Complete Johnny Hiland Licks: Techniques for Unparalleled Country Guitar Supremacy

Johnny Hiland, the legendary country guitar virtuoso, has captivated audiences worldwide with his blistering speed, impeccable timing, and unforgettable licks. His innovative techniques have revolutionized the genre, setting new standards for country guitar playing. In this comprehensive guide, we will embark on a deep dive into Johnny Hiland's signature licks, unlocking the secrets to his unparalleled style and empowering you to incorporate these techniques into your own playing.

Alternate Picking: Unlocking the Gates to Speed and Precision

Alternate picking forms the cornerstone of Johnny Hiland's lightning-fast solos. By alternating between downstrokes and upstrokes in a controlled and fluid manner, you can achieve unparalleled speed and accuracy. Mastering this technique requires a combination of coordination, precision, and diligent practice. Begin by practicing slowly, focusing on keeping your picking motion fluid and consistent. Gradually increase the tempo as you gain confidence, and incorporate alternate picking into your scales, arpeggios, and licks.



Complete Johnny Hiland Licks & Tricks by Jeffrey Eric Funk

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Hybrid Picking: Blending Power and Precision

Hybrid picking, a technique that combines alternate picking with fingerstyle picking, allows you to create a dynamic range of sounds. Johnny Hiland often uses hybrid picking to interweave intricate fingerstyle passages with blistering alternate-picked runs. To master this technique, start by practicing fingerstyle picking patterns. Once you're comfortable, begin incorporating alternate picking into your fingerstyle passages. Experiment with different combinations of fingerpicking and alternate picking to develop your unique hybrid picking style.

Legato: Creating Seamless Transitions

Legato, a technique that involves playing notes smoothly connected without any audible breaks, is essential for creating melodic and expressive solos. Johnny Hiland employs legato to craft seamless runs and phrases, adding a touch of elegance to his solos. To develop your legato technique, practice holding notes slightly longer than their written duration, and gradually slide your fingers between frets to create smooth transitions. Combine legato with alternate or hybrid picking to create fluid and expressive lines.

Blues Licks: Infusing Country with the Soul of the Blues

Johnny Hiland often incorporates blues licks into his country solos, adding a touch of soulful grit to his playing. Blues licks are characterized by their use of the pentatonic scale, bends, and vibrato. To master blues licks, start by learning the basic pentatonic scale patterns. Practice bending notes up and down, and experiment with different vibrato techniques to add expression and depth to your licks.

Bending and Vibrato: Adding Emotion and Expression

Bending and vibrato are essential techniques for adding emotion and expression to your playing. Johnny Hiland's solos are known for their expressive bends and vibrant vibrato. To master bending, use your left-hand fingers to gently bend the strings up or down, creating a pitch variation. For vibrato, wiggle your left-hand fingers back and forth on the string, creating a subtle oscillation in pitch.

Country Guitar Solos: Unleashing Your Creativity

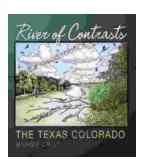
Johnny Hiland's solos are not just displays of technical prowess; they are expressions of creativity and storytelling. To craft compelling country guitar solos, draw inspiration from your favorite players and develop your unique voice. Experiment with different scales, arpeggios, and licks. Don't be afraid to branch out and create your own original licks. The key to great solos lies in combining technical proficiency with musicality.

Mastering Johnny Hiland's techniques requires dedication, practice, and a deep appreciation for country guitar. By incorporating these techniques into your own playing, you can unlock a new level of expressiveness and technical prowess. Remember, the journey to mastery is an ongoing one, so keep practicing, experimenting, and letting your creativity shine through. With passion and dedication, you can achieve Johnny Hiland-esque licks and elevate your country guitar playing to new heights.



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