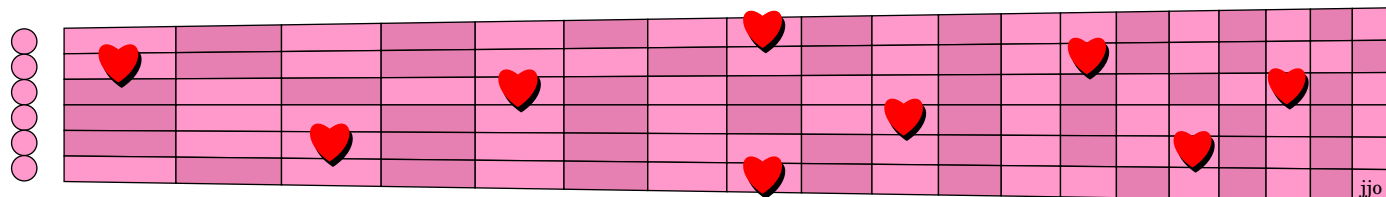


February Fretboard Exercises

For the Love of Sightreading

J. J. Olson



Exercise 1: I 1 II 2 III 4

♩. = 72

Exercise 2: I 1 II 1 III 4 IV 3 V 3 VI 5 VII 2 VIII 5 IX 3 X 4 ④ ⑤

♩. = 120

Exercise 1	Martini(1784): Plaisir d'Amour	1
Exercise 2	Turk&Handman(1927): Are You Lonesome Tonight?	1

Happy Valentine's Month!

Occasionally one finds old melodies in the public domain that sound like more modern hits that are still under copyright. Here are two that bring Elvis to mind, but came much earlier.

Exercise 1 was a hit in the 18th century and variations continue to be recorded into the 21st. Play in position I or II.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plaisir_d%27amour
- [https://imslp.org/wiki/Plaisir_d'amour_\(Martini,_Jean_Paul_Egide\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Plaisir_d'amour_(Martini,_Jean_Paul_Egide)) (for free PDFs)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGJTaP6anOU> (Elvis version, 1961)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tfDf8cYs08> (Joan Baez orig, 1966)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvwyZv3Gk2M> (Judy Collins orig, 2000)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzzTlGr7kxo> (Nick Drake guitar arr., 2012)

Exercise 2 was published and recorded in 1927 and was picked up almost accidentally by Elvis in 1960 (read Wikipedia link). Remarkably, Elvis' spoken part near the end follows the 1927 score exactly, even down to where the singing resumes. But the 1927 recording by Charles Hart is clearly from a different era!

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Are_You_Lonesome_Tonight%3F
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfYmMAi27S8&t=38s> (Charles Hart, 1927)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFJnajUkreI> (Elvis, 1960)

Curious about all those **Roman numerals** on each exercise? They list all the positions on the neck where the notes of that exercise are in range, and the number that follows rates the left hand difficulty in that position on a scale from 0 to 9, where 0 is easiest (avoid 4 and higher). A circled number at the end of the list means the entire exercise is also playable along the length of that one string.

For example, the grades for Exercise 2

I 1 II 1 III 4 IV 3 V 3 VI 5 VII 2 VIII 5 IX 3 X 4 ④ ⑤

say it's easiest in positions I and II and definitely playable in position VII. It can also be played entirely on the D or A strings. These grades are from a program that analyzes each exercise.

These exercises are from the yet to be released book “Chromatic Fretboard Exercises”, which contains over a thousand such exercises and will be made available for free on IMSLP. The contents may be freely copied and modified, but with the condition that they be attributed to J. J. Olson (CC-BY license).

Interested? Contact Jeff Olson at jjocanoe@gmail.com