

How to Memorize

Here are a few steps I have learned to help you memorize music.

Memorize 1 to 4 measures at a time

Chord Blocking =

1. ***This is not playing - no right hand yet.*** Finger melody notes and chords very slowly as you get familiar with their shape. Learn the names of as many chord shapes as possible, also, look at the intervals used for harmonizing the melody.
2. Do air guitar 1 to 4 measures (not touching the guitar) both hands in the air, playing the piece. Look at the music if needed and then don't look again until you have it in your head.
3. Sing all the melody notes to get the sound in your head. If there are any bass note lines, try to identify the basic harmonic progression.
4. Let your eyes play the fretboard, this mean that you look at the fretboard and play the passage with your eyes as you find all the notes, ***still no hands.*** Concentrate!
5. ***Now with the guitar in hand,*** relax and play the passage (1 to 4 measures) that you have processed. Play it very slowly, you are not yet overly concerned with time or tempo. Do this 4 to 5 times.
6. Once you know the fingerings and you have learned the sounds, the final step is getting the rhythm, tempo and phrasing. Ask yourself, what is the musical sentence saying? Now mute a string and try playing the rhythm.

When you have completed a piece or reasonable number of measures, try recording it, and listen for phrase dynamics and over all flow. Try to develop a few different ways of playing the passage, relax your hands, and make music.