

Playing Gypsy Swing: The Basics

The Flurry 2015 Workshop

Presented by Hot Club of Saratoga <http://hotclubofsaratoga.com>

1. What makes it gypsy swing
 - 1.1. The music/repertoire
 - 1.2. The guitars
2. Origin - Brief historical overview
 - 2.1.1. Django
 - 2.1.2. Grappelli and the Hot Club of France – Early Years
 - 2.1.3. Later Years
3. Rhythm
 - 3.1. Overview – role as chordal foundation and “drummer”
 - 3.2. LaPompe – Stroke variations and string dampening
 - 3.3. Chords (Power Chord of GJ) and Chord voicings, music and grilles
4. Soloing
 - 4.1. Picking – rest stroke style (guitar)
 - 4.2. Arpeggios
 - 4.3. MIB (guitar)
 - 4.4. Decorations
 - 4.5. Scales – gypsy scale?
5. Other soloists and the ensemble.
6. Play tune
7. Questions / closing

Some Gypsy Jazz Resources

Prepared for Flurry 2015 Workshop: *Playing Gypsy Swing: The Basics*
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Saratoga/Capital Region Gypsy Jazz Community: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/saratogagypsyjazz/>

NYC Gypsy Jazz Community: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/366219056726942/>

DJANGO FAKEBOOK 2008. 200 tunes. Full musical charts with heads and chords. A great resource!
[http://www.gypsyguitarfans.com/files/FakeBook Django 2008.pdf](http://www.gypsyguitarfans.com/files/FakeBook_Django_2008.pdf)

Djangobooks.com: Everything gypsy jazz you need from guitars and accessories, amps and pickups, CDs, performance and instructional DVDs, to an active forum for advice and sharing everything gypsy jazz.
<http://www.djangobooks.com>

Django In June: New England's premier occasion to celebrate, study, and just plain enjoy the musical tradition associated with the inimitable Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt. Not to be missed! <http://djangoinjune.com>

Django In June's "Get Ready Musically" Page: Great full charts, some with guitar tabs, for some of the basic repertoire and then some. http://djangoinjune.com/For_musicians/getready.html

Direct link to DJ's zip file with 11 standard Gypsy jazz tunes in standard notation and guitar TAB.
<http://djangoinjune.com/files/Gypsy%20Jazz%20Tunes.zip>

Nuages de Swing: French site with lots of grilles with play along tracks
http://nuagesdeswing.free.fr/jouer/100_ans_100_playback/082/index.html

<http://emicad.altervista.org/>

The Peaceclub Gypsy Fakebook, v.3: http://www.muc-hotclub.com/Upload/Peaceclub_Fakebook_v.3.pdf

Gypsy Jazz Secrets, online "magazine", Robin Nolan:
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gypsy-jazz-guitar-secrets/id533022639?mt=8>

Play-a-longs

Stephane Wrembel: <http://stephanewrembel.com/lessons/>

Gonzalo Bregara: <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL88A9C077E872DA31>

"Schools"

Denis Chang: <http://www.dc-musicschool.com/>

Yaakov Hoter, Gypsy Jazz School: <http://www.gypsyjazzschool.com/>

Tim Robinson (free): <http://timrobinsonguitar.com/lessons/lessonshome.html>

Gypsy Jazz Academy, Fapy Lafertin, Lollo Meier: <http://www.gypsyjazzacademy.com/>

Rosenberg Academy, Stochelo Rosenberg: <http://www.rosenbergacademy.com/>

MINOR SWING

OSANGO

INTRO, NO CHORO

Played 3x

E7

Bass line, or soloing begins

Musical notation for the Intro section. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, C5, and then a repeat sign. The bass clef staff shows fret numbers: 7, 5, 5, 7, 6, 5, 5.

SOLO SECTION

AM

DM

E7

AM

Musical notation for the first staff of the Solo Section, starting at measure 5. The staff is empty.

