

Hi all,

My next office hour will be this Saturday at 12:00pm central time. We're going to use my own Zoom meeting room for this (different Zoom info from what we used for our five classes). If you want to join the office hour meeting, here's my Zoom info:

Ivan Rosenberg's Personal Meeting Room: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5594401661?pwd=L3RHRGRsbVRDeGhEMGVVCZndJNjRRQT09>

Meeting ID: 559 440 1661

Passcode: 1TAcrW

I had my first office hour on Monday – nobody had questions about the classes, so we just chatted about my other instructional materials and Dobro gear. I had a request to provide some links and information, so here you go...

My Patreon Dobro lessons website: www.patreon.com/ivanrosenberg

I have a Patreon Dobro lessons site with a massive library of over 100 pre-recorded lessons with a new one each week. There's nothing else like it especially for the price (subscriptions starting at just \$12/month, or roughly the price of two private lessons per year), and all subscription levels provide an all-access pass to all video lessons and more. For now, most lessons concern repertoire, but I'll be doing lessons on technique, practice routines, fretboard knowledge, and more in 2026.

I'm offering a one-week free trial of the basic "Cone Head" subscription level, so it's a great time to try it out! It's also a great way to support my niche and never lucrative career choice of trying to provide the best Dobro instruction anywhere. I'm up to 54 paid subscribers and would love to get that up to 100 or more. If anyone wants to help me in that regard, subscribing is really appreciated, and it's really helpful if folks share my Patreon info on social media. www.patreon.com/ivanrosenberg

Important note about Patreon for Apple computer/ipad/iphone users: if you want to subscribe, please do so using a **regular computer browser** instead of using the Patreon app from the App store. When Apple device users subscribe using the Patreon app, Apple inexplicably adds and absconds with a 30% surcharge, so I want to make sure no one needlessly overpays!

Dobro Strings

I have an endorsement with **Straight Up Strings**. They make a really nice, long-lasting set for Dobro. I also really like D'Addario EJ42s, but only for a couple hours since they tend to go dead with a buzzy third string quite fast, so I've been using Straight Up Strings exclusively ever since I tried them. Player and resos are all different, and Straight Up Strings won't be everyone's favorite set for every reso, but they're definitely worth a try.

Straight Up Strings is a family-run business in southern California by renowned luthier, author, picker, and stellar human Roger Siminoff.

From Friday Nov. 28th through December 15th, orders from the Straight Up Strings U.S. website can get a 15% discount using the code **DEAL2025** at checkout. But if you're in Canada, given tariffs/duties, expensive shipping, and those awful "brokerage fees" that are often added by Fed Ex and UPS, it's probably best to use their Canadian distributor (see link below) even though the holiday discount won't apply.

Here's a link to the resophonic set.

- **U.S. and most other countries:**
<https://straightupstrings.com/collections/resophonic-guitar-strings/products/straight-up-strings-for-resophonic-guitar>
- **Canada:** https://timelessinstruments.com/contents/en-ca/d141_Straight-Up-Strings.html

My prior Nashville Acoustic Camps Workshop Series (all still archived and available)

Like the one you're taking, these are all \$100 per series, but I'm going to be giving my Patreon subscribers a permanent 20% off on these archived workshops (another reason to subscribe :). You can get these directly from me – shoot me an email at ivanDrosenberg@gmail.com if you have any questions or want to order one.

Dobro Crash Course 1: if Dobro is still a bit mysterious and nonintuitive for you, or if you feel there are gaps in your conceptual knowledge of the very basics, this is a course I designed to help Dobro players who have plateaued at a beginning or early intermediate stage. This course includes: understanding G major tuning and memorizing where the G major scale notes fall all across the entire fretboard, understanding how to find melodic phrases by focusing on chord notes, learning to embellish simple melodic phrases with a few tools of the trade, learning good technique for hammer-ons, pull-offs, and slides, how to add rolls, how to play over chord progressions by targeting chord tones, and more. Plenty of charts and tablature are provided.

Dobro Crash Course 2: crafting bluegrass solos in the keys of G, C, and D—for intermediate and advanced players. For this workshop series, I took three songs (Blue Ridge Cabin Home, Long Black Veil, and Washed My Hands in Muddy Water) and went through the entire process of working up a stage-worthy solo for each song in each of the aforementioned three keys. Every step of the process is explained, including understanding how to conceptualize the fretboard and work out of chord inversions up and down the neck in the keys of G, C, and D. I wrote a mountain of tablature for all the arrangements in all keys, made fancy fretboard charts, and recorded Dobro with a backing track for everything as well, and to top it all off, I discussed playing rhythm and playing fills

for each song in all three keys. This workshop series alone should keep anyone busy for several months if not years.

