

Bluegrass Dobro Crash Course with Ivan Rosenberg

Hello Dobro friends! I'll be presenting a meticulously planned four-part online Dobro workshop for Nashville Acoustic Camps this October. I designed this workshop with intermediate students in mind—especially those who have hit a plateau, have trouble improvising, don't quite know how to incorporate melodies with rolls, get stuck parking at straight-bar chord positions, or don't know how to confidently play over minor chords—but since the classes will be recorded, this will be just as beneficial for beginners: I'll start from scratch for each concept for newer players but quickly move on to more advanced ideas.

Dobro can be flummoxing, and most aspiring players have some conceptual gaps in their understanding of the instrument that hold them back, making Dobro feel more complicated and overwhelming than it needs to be. So we're going to simplify it. We'll fill in those gaps with essential, learnable, and widely applicable concepts that don't require a mountain of music theory or years of studying—just the big meat and potatoes stuff that all your favorite players know, the stuff that can help you start to improvise more confidently and make better music in your next jam. You'll be able to put everything you learn in this workshop to work right away:

- Fretboard roadmaps: an EASY to remember pattern-based method for memorizing how major scale and blues notes lay out in G major tuning
- How to find chord tones (aka the important melody notes) within the first 5 frets for open position playing
- Building-block and classic kickoff licks within the first 5 frets that go with assorted chords in the Key of G
- Tried and true hammer-on & pull-off licks including a few fancy 'cascading' licks
- Rolls and arpeggios, and how to adapt them for different chords
- Minor Chords: three shapes for finding any minor chord's notes across the fretboard, and how to confidently connect those positions
- Intro to playing in the Keys of D and C: patterns and pockets
- Expand your Dobro vocabulary with a dozen+ movable closed-position licks that will help you confidently play great music around any straight-bar chord location
- How to craft and eventually improvise playable, stage-worthy bluegrass solos that incorporate the above ideas
- Intro to slants
- Picking, barring, slides, damping, and other technique-related concerns as they come up while we cover the above content

Some charts and tablature will be provided along with a recording of each class. We'll also do a bonus one-hour Q&A session sometime in November. All classes will be for squareneck Dobro in G major tuning (low to high: GBDGBD). Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions: ivanDrosenberg@gmail.com.

A few words from some of Ivan's students:

"If you're going to travel you need a map. If you're going to play the Dobro you need Ivan. Just like using a map to get to where you want to go. Ivan can help guide you no matter what your level is to where you want your playing to go. After years of teaching online and at camps around the country he knows the pitfalls we all face and ways to avoid them. So merge what you know with what Ivan can teach you. You'll be glad you did." — Kelly G

"Ivan has an amazing ability to zero in on the areas of my technique that need improvement. Every

workshop and online lesson that I have had with Ivan has resulted in a significant advance in my playing. They have been especially helpful in getting me off those 'plateaus' and out of ruts.” — Steve T.

“Two things I take away from every Ivan lesson: 1) some technique I can immediately apply and 2) some principle that makes me a better decision-maker in devising a break or an accompaniment.” — Michael H.

[Click here](#) to email Megan with Nashville Acoustic Camps for logistical questions about attending these awesome virtual workshops.

[Click here](#) to email Ivan with Dobro and workshop content questions.