

ART OF REGGAE

GUITAR COURSE 1

SPOTIFY CURATED PLAYLIST FOR ORGAN COURSE 1: THE ROLE OF THE PIANO IN REGGAE MUSIC

Spotify link:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6rqtsUN3cVNfxt38g9yw7t?si=a9645a7a5cec4754>

Take note: 1) This curated playlist is not entirely complete but still darn good. We will be updating this PDF until we complete all sections. 2) Sometimes a track will be missing from this Spotify play list. It could be because the artist took it down or for any other unknown reason. Try searching for that track on Youtube, iTunes or elsewhere. Chances are good that you will find it.

Lesson 1: Building Your Rhythmic Foundation

- **120 BPM metronome**

This is a simple metronome sound to practice to in case you don't have a metronome.

- **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** by Black Uhuru.

This song inspired the Art of Reggae original, "Guess Who's Coming" that is used for this lesson. Example of *Straight 8th feel*. (steppers groove)

Lesson 2: Playing the Single Chop (also called the skank, bang, strum and other names)

Three levels of note content.

LEVEL 1) A lot of note content, and longer sustain ("strum")

- **Move Out a Babylon** by Johnny Clark (up tempo one drop groove)

- **Right Time** by the Mighty Diamonds. Straight 8th feel (one drop groove)

LEVEL 2) Medium amount of note content, medium sustain

- **Pressure and Slide** by Lynn Taitt. Straight 8th feel (one drop groove)

- **Cool Rasta** by the Heptones. Swing 8th feel (one drop groove)

LEVEL 3) Very small amount of note content, short sustain ("tight chop")

- **Stir it Up** by Bob Marley. *This is from the Deluxe edition recording of the demos that the Wailers submitted to Chris Blackwell, called the 'Jamaican versions,' with a MUCH drier and roots mix than the album that Island released in the early 70's. You can hear the dry and tight guitar double chop well.* Swing 8th feel (one drop groove)

- **Burning Bush** by Tuff Lion. Example of tight double chop. Straight 8th feel (reggae rock groove) (also slow wawa flutter in the introduction.)

Lesson 3: Chord Shapes, Positions and Voicings

Lesson 4: Playing the Double Chop, Swing and Straight 8th feel

- **Stir It Up** by Bob Marley. Example of straight 8th feel, double chop (one drop groove)
This is the version of the song that was released on the Catch a Fire album.
- **Live Good** by Burning Spear. Example of swing 8th feel double chop (one drop groove)
- **Rootstafari** by Tuff Lion. Example of a 'groove clash' where the straight and swing 8th feels are played together against each other. Listen carefully!

Lesson 5: Combining the Single & Double Chop

Lesson 6: Using Reverb (not as a dub effect)

- **Ragga Muffin Stylee Dub** by King Tubby. Example of a lot of spring type reverb on the guitar chop. Straight 8th feel. (one drop groove)

Lesson 7: Stuck Line – doubling the bass with a muted tone

- **Baba Boom Time** by the Jamaicans. Example of stuck line anticipation accents. Straight 8th feel (rocksteady groove)
- **Drum Song** (Soul Vendors version).
- **I And I Survive (Slavery Days)** by Burning Spear. Example of a killer DUB version of his famous tune Slavery Days. Listen for the stuck line variations throughout. Swing 8th feel (one drop groove)

Lesson 8: Rhythmic Variations on the Chop: accents, slides & slurs

- **007 (Shanty Town)** by Desmond Dekker. Example of Accent no. 1 – very evident in the introduction. Then you hear some half step slides with Accent no. 1's as well. Straight 8th feel (rocksteady groove)
- **Fu Man Chu** by Desmond Dekker. Example of Accent no. 2, played pretty much throughout. Straight 8th feel (reggae one drop groove)
- **Puppet on a String** by Linn Taitt. Example of *half step slide*. Straight 8th feel (rocksteady groove)
- **Baby by The Heptones**. Example of a very tight version of accent no. 2 (and the piano plays it also). There are some ½ step slides in there too. Straight 8th feel (rock steady groove)

Lesson 9: How the Chop Relates to the Rhythm Piano and Organ

- **Night Nurse** by Gregory Isaacs. A good example of the piano and guitar chop merging to create a unified sound. Straight 8th feel (rockers groove)

Lesson 10: Dub Effects Pedals

Generally speaking, **listen to anything by King Tubby and Lee "Scratch" Perry** and you'll get a full dose of mostly non live use of dub effects. These classic recordings are what guitarists and keyboardists try to emulate with their pedals in a live setting.

- **The Heathen** by Bob Marley.

- **King Tubby Meets Rockers Uptown** by King Tubby. Example of heavy use of reverb and delay in a dub mix (effects added in the post production mix, not done live. This, of course was King Tubby's genius!) Straight 8th feel (one drop groove)

Lesson 11: The Mento Strum

- **Hold Me Jack** by the Jolly Boys. Example of the mento strum in traditional mento music.
- **In the Summertime** by Ken Boothe.
- **Rhythm 77** by Lord Echo. Example of mento strum.

Lesson 12: Using a Wawa Pedal

- **Want More** by Bob Marley. At 31 seconds (and at other times) : example of using wawa as rhythmic effect.
- **Slave Driver** by Bob Marley from the Talkin' Blues album. This is an example of Peter Tosh's use of the wawa on the double chop with lots of amazing variations. Swing 8th feel (one drop groove)
- **Babylon Too Rough** by Gregory Isaacs. Example of the full spectrum of the wawa being used on the guitar chop. The guitarist is playing every other chop. Straight 8th feel (one drop groove)
- **Guiltiness** by Bob Marley. Example of the wawa flutter. Listen closely. It's mixed back. "groove clash" feel, in between swing and straight 8th feel. (one drop groove)