Dobro Crash Course 3: similar to Crash Course 2 but for the minor keys of Em, Am, and Bm—for intermediate and advanced players. We learned some fancy Jerry Douglas solos (Bright Sunny South in E modal, From Ankara to Izmir in Em, Hymn of Ordinary Motion in Bm); worked up Walk On Boy, Jerusalem Ridge, and Wayfaring Stranger in Am; and went through how several songs would shake out in Bm including the aforementioned Hymn of Ordinary Motion, Walk on Boy, Bright Sunny South, and (briefly) my tune "The Creptid Mule." We spent a lot of time mapping minor chord inversions along with the minor scales for these keys and learned how those aforementioned Jerry solos partake of minor chord inversions and predictable fretboard pockets, and plenty more. This was another huge undertaking with a mountain of handouts including tab for all the songs, and will give anyone who works through the material an outstanding foundation for playing in minor keys. Like Crash Course 2, there's enough here to keep you busy for a long while...

Solo Dobro Part 1: As you may know, I've released three solo (unaccompanied) lap-style Dobro albums, which is about half of all the solo lap-style Dobro albums ever made, and I have a lot to share on this subject which is rarely if ever taught by anyone else in depth. For Solo Dobro Part 1, we learned a ton of rolls and arpeggios and how to use them along with open strings and bass notes to fill out a melody in a way that sustains a tune with no other accompaniment. We learned a fancy version of Amazing Grace (tab provided), my tune Here This Morning (tab provided), Rob Ickes's How Great Thou Art (tab provided), and my version of Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie. For intermediate and advanced players.

Solo Dobro Part 2: for those up for a challenge, we worked on more-complicated solo Dobro tunes and learned how to "Travis pick" on the Dobro. Songs included Jerry Douglas's A Peaceful Return (tab provided), my versions of Desperado (tab provided) and Hello in There, and a Doc Watson-inspired Travis picking version of Deep River Blues (tab provided). This workshop series is an extension of Solo Dobro Part 1, and I wouldn't recommend it unless you've already completed Part 1 and gotten comfortable with the material. The Solo Dobro Part 2 workshop series is lighter on supplemental materials than the others since it's borrowing heavily from concepts and techniques already taught in Solo Dobro Part 1. I'll be honest - this one was too complicated for most of the folks who attended. The material in this workshop is a lot to digest, and it might be best to take Solo Dobro Part 1 and let those ideas stew for a couple years before proceeding with Solo Dobro Part 2.

Resos and gear

There are a lot of great resos out there. If you're looking for a high-end instrument, among current builders I recommend Beard, Byrl, Griffis, Schoonover, Appalachian. If you see a used Clinesmith, Meredith, or Rayco, those are probably very good, and for something cheap that's likely good, keep an eye out for a used DeNeve (these turn up in the northeast now and then). The National brand Scheerhorns are hit or miss – some are outstanding but

I've played some stinkers. For a good sounding reso that doesn't break the bank, a used Gold Tone Beard is a great choice, especially one that was set up in the Beard shop. There are endless other brands that have been made, including Dobro of course. If you're ever considering buying a reso, feel free to email me for a second opinion before you buy. I've played almost every kind of reso out there.

Capos

The undisputed champ is Charlie's Slide Pro Capo. His website is terrible, but here's the link to the capo you'd want. <https://charliescapo.com/product/hoodie-with-logo/>

Bars

Everyone's hands are different, and everyone will find their own bar that works best. I prefer chrome to stainless for the tone and feel, but the advantage of stainless steel is that you just buy one bar and you're set forever. Chrome bars need to be replaced every two or three years if you play a lot. Of bars still being manufactured, you might want to check out these:

My personal fav is the **Beard 2010** (some folks like the 2020):
<https://www.resophonicoutfitters.com/product/WBSS.html>

A very, very close runner-up is **Sim Tech** by Chris Simpkins, who bought Ron Tipton's remaining stock and makes some bars that are Tipton replicas and others that are very similar to the Beard bars. <https://www.simtechmusic.com/#/>

Shubb GS bar: for folks with hand problems. These have a wooden top integrated into the bar for a comfy grip. The "GS" is for Gary Swallows who created this bar and then sold the design to Shubb. <https://shubb.com/product/gs-guitar-steel/>

My Bandcamp page

All of my music is available on Bandcamp. Almost no one buys music anymore in the age of streaming, but if you'd like to get downloads of any of my albums, they can be found here: <https://ivanrosenberg1.bandcamp.com/music>

Private Lessons

I teach over Zoom time permitting. Lessons are US\$60 per hour. Feel free to get in touch if you'd like lessons. These Zoom workshops are great, and my Patreon is a great resource, but there's no substitute for being able to see you play and provide feedback. I can spot technique issues after watching someone play for a few seconds, get a good sense of what you know already and need to learn very quickly, and then personalize a plan to get you learning more and sounding better a lot faster.

Thanks again for taking this workshop series! I hope you got a lot out of it!
Ivan