief review to see if you understand and remember the main points presented. Each section will be built on previously covered material and concepts helping you to develop a 'feel' for music and begin to visualize the music in your mind. This will encourage you get away from the printed page. Over time and of course, with experience, you will actually be able to play your music more freely and from the heart and with conviction. The course has been written to be fun so that you'll want to continue improving your knowledge of music theory and improvisational technique.

Chapters for Unit 1 include: The Elements of Music, Understanding Rhythm and Harmony, Phrases, Closed Chords, Songs with One Chord, G Major Diatonic Scale, G Major Pentatonic Scale, Anticipating Chord Changes 1, Songs with Two Chords, Backup Rhythm Variation 1

Song examples include: "*Shady Grove*", "*Standing in the Need of Prayer*", "*Sally Goodin*", "*Where the Soul Never Dies*", "*Hot Cross Buns*". Total playing time: 3 hours, 34 minutes.