



There are No Shortcuts

By Zander Boon

If you want to learn to play guitar, the most valuable lesson I can give you is that there are no shortcuts, no quick fixes, no easy ways to do it. You have to start at the beginning, and walk the walk until you get there. And when you get there, you'll realise that there's still a long way to go! But it's one heck of a journey, so don't be discouraged, just understand that getting there is the best part! What do I mean by that?

Well, no matter how good a guitar player you want to be, or how good you end up being, there's absolutely no point if you don't enjoy it. And making sure you enjoy it will mean that you'll learn to play guitar that much more quickly, because it won't be a chore. So if you haven't really started yet, have a good think about how much you enjoy music, and how passionate you are about learning an instrument.

The next main bonus is that you'll meet some fine people along the way. In my experience (all 47 years of it, but only the last 30 or so playing guitar!), most musicians are friendly people, who like to share stuff with other players. It's a great way to learn. I remember when I started out, I was too shy to play with anyone else, and kept my guitar playing a bit of a secret. Thing was, once I was brave enough to meet up with some other guys, I found out that I learned all sorts of cool tricks, and my guitar playing went from strength to strength. It's amazing how your musicianship will "rise to the occasion" if you're playing with other people. I'm not sure if it's the inspiration, or not wanting to let people down, but you'll find you really raise your game.

Finally though, it has to be said that some good solid guitar lessons will get you off to a good start, and break the bad habits before you make them.