DM

AM

E7

AM

Musical notation for the second staff of the Solo Section, starting at measure 13. The staff is empty.

OUTRO

AM

DM

E7

Musical notation for the Outro section, starting at measure 21. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a repeat sign. The bass clef staff shows fret numbers: 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 6, 5, 7, 6, 5, 5, 5, 4, 7, 5, 4, 7, 8.

AM

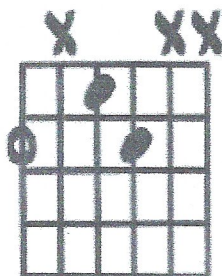
E7

(No Chord)

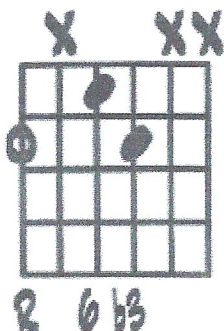
AM

Musical notation for the final staff of the Outro section, starting at measure 27. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a repeat sign. The bass clef staff shows fret numbers: 5, 5, 5, 7, 5, 4, 5, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

THE POWER CHORD OF GYPSY JAZZ



The chord shape at the left can be considered the "Power Chord Of Gypsy Jazz". It can be used just as you see it in many instances. Being aware of the root and knowing few simple variations can add a lot to your playing without a great deal of difficulty. Like a rock power chord, a big part of its usefulness is that it is movable. Below are some variations that can be applied to many tunes in a typical gypsy jazz repertoire.

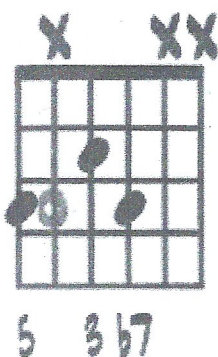
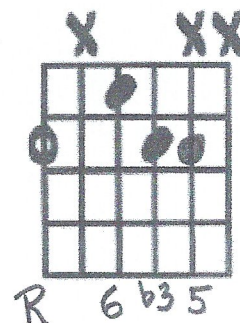


Minor 6 Chord (m6 or -6)

In this genre minor chords are often played as minor 6's.

Think of the root on the 6th string and this is an F#m6.

It is usually played with the 5th added on the 5th string.



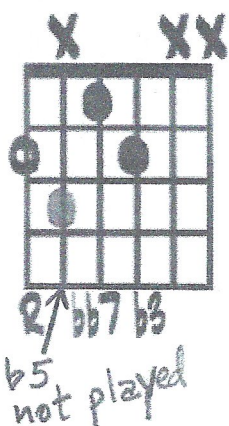
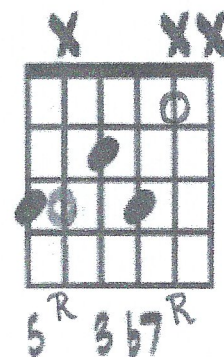
Dominant 7 Chord (7, dom 7)

The root is the grey circle and often not played.

Often played as the three note "power chord" but THE ROOT IS ON THE A-STRING and is not played.

Many players add the root on either the A string by double stopping the E- and A-strings and/or on the B string.

This would be C7.

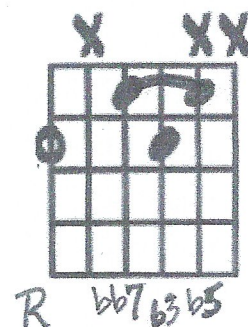


Diminished Chord (dim, O, full diminished)

Usually played as the 3 note "power chord" (without the greyed b5th). REMEMBER THAT THE ROOT IS ON THE E-STRING making this an F# diminished.

To get more of the diminished sound, a bit darker sound you can add the b5th on the B-string.

Because of the way a diminished chord is structured, the chord can be named the diminished chord for any note in the chord. (Every note can be considered the root.)



THE DIMINISHED CHORD CAN BE MOVED UP OR DOWN 3 FRETS AND STILL USED AS THE SAME CHORD.