



The Guitar Tricks Metronome

By Christopher Schlegel

Now that we know it's important to use a metronome and that Guitar Tricks has provided us with a digital one to use, let's have a look at it!

You can find it here: www.guitartricks.com/metronome.php

Or you can click the little white triangle shape in the upper right hand corner of any Guitar Tricks lesson page (like this one!).

Or you can select it from the the TOOLS pull-down menu tab directly above any Guitar Tricks lesson page (also, like this one!).

The Guitar Tricks metronome has a number of wonderful features. We are only interested in two of them right now: tempo reading and tempo setting. Tempo is the speed (how fast or slow) of a piece of music measured in BPM, beats per minute. The number displayed at the top of the metronome is the tempo at which the metronome is currently set. This number can be changed by using the sliding fader or plus and minus buttons on either side of the fader. Moving the fader to the left (or clicking the minus button) lowers the tempo. In other words this makes the speed slower and number lower. Conversely, moving the fader to the right (or clicking the plus button) raises the tempo. In other words this makes the speed faster and number higher.

Turning the unit on and off is done by means of the big play-stop button to the immediate right of the tempo reading number. The metronome (like many traditional real-world units) goes from 40 BPM to 250 BPM. Also, like many traditional units, this one has the conventional Italian word associated with general tempo ranges:

Largo - 40-60 BPM - very slow, solemnly
Larghetto - 61-66 BPM - a little faster than largo
Adagio - 67-76 BPM - slowly
Andante - 77-108 BPM - a little faster than adagio (walking pace)
Moderato - 109-120 BPM - moderately
Allegro - 121-176 BPM - quickly or briskly
Presto - 177-210 BPM - fast
Prestissimo - 211-250 - very fast

As stated earlier, the metronome does have a number of other wonderful features. You can use it to place more stress on various beats and add accents. You can change the sound of various beats and accented beats to different simulated drum kit sounds. You can use the "Advanced" feature to have the metronome gradually, incrementally alter the beats per minute over time.

But, for now, let's just get used to turning it on and off and changing the tempo.