

NOW AVAILABLE: INTENSIVE INSTRUCTIONAL DVDs WITH BOOKS ON GUITAR TECHNIQUE

How To Develop Tremendous Technique For The Guitar
By: Mel Hallam

Mel Hallam, author/producer, announces the release of his intensive instructional four-volume set of DVDs, and books on technique for the classical, flamenco, acoustic, and fingerstyle guitarist.

The individual volumes are:

Volume I: How To Develop Tremendous Right-Hand Technique For The Guitar

Volume II: How To Develop Tremendous Left-Hand Technique For The Guitar

Volume III: Learn Practice and Perfect Estudio 2 by Fernando Sor

Volume IV: Learn Practice and Perfect Etudes 4 and 10 by Mateo Carcassi



The volumes are valuable to any level of player, from new players to seasoned guitarists, due to the great scope of information presented. The technique presented is based on classical and flamenco forms, however, players of all styles and music genre will benefit from this series.

Each DVD is about 2 hours in length formatted with complete menus and sub-menus to follow each accompanying full-length book, which has all of the information presented within the context of the DVD. The scores are formatted in both Notation and Tablature (TAB). The TAB is very descriptive and fully fingered for both hands.

Great close-ups and camera angles make it easy to absorb the demonstrations and explanations. Mr. Hallam's teaching style is very personable yet the presentation is thorough. The full set includes 4, two-hour DVDs, 4 books and 4 CDs containing each book in PDF format for viewing on the computer screen while viewing the DVDs.

Mr. Hallam received his Masters in Guitar Performance from University of California at Riverside and studied with Celin Romero, of the renowned Romero Guitar Quartet. Mel ran the guitar program at College of the Desert in Palm Desert, California where he also was an elementary school music specialist for a number of years. Mel has taught the classical guitar privately for over three decades and has performed since his teens.

Phillip G. from Columbia, Maryland says about the DVDs and books: "...I must say that I am simply astounded."

David Schramm, Luthier, Clovis, CA (schrammguitars.com) says: "Fantastic, highly recommended guitar instructional dvds"

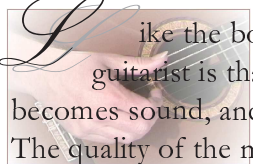
Tim P. of Upstate NY says: "They are the best presentation on guitar technique I have seen... they are superb."

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The volumes are available to retailers as are the Rights to Duplicate.
Email hallamllc@cox.net or call 702-292-5292 for information.



Volume I: How To Develop Tremendous Right-Hand Technique For The Guitar



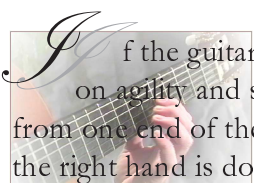
Like the bow of the violinist or the breath of the trumpeter, the right hand of the guitarist is that which causes resonance within the instrument. This resonance becomes sound, and when controlled and shaped by the player, the sound becomes music. The quality of the music however, depends on the quality of the sound created, and by the player's ability to carry off the finger gymnastics required by the score. It is on these problems that much of the guitarist's time is spent in daily practice for the whole of his playing career.

WHETHER YOUR PRACTICE IS ULTIMATELY FRUSTRATED OR PRODUCTIVE
DEPENDS ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND GRASP OF TECHNIQUE.

- Volume I is designed to give you the information you need you to develop your technique to the point where you can play the way you would like. The explanations and demonstrations are thorough and the “why” is taught as well as the “how.” The extreme close-ups on the hands show what you need to see in the kind of detail and clarity that will lead to complete understanding and absorption of the material, and thanks to the instant recall of the DVD, you won't miss anything.
- The technique is taught beginning with a thorough understanding of the elements which lie at the foundational center of the technique, and permeate everything you will ever play on the guitar. The various elements of the technique are taught each as a development of the other. A study of finger and string interaction, and powerful tone production leads to an understanding of the stroke, hand position, finger alternation and relaxation. This in turn leads to in-depth coverage of arpeggio techniques. Understanding and mastering this material as presented will enable you to play with consistently powerful tone, great control, and speed. The video ends with a look at how the Flamenco rasgueado and golpe are executed and developed.
- Along with each step are exercises and practice advice to make sure your practice time is optimized and your development assured. Every exercise is completely explained and demonstrated using outstanding camera angles and close-ups.
- Great technique is not just for the classical guitarist, but everything presented here is based on refined classical guitar techniques. They are transferable to whatever style of guitar music you play. From classical to jazz, flamenco to acoustic, whatever you play, if you desire the very finest technique, then this series was made for you.

