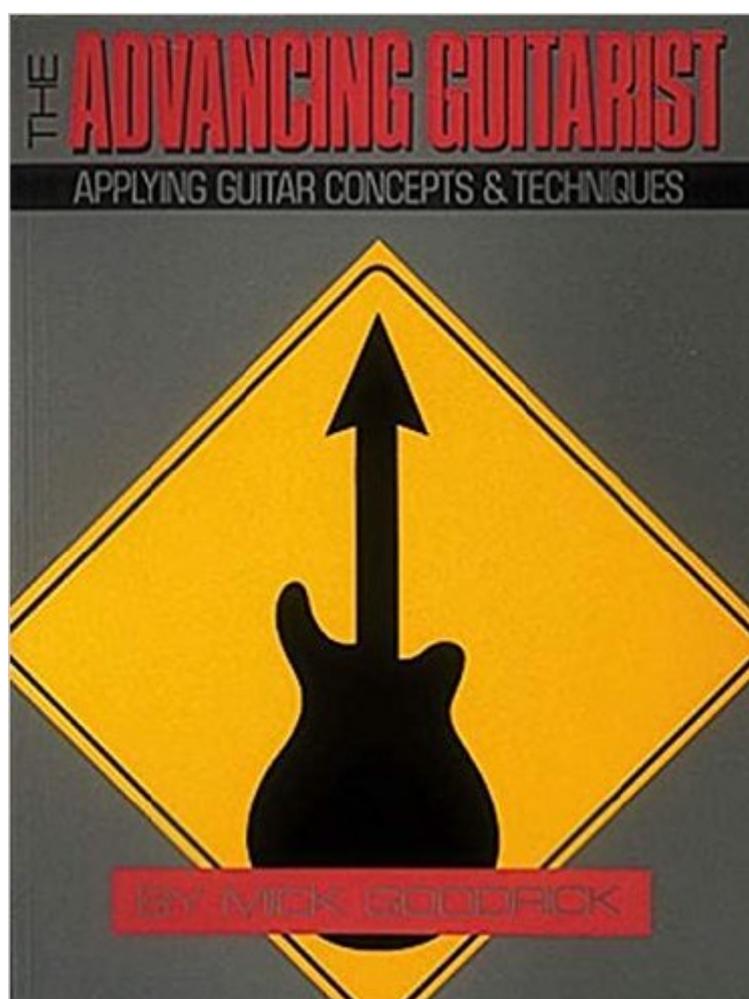


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# The Advancing Guitarist



## Synopsis

(Reference). Veteran musician and educator Mick Goodrick presents practical information for guitarists who want to improve their playing technique and style and simply become better musicians. Rather than a step-by-step method book, the information is presented in a general essay format, discussing ways that the various techniques covered may be applied by the advancing guitarist to enhance his/her own style of playing, some of the areas discussed include: basic fingerboard mechanics \* modes, scales and chords \* contemporary harmony \* harmonica and overtone influences \* being self-critical \* improvising short pieces \* different playing situations.

## Book Information

Sheet music: 120 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (87 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

"This is a guitar method that ridicules guitar methods. It's a self-help book that does not claim to ever help anyone. It covers everything, and at the same time leaves it up to you to figure everything out. If you don't have a solid way to come up with a good practice routine for yourself, this book is not for you. However, there are plenty of pointers inside on how to develop a practice routine. Paradox is the true path to learning your instrument." I imagine if Mr. Goodrick were to write a review of his own book, it would read something like the paragraph above. If I were Mr. Goodrick (and perhaps also a strict disciplinarian), I'd leave it up to you to figure out the content of this book and say no more. Truth be told, *The Advancing Guitarist* is really a good kick in the behind to every slacker out there who knows what he ought to be learning but chooses to take shortcuts instead. The overall tone boils down to, "You want to know how to advance on guitar? Have you tried this?"

Well, why the heck not?? Oh, so you have... in every combination, everywhere you go, in every style, with every scale in every key, in all possible variations? No? And you dare ask me how to advance?" While the tone is poking and prodding, it's usually more encouraging than condescending. It is my impression that such a book is excellent for a unionized-type musician-for-hire guitarist who needs to learn how to do everything and has time to sit down with it. While, within its 110 or so pages of no-nonsense text, all things about music cannot be outlined, the philosophy (of which there's plenty) and the examples that are given (also plentiful) give enough for someone who's serious and dedicated to excel at his craft.

I am a performer, teacher and composer for the classical guitar. While I am always striving to improve my technique, I've always felt that technique was a means to an end, which is to make the best music that one can. Therefore, I am not one of the most disciplined technicians of the six-string siren, but I really play from the soul. When my students get too hung up on Segovia Scales, Giuliani Arpeggios and Classical-era etudes, I give them one and only one tidbit from Mick Goodrick's book to chew, savor, ruminate, in the hope that they will find the muse again. This book will help any guitarist who is dedicated to understanding music, not just the guitar. The guitar is merely a tool, a potential conduit for the essence of your musical being to pass from you, through an audience, then back through you with their blessings. Mick's book contains the seeds for a lifetime of musical growth. This compilation of musical Pandora's Boxes is best understood conceptually. If you're getting bogged down with what finger goes where, positions beyond open, etc., please, do not give up on this book! Work harder on the basics until your mind can begin to make some informed musical connections. The beauty of Mick's work is that, if you dig deep, you can't help but begin to uncover what excites you, the player, about choosing the guitar to make music on. Not every exercise is for everyone's taste, and is not intended to be. I learned this lesson in college. I used to hate Renaissance music. After years of hating it, I realized that the reason was I couldn't play it convincingly. Now, I love it, and work harder than ever on it.

I purchased this book on the recommendation of a fellow guitarist, if we can call ourselves that. He noted that it was not a technique book and that it would probably take me a good course of the rest of my natural life to get through. He was right. This book is, as the title suggests for the "Advancing Guitarist." You need to have a solid foundation in a few things in order to a: understand what he discusses, b: practice what he suggests, and c: glean information to incorporate into your own playing. A short non-comprehensive list of the foundation elements you will probably need to have

down before picking up this book are: 1) knowing how to read music (not tabs, real music (you do not need to be a master at sight-reading, but you should at least be comfortable with sheet music)); 2) Basic Music Theory (This is a bit ambiguous, I know. You should be familiar with scale formulas, chord formulas, intervals, and modes. Ideally you should have all the major scale formulas memorized, the circle of fifths is your friend.); and 3) Basic left and right hand techniques (You need to be able to grab almost any chord immediately, with no delay, you should also have most barre chord formulas memorized. With the right hand, if you are right handed, you need to be comfortable individuating the string, in other words, playing individual strings rather than all the strings in a strum.) If you are serious about learning your instrument, the guitar, buy this book regardless of your situation regarding my list of foundational elements. That list is merely my opinion. It may take you a while to get through, but this book will serve you well. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to seriously pursue the guitar.

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