

A man with a beard and a red hat, wearing a black shirt with colorful floral patterns, holding an acoustic guitar. He is smiling and looking towards the camera.

# 5 TIPS FOR FLAWLESS TREMOLO

WITH SCOTT TENNANT

# Our Technique

Tremolo technique is very specific to the classical guitar. It completely sets our instrument apart. On most other instruments, tremolo simply means to 'play the same note repeatedly.' However, as guitarists, we have a secret weapon - the thumb! With this additional appendage, we are able to support the repeated notes with a 'filler note' created by the thumb, making for a magical sound truly unique to the classical guitar. Ready to take your tremolo technique to the next level. Below are 5 tips that will help you get there!



**Scott Tennant**  
**Grammy Award Winner**



Tip #1

## Practice Your Arpeggios

Those of you who have problems with tremolo most likely also have problems with your arpeggio technique. The reason for this is simple - tremolo is essentially an arpeggio on one string!

Take the tremolo pattern (P-A-M-I) and spread it out on four strings, and you get Mauro Giuliani's right hand study #88.

Right now, before spending time working on random tremolo exercises, take a moment to develop your arpeggios. Giuliani's 120 Right Hand Studies is a perfect place to start. Download the full set of exercises below and get to work!

[Download Giuliani's 120 Right Hand Studies >](#)



## Tip #2

# Use The 'Laser' Technique

As a helpful image, visualize lasers coming out of the tips of your fingers and guiding your fingers to the strings.

The lasers should never point beyond the string that the finger is going to play. It should always be focused directly on the string.

This helps avoid wasted motion in the right hand which is crucial for developing an even and fast tremolo like Scott's. See his flawless tremolo in action with his performance of Francisco Tarrega's famous work "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" below.

[Watch Scott's Performance of "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" >](#)

A close-up photograph of a guitar's body and neck, showing the wood grain and frets. A white rectangular text box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the text.

Tip #3

## Treat Each Finger Equal

We've all heard guitarists who can play an incredibly fast tremolo pattern, but for some reason, it sounds uneven and bad. This is often because they are too focused on the thumb and ring finger, leading the index and middle to lack the same volume or proper rhythm.

To avoid this, practice your tremolo on the first string only. Ensure that all of the notes are the same length, volume, and quality. This exercise alone will help you avoid the common mistake of having an overly dominant thumb and ring finger.

[Scott Teaches You This Concept In His Lesson "On Tremolo" >](#)



## Tip #4

# Build Speed With Bursts

Even if you understand the concept of tremolo perfectly, you can't just sit down and go from 0 to 100 in one practice session. However, one short cut to getting your speed up is using 'speed bursts.' Practicing bursts help bring the feeling of ease from slower tempos up to the faster tempos.

Start by practicing slowly and add in small bursts of playing in double time. Gradually increase the length of double time sections until you can sustain the fast tempo for extended periods of time.

If you are new to the concept of 'speed bursts' we highly recommend purchasing Scott's incredible resource, Pumping Nylon.

[Purchase Pumping Nylon & Start Practicing Speed Bursts >](#)



## Tip #5

# Plant Like Crazy!

When practicing tremolo, 'planting' is an essential technique that will help you develop rhythm, accuracy, and volume all at once.

'Planting' is essentially putting the right hand fingers down exactly where you want them before they play.

Be careful not to touch the vibrating string with the hard surface of the finger nails otherwise you will develop a 'click' each time your nail touches the string.

[Learn More About Planting From The Lessons On tonebase >](#)

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