

Banjo Practice Routine

You should include several different things in your practice routine. This will allow you to reach your goals quicker and the added variety will keep it from getting boring.

Here are a few ideas to consider:

1. Warm up: Practice the basic rolls with a metronome. Keep track of the tempo you are comfortable with and try to bump up the speed gradually. BUT always keep it solid.
2. Work on new songs.
3. Review familiar songs and try to work out variations.
4. Work on specific problem areas – quick chord changes, tough licks and smooth transitions from one phrase to another. Loop them up and focus on that one little area over and over again.
5. Jam along with backing tracks.
6. Take a familiar melody and try to work up a banjo arrangement.
7. Record yourself and then sit back and listen. You will spot the areas that need more work.
8. Listen to some of your favorite songs and try to work out the melody, licks, and eventually the whole arrangement.
9. Write tabs for the songs you like. This will give you an in depth look at the timing involved – quarter notes, eighth notes, notes that are held over bar lines, etc.
10. Just noodle around: There's nothing wrong with spending some time just noodling around. You will become more familiar with the fret board and you might discover some great licks!