

Student Reviews and Feedback

I had been playing guitar for about 4 years before stumbling upon one of Adam's YouTube video lessons. I had a fondness of bluegrass music and was interested in learning how to flatpick. After watching a couple more of Adam's videos and becoming more impressed with his playing, I decided to check out his www.5thfretproductions.com website. This is where I learned Adam gave private lessons over Skype. Adam and I exchanged emails and once I expressed interest in his Skype lessons, he sent me a questionnaire to gain an understanding of my skill level, musical taste, favorite guitarists/bands, goals, etc. This was a huge benefit because we had a game plan and goals in place from day one. Prior to engaging Adam's expertise, I had no knowledge or experience playing bluegrass rhythms, flatpicking or taking leads. We started off slowly which was a comfortable pace for me and nearly 3 years later, I have made substantial improvement in all aspects of my playing and have a much stronger knowledge of music in general. Adam makes himself available between lessons to answer questions, watch videos or listen to mp3's of your playing. The hardcopy material that he includes in the lesson package is easy to understand and is very professional in appearance.

Adam is an exceptional musician but you would never know it by his low-key and humble approach. In fact, I've seen him hold his own sharing the stage with legendary flatpicker's like Kenny Smith. I have had several other guitar teachers over the years that were good players but they seemed more interested in showing me how good they were rather than helping me improve. In my opinion, this is what sets Adam apart from other teachers. Adam is an amazing musician and flatpicker but he has the rare ability to adapt to students with varying skill levels while maintaining patience, offering encouragement and making the lessons challenging and fun.

I was initially a little skeptical of taking lessons over Skype because I wasn't sure how the connection would be or the quality of the video. I was pleasantly surprised on both accounts and found that Skype has some benefits over taking lessons in person. Most notably, flexibility!

If you want to take your playing to the next level, Adam's the man! Not only is he a great teacher, he's a great guy too!!

Rob B. - Denver, CO

Adam's teaching technique is the best I've ever encountered. The excellent Skype lessons kept me on track for 8 months when I was out of the country. He has the ability to identify your playing needs and to suggest ways to improve your technique. Great instructor!

Steve A. Akron OH

Mr. Schlenker is an extremely accomplished musician on the level of the likes of Wyatt & Tony Rice, Brian Sutton, Kenny Smith and the list goes. Adam is not just a gifted musician. He is an incredible teacher! He analyzes ones playing and customizes individual lessons specific to the individual needs and abilities. I was concerned about the Skype lessons at first but they work out great. If I practiced a little it would probably enhance my playing ability. Outstanding teacher! Good People! You won't be disappointed!

Bob R. Osage Beach, Missouri

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I have been taking guitar lessons from Adam for about 2 1/2 years. Adam's teaching style and demeanor is just what I needed. He has a gift for teaching and is a master of his craft. I highly recommend him to anyone looking to start lessons or progress their playing at any level.

Vinnie G

Being a student of Adam's has improved my guitar playing and musicianship tremendously. Through a combination of inspiration, motivation, and practical drills and techniques, his teaching has enabled me to play at a level well beyond what I thought was achievable. "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear" certainly proved true for me. I highly recommend Adam as a teacher, via Skype, in person, through video, in an ensemble, on a train, in a plane, ... anyway you can.

Tip H.

I was a little hesitant about Skype lessons but working with Adam on Skype eased any concerns. And then Adam's understanding of the guitar and for that matter all things musical made my time spent with him very worthwhile and special. Adam worked through some of the problems and questions about right hand and left hand technique that I had with understanding and patience. Including some of the standard teaching regimen, Adam has developed exercises and learning techniques that you won't find many other places. The best thing of all, I learned how to assess my own practice and playing. In any format and on any level of playing Adam is a very special teacher. I would highly recommend him.

Hank I. PA

Adam has helped renew my love for playing guitar. Coming from a "formal music education" I was burned out, and put it on the back burner. I came across a forum post about his lessons, and a quick google search later I found out he was local to my area! Immediately I went to a show, heard his playing and quickly approached for lessons. Roughly a year later, I am still studying with him... and Adam is still just as much of a catalyst to my development. I highly recommend seeking out his Skype lessons. If they are even 1% of the quality of his in person sessions, you will be hard pressed to not be motivated and develop your guitar playing!

Matt H.

I started taking Skype lessons from Adam about two years ago, after finding out about him on the internet. I had been playing guitar for about four years and couldn't play a solo. The whole concept of going from strumming chords to picking a solo was foreign to me. With Adam's help, after a short time I started to grasp the concept. I started picking up on how to play solos to songs I didn't know just by understanding the chord progression, like in a jam setting. I now have a band and work several side projects, all which I credit Adam and the Skype lessons with giving me the ability to do. My overall

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guitar playing is greatly improved, and it's a lot more fun playing now. I continue to take Adam's lessons and have an outlet for questions about playing more complex songs. I pick up new things every lesson. It's well worth the price and will help you be a better guitar player.

Alan L AZ