

## **McGuitarteacher**

I intend to send a christmas card to Mark McGuigan, because I'm a beginning guitarist grateful to him. Before this, I decided to interview him for this story. McGuigan is one of the teachers who've been videoing lessons to Youtube for the hobbyists pleasure. He's uploaded 26 short lessons so far. In them, the teacher shows how to play classic riffs, mostly rock. I stumbled on the videos three weeks ago and I've made more progress as a guitarist during that time than I have in the 6 months before that. It's a meaningless thing to music life (odd term, even in finnish), but a huge leap for myself. McGuigan published his first video in January this year to advertise himself as a tutor giving private lessons. He got the idea to film lessons while designing his website.

- I thought that people looking for a teacher would want to see how I teach, what I look like, and what kind of style I have. And of course I'm trying to help those who wish to learn to say, McGuigan says.

In Edinburgh he teaches 31 people for a fee, online he has 689 registered students. His most popular video, Pantera's Walk, has been watched 23185 people by last night, most of whom has most likely learnt a bit form it as well.

- I never thought that the videos would become so popular. The feedback has been very positive, the happy teacher says.

McGuigan's website also has the notation and tabulatures for the songs.

### **Worth asking**

The formula of the videos is genius in its simplicity. First McGuigan tells what he's going to play, and then he plays it in full. After this he shows piece by piece how the riff goes.

When you see and hear the playing, the melody and rhythm of the song is much easier to find as opposed to tabulatures or in the middle of drum and horn sections in the record, not to mention notations (which I can't read).

The greatest feature of online-tutoring is that you can ask again and again to show how Killing In The Name (RATM) riff's last part went. And asking about it repeatedly doesn't make you feel stupid, even if you know you're lightyears away from Tom Morello who's playing it originally. You just rewind it over and over again until you figure it out.

McGuigan considers explaining things step by step as one of the most difficult things in his profession. It demands much patience from the teacher.

- But sometimes you just have to take a deep breath and explain it all over again. In the end it's all worth it when the student realizes how the part goes.

### **Seven different guitars**

Mark McGuigan is a computer engineer by his original profession. Last year he left program designers work after 8 years and began a full time guitar teacher.

- I got enough of that work and returned to my first love, guitar playing, and started teaching.

The engineer career behind left at least one visible trace to the world. The computer man had a good wage and the extra money was spent in guitars. Nowadays he has 12, of which 7 of them you can see on the videos online.

When he teaches Kenny Burrell's Chitlins Con Carnen, he uses Ibanez AF105 which suits jazz guitar playing very well. For Steve Vai's The Attitude Song lesson he plays Ibanez Jem which is a true heavy metal axe. The guitar hero himself used similar instrument in the Sevilla world fair gig in 1992. McGuigan saw this from TV when he was 15 years old and wanted a guitar just like that. Later on he found one in USA.

- When I worked as programming engineer I had the money, so I started buying all the guitars I had always wanted.

Your latest video is Mr. Brownstone by Guns N' Roses, what's going to be the next one?

- I don't know yet. It might be another jazz riff or perhaps a song from Alter Bridge's fine new album Blackbird.

Mark McGuigan's guitars are not only in correct tune, they also fit the music style he teaches in each video. The green Ibanez Jem (second lowest line in the middle) is similar to Steve Vai's who's The Attitude Song the Scott teaches.

The big text in the middle reads: Mark McGuigan from Edinburgh shows on his internet videos. how to play guitar riffs