



# Slow Pitch Jam

## Guidelines for Jam Leaders

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The mandate of these sessions is to have fun and introduce learners to the joy of playing music as a group.

This session provides beginner-level (L1) players the opportunity to play songs commensurate with their ability in a group/jam environment.

The emphasis is on 2 and 3 chord songs using chords that are learned at this level (G D A C E not minors, barre chords etc) and using simple rhythms (e.g., 4/4 time). Note that some keys are more conducive to beginners on other instruments (e.g., fiddle in D or dobro in G). Songs should be played slowly and repeated where appropriate. Stops can be made in the songs to re-start etc as necessary. During songs, different instruments, people, sides of the room, age groups etc can be featured (i.e., others stop while they play).

The emphasis should be on hearing the chord changes rather than reading song sheets. Session leaders can use song sheets but it should be recognized that song sheets may not help the learners 'get off the page'. Chord changes can be called out or a tool such as white or black board can be used.

Sessions should last up to 90 min (i.e., start at ~9:30 pm and end by 10:45 or 11:00) given that this is a learning session rather than a jam. With more than one of these sessions at camp, it should be recognized that by the last night songs can be somewhat sped up and possibly more complex, depending on the appetite of the group.

Songs should span eras with an effort to use a variety to appeal to a wide range of learners. FAMI hopes to develop a source book for session leaders at some point.

This is not a 'jam' given that the session is led by a Session Leader. Slow Pitch session leaders should be prepared prior to the session (i.e., have appropriate songs ready in advance of the camp), including touching base with the beginner guitar instructor (comprises the majority of instruments) to find out what material they are working on. It is also very preferable for the Slow Pitch leaders on subsequent nights of the camp to confer with the leader from the previous night in order to maximize continuity and progression from night to night.