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Volume II: How To Develop Tremendous Left-Hand Technique For The Guitar



If the guitarist's right hand is the sprinter, then the left hand is the gymnast. Relying on agility and strength, quickness and endurance, the left hand grips, dances and leaps from one end of the guitar neck to the other. All this in complete synchronization with what the right hand is doing. Well... in a world of perfect technique anyway!

- This second volume in a series of video/books on guitar technique teaches the technique of the left hand. The technique of this hand can seem rather obvious, but nothing could be further from the truth.
- In this volume the technique is built upon the single bit of information that lies at its foundation and permeates everything done by this hand. This progression through the technique is covered in a step by step, logical manner: Analyzing the use of the arm, hand and thumb leads to left-hand finger exchange, and strength and flexibility. This then develops into contrapuntal gymnastics, chord playing, and the bar. The more subtle aspects of the technique then follow with coverage of the shift, slurs, scales and more.
- Like Volume I, the camera angles, close-ups in Volume II are outstanding. You see exactly what you need to see in order to facilitate complete learning. The explanations are thorough, the demonstrations are clear and precise and the “why” is taught as well as the “how.” Thanks to the instant recall of the DVD, you need not miss or forget a single point.
- The thing which ultimately leads to mastery of the guitar is the coordination and synchronization of the two hands. This subject is of paramount importance and is taught continuously throughout this volume as each step of the technique is taught.
- Exercises and practice advice appear throughout this video/book in order to optimize your practice time. These are demonstrated thoroughly using extreme close-ups. Again, nothing needs be missed.
- Great technique isn't just for classical players, but all of the information presented here is based on refined classical technique and is transferable to whatever style of guitar music you enjoy. If you have always desired tremendous technique that enables you to play what you want, the way you want, then this series was made for you.

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Volume III: Learn Practice and Perfect Estudio 2 by Fernando Sor

Learn Estudio 2 in C by Fernando Sor by watching this video and interacting with the scores and information provided in the book. With the in-depth explanation of every detail, great close-ups on the hands, and the DVD's *instant recall*, the details of technique and musicianship contained in this piece can be thoroughly absorbed without missing any detail, or picking up bad habits.

- Having begun your practice of technique with the study of Volumes I and II of this technique series, learning guitar studies is the next logical step in furthering the development of technique and also musicianship. (If you're just studying Volume I, studying Volume II will enable you get the most out of this volume and anything else you'll ever play.)
- This volume answers questions like: Where do I begin? How do I work on a piece? How do I make it sound the best? Is there more to practicing than just playing through the notes over and over again? How should I look at the score? How do I apply the technique to enhance the expression in my playing? What is phrasing? Are there intelligent shortcuts to learning a piece of music?
- The benefits to your guitar playing skills from a thorough study of this DVD/book, and the continued daily practice of this and each new study you learn are immeasurable. Merely learning one guitar piece after another without the constant quest for improvement in skills and musicianship is comparable to an athlete who just runs the races but never works out, or a writer who expects to craft a memorable work in one sitting, without the benefit of having nurtured his imagination through hundreds of hours in creative solitude.

As the cover says: **Learn, Practice And Perfect.**

You'll be much happier with your playing when consistent improvement is your goal.

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Volume IV: Learn Practice and Perfect Etudes 4 and 10 by Mateo Carcassi

Developing the slur (hammers and pull-offs) is of paramount importance to guitar technique, yet it is one area of technique often neglected. Etudes 4 and 10 by Carcassi do a fine job of developing the slur, particularly in the third and fourth fingers of the left hand.

Like Volume III, Volume IV takes the information from Volumes I and II on technique, and thoroughly applies it in detail to these studies.

- While dedicating entire studies to working on a technique in two fingers may seem a bit much, but it is not. The slur enables us to play what would otherwise be unplayable at performance tempo, and the third and fourth fingers do a great amount of this work. These fingers however, especially the fourth, are weaker than the first and second, and the third finger presents a bit of a coordination problem, so concentrating on this area is of great importance.
- Reducing the difficulty presented by a score, however, is not the only reason why we slur. There are musical and stylistic applications too. Like any specialized part of guitar technique though, anything more than the *judicious* use of the slur can have the effect of altering the very nature of the music, frequently spoiling it. Slurs, for instance, must be a balanced part of your technique, but not a substitute for poor scale playing.
- But first, the technique itself must be developed.
- As with all studies there is more to be gained here than the intended technical and music development. From easily executing long shifts, playing above the twelfth fret, and increasing strength, flexibility and quickness in the left hand, to playing balanced repeated notes and arpeggios in the right, you will reap a great deal of benefit from a continued study of these two fun etudes.

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