

Douglas Niedt's GUITAR TECHNIQUE TIP OF THE MONTH

Your free classical guitar lesson



I'm Douglas Niedt and these are my very detailed, in-depth, how to play the classical guitar technique tips, many with high def classical guitar videos. Almost like free guitar lessons.

Guitar scales? How to play bar chords? Harmonics? Looking for a classical guitar practicing routine? Tips on performing onstage? How to tune a guitar? Even easy Christmas arrangements? Chances are, I've covered it, or will soon. The tips are free.



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Guitar Technique Tips of the Month

A Christmas Gift for You. *Silent Night*

By Douglas Niedt

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For my end-of-year technique tip, I always enjoy giving a little Christmas gift of Christmas sheet music for guitar to my fellow guitarists. I am giving this Christmas song to you now so you have time to learn it by Christmas. It is a classical guitar arrangement of the wonderful Christmas carol, *Silent Night*. I have made the arrangement for classical guitar easy enough that it won't be too much of a struggle to learn. But, it still sounds very nice.

Silent Night

Music by Franz Gruber

Words by Joseph Mohr

The Story Behind the Christmas Carol

The story of the creation of the Christmas song *Silent Night* has been passed down from generation to generation. Though scholars find no solid evidence for some details of the narrative, it is a fascinating account.

It was December of 1818, during a particularly cold winter in the Austrian Alps. Twenty-six-year-old village priest Joseph Mohr was making last-minute preparations for a special Christmas Eve mass at St. Nicholas Church. Everything from music to message was in place. But as he cleaned and readied the sanctuary, he encountered a serious problem: St. Nicholas' organ would not play. A frantic Mohr struggled with the old instrument, but in spite of his efforts, the

organ remained silent.

Realizing nothing could be done, he prayed for inspiration. He was suddenly reminded of a Christmas poem he had written two years earlier. Digging *Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht!* from his desk, Mohr reread the words. The poem was perfect for the Christmas Eve midnight mass, now just hours away.

He hurried through the snow-covered streets to Franz Gruber's drafty apartment over the town schoolhouse. Gruber played the organ at St. Nicholas, and was also a talented composer. The distressed priest explained his dilemma. Showing him the poem, he asked Franz to write a melody with guitar accompaniment for his words—music simple enough that could be learned by the choir that night.

A few hours later, the two friends met at St. Nicholas. There, in the candlelit sanctuary, Gruber shared his new music with Mohr. The priest approved, and after learning the guitar chords, whisked the music off to the choir members, who were waiting for their rehearsal.

Just after midnight, Mohr and Gruber stood in front of the main altar and introduced their song. As they sang, they couldn't have guessed that *Silent Night* would be remembered not only the next Christmas in their small village, but almost two hundred years later, around the world.

Gruber's simple but beautiful music blended perfectly with the spirit of Mohr's words. And why Joseph Mohr selected a guitar accompaniment for his hymn is not known, but the choice was fortunate. The image of the starry sky, the little church, and the lone guitar is one of enduring humility and quiet beauty.

And now, the Christmas sheet music for guitar of Silent Night

Here is the free Christmas sheet music for guitar of *Silent Night*. But you will be able to read the Christmas song more easily if you print it out using the link below.

[This is my classical guitar arrangement of the Christmas song The First Noel for you to print out.](#) It is in standard notation for classical guitar and Christmas guitar tab.

Merry Christmas. Enjoy!

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Silent Night

Franz Gruber
arranged Douglas Niedt

Natural Harmonics -----

Guitar

7th fret 12th fret 7th fret 12th fret 7th fret 12th fret 7th fret

Guitar

TAB

Gtr.

7th fret 12th fret 7th fret

Gtr.

Gtr.

Gtr.

Silent Night

2

10

Gtr.

10

Gtr.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10, 11, and 12. The treble clef staff (Gtr.) shows a melody starting on a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5. Measure 11 features a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. Measure 12 has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. The bass clef staff (Gtr.) shows a bass line with a whole note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Measure 11 has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Measure 12 has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Fingering numbers are provided for various notes.

13

Gtr.

13

Gtr.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13, 14, and 15. The treble clef staff (Gtr.) shows a melody starting on a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. Measure 14 features a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. Measure 15 has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. The bass clef staff (Gtr.) shows a bass line with a whole note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Measure 14 has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Measure 15 has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Fingering numbers are provided for various notes.

16

Gtr.

16

Gtr.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 16, 17, and 18. The treble clef staff (Gtr.) shows a melody starting on a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. Measure 17 features a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. Measure 18 has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. The bass clef staff (Gtr.) shows a bass line with a whole note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Measure 17 has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Measure 18 has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Fingering numbers are provided for various notes.

19

Gtr.

19

Gtr.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19, 20, and 21. The treble clef staff (Gtr.) shows a melody starting on a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. Measure 20 features a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. Measure 21 has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, and a half note D5. The bass clef staff (Gtr.) shows a bass line with a whole note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Measure 20 has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Measure 21 has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a half note D3. Fingering numbers are provided for various notes.



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