

10 Recommended Introductory Guitar Solos

Teaching over the years, I found it difficult to assign solos to emerging guitarists. Starting a student with Charlie Parker or Pat Martino right away is almost cruel. The diverse lineup provided below contains solos covering blues, rock, and jazz. Each solo captures the essence of each style in their simplest form. Additionally, these solos give the necessary vocabulary to prepare beginning guitarists for more advanced material. Links are attached to sections leading up to the solo. Listen to the entire recording for context (listening to the full album helps too).

1. [Sweet Home Chicago- Freddie King](#)
2. [Forever Man- Eric Clapton](#)
3. [Oye Como Va- Santana](#)
4. [Life Is A Highway- Rascal Flatts](#)
5. [I Don't Want This Night To End- Luke Bryan](#)
6. [U'n'I- Miles Davis \(John Scofield\)](#)
7. [True Or False- Chuck Loeb](#)
8. [I've Got A Crush On You- Nat Adderley \(Wes Montgomery\)](#)
9. [Good Life \(live\)- WDR Big Band \(Bireli Lagrene\)](#)
10. [All I Know- George Benson](#)

Tips for teachers:

- Provide a chord sheet of the solo section to help students identify the harmonic backdrop
- Assist in ensuring the melodic material fits within chord shapes on the guitar– there are many ways to play a solo
- Have students be able to sing or hum the solo first after multiple listens
- Your demonstration of the solo puts it in “3D” for the student