

Chuck Schuldiner riffs: tremolo and chromatic drill sheet

Original drills in his style. Fret numbers work in standard tuning or D standard (Death tuned to D by the 1990s).

How to read the tab: dots are the string lines, numbers are frets, the top line is the count. **PM** = palm mute. **ring** = let the chord sound. Stacked numbers are played together. Use strict alternate picking for tremolo (down, up, down, up) and down strokes for the chugs.

Drill 1: tremolo on one note

Small pick movement, wrist not arm.

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

D ||

A ||

E | ..0...0...0...0...0...0...0...0...0...0...0...0...0...0...0...|

PM down up down up

Drill 2: chromatic cluster

Change fret on a down stroke.

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

D ||

A ||

E | ..0...0...0...0...1...1...1...1...2...2...2...2...1...1...1...|

PM all

Drill 4: tremolo melody

No palm mute. A string, then D string.

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

D ||

A | ..2...2...2...2...3...3...3...3...5...5...5...5...3...3...3...3...|

E ||

tremolo, no PM

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

D | ..2...2...2...2...4...4...4...4...5...5...5...5...4...4...4...4...|

A ||

E ||

tremolo, no PM

Drill 3: tritone stab and palm muted walk

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

D | ..2.....|.....2.....|

A | ..1.....|.....1.....|

E | ..0.....|.....0.....|

ring PM PM ring

Drill 5: power chord chugs

E5, G5, F5. Gallop: play the two muted notes as 16ths.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

D ||.....|

A | ..2.....2.....|.....5.....3.....|

E | ..0.....0.....|.....3.....3.....1.....1.....|

E5 G5 F5

Drill 6: two guitar harmony

Learn both lines, then play one over a recording of the other.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

e ||

B ||

G | ..4...4...5...5...7...7...9...9...|

line A

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

e ||

B | ..3...3...5...5...7...7...8...8...|

G ||

line B, a third above

Endurance plan

Drill 1 for one minute, rest thirty seconds, four rounds. When all four feel relaxed, add 4 bpm. Burning forearm or lifted shoulder: stop and rest.

Tempo log

Date	Exercise	bpm	Four rounds relaxed?	Note

Listen to

- Leprosy (1988)
- Human (1991)
- Symbolic (1995)
- The Sound of Perseverance (1998)

Practice plan

5 minutes warm up, 4 endurance rounds of Drill 1, then 10 minutes on two other drills. Moderate gain, mids not scooped.