**Guitar playing with long nails**

Of course, playing the guitar with very long nails will be difficult and uncomfortable, as well as quite such an attempt can lead to injuries.

But the attempt to play with too cut and short nails can also cause pain and discomfort! It is desirable to keep a golden mean.

If the nails are trimmed too short and the nail bed is bare, pressing the strings against the fingerboard can cause pain.

As a rule, there should be a thin white stripe visible after the nails are trimmed.

At the beginning of learning to play the guitar, in most cases you may hear that the nails should be short.

For most guitar players, long nails are not a problem. But what do you do when you get a manicure, or beautiful hands are essential to your appearance. Does that mean you have to give them up.

Of course not! There are a myriad of guitar playing options that sound great (or better) with long nails.

Believe it or not, a manicure doesn't have to get in the way of your guitar lessons.

Before you consider ways to preserve your nails, it's worth thinking about why teachers advise you to trim your nails. Thanks to this, you'll be able to decide if you need to maintain your manicure, especially when you want to learn more complicated techniques.

**Why guitarists trim their nails**

For most guitarists, nails are considered long when they protrude beyond the fingertip, even if it's just a little.

If your nails are longer than your finger length, you will have to hold your fingers at a different angle to hold the strings properly.

Anything longer than that length can become uncomfortable, especially for beginners. Intermediate to advanced guitarists will probably find it easier to get used to a longer fingernail, although it will still be annoying.

To get the cleanest, fullest sounding guitar, and to be able to squeeze chords quickly. It's easier to keep your fingernails short - at least on the fret.

Pressing with your fingertips avoids finger trauma and also avoids the buzzing of the fret, giving you more control over the timbre. Plus, you can move quickly between fret pads without having to carefully position your fingertips at the right angle.

However, you can unknowingly pick up the string with your fingers, thus creating an unpleasant sound.

When I was young - before I was really into guitar - I grew natural nails and loved to paint them blond. Even today I do it, but I try not to make them so long that they are too long to make me feel uncomfortable when I play E-chords or legato.

In my first lesson, I had long fingernails, and the teacher lightly explained to me that I should start trimming them all the way down to the fingertips. I was upset at first, but I was willing to sacrifice that to become a better guitarist. At that point, I had no idea that I could actually get the best of both worlds if I applied the right techniques.

**Ways to play with long fingernails**

To play guitar with long nails on your hands, playing strings, fretting on both hands, you can use these strategies:

Fingerpicking

Believe it or not, many guitarists like to have longer fingernails for fingerpicking. It's easier to play fingerpicking that way, especially on a classical guitar.

If you are learning to play the guitar fingerstyle, especially on a classical guitar, long fingernails are much more suitable for you. Also, some country guitarists use both the pick and their natural fingernails on other fingers to play fingerstyle.

Also, by playing with long nails, you develop better control of your fingers. Since you have to be extremely attentive to your every movement to get the sound you want, you also develop a natural self-control when you play. You become a more disciplined musician, and that brings you one step closer to accomplishing your goals.

Of course, you can play nylon strings with your finger pads. But for more volume and a brighter tone, you might want to grow your fingernails or lengthen them with acrylic.

Classical guitar

There are no hard and fast prescriptions for classical guitar nails. Some guitarists keep them a little higher than the tips of their fingers, while others grow them to 1 centimeter. Some decide to round them off, giving them a flat or sloping shape, or to make an undercut similar to the shape of a pick. The most important thing is that the strings glide smoothly off the nails when playing.

By the way, a creative solution is to use a guitar fingerboard on the frets. In this case the nails will not get in the way.

Unfortunately, heavy gauge steel strings can damage your natural nails. Because of this, most guitarists wear protective finger picks. Although they are more commonly used for banjos, most blues and country guitarists find that they add a bright, high-pitched tone to their songs.

Another popular option for musicians of all genders is to put acrylic tips on your string-playing hands. These in turn will give you the ability to play crisp, consistent notes. They are also much less uncomfortable to wear than picks.

**Fretting on a low angle**

As you may have noticed, long nails also do wonders for Fingerpicking. But what about the fretting hand?

For most guitarists, it wouldn't be difficult to trim the nails on their fretting hand, but not on their strumming hand!

Even though it's harder to achieve a clean sound when you're not right on your fingertips, you can still fret chords and notes with the flat part of your fingers. To do this, you need to clamp them to the fret at a slight angle, keeping the edges of your nails away from the string. At first, you will probably have some buzzing of the fret, but after a little practice, it will be much easier.

Try not to play on your fingertips, but at an angle where your fingertips can comfortably press on the strings.

This technique is most convenient for muting unwanted strings. For example, when performing rock, blues or metal songs with power chords, you can press your finger to the bottom strings to muffle them. You can also do this in riffs by playing only one string at a time.

Power chord on an angle

If you clamp a power chord on the E string at an angle when playing, you don't have to worry about accidentally strumming the first three strings. The same method applies to two-string power chords, where you can also muffle the 4th string with your ring finger.

Even so, slanted fretting is not the best method. It limits the number of chords that can be used and reduces your speed on the fingerboard. In some cases, it can lead to joint pain, depending on how you develop your finger muscles. Although despite this, there is nothing impossible about using long length acrylic nails, it is a technique that few guitarists have tried to master.

Dolly Parton is a direct confirmation that it is possible to possess long fingernails and still play C and D chords in a regular key (Using a capo). By her own admission, she trims her nails completely when she composes songs, but on stage she prefers to walk around with long acrylic nails. However, it takes a lot of practice to be able to play, in addition to clamping at such a small angle, and to make the notes ring loud and clear at the same time.

Of course, when you are a beginner guitarist practicing once a week or even less, this may not even be an obstacle. But if you're serious about mastering the guitar, you're better off experimenting with other options.

**Alternate tuning**

One of the best ways to keep long fingernails on your fret is to switch from the normal EADGBE guitar setup to an alternative setup where you can strum with one finger.

The most popular method for many performers with long fingernails-especially in the blues, country and folk scenes-is the open tuning option. This means that when six open strings are tensioned, a major or minor chord is heard. For example, in open E (Dolly Parton tuning) you convert EADGBE to EBEG♯BE, resulting in an E major. Other common choices include open D (DADF♯AD) and open G (DGDGBD).

Suppose your guitar is tuned to the fret D. If you slide your finger over all the strings on the first fret, you get D ♯ /E major. Move your finger to the 2nd fret for E major, to the 3rd fret for F major, and so on. This way you can play any major chord by moving your finger up and down the frets.

The disadvantage of the open tuning is that you will not be able to play extended chords, such as 7th or 9th. However, if you use a strong rhythm, you can make up for the lack of variety.

With alternative guitar settings like Open E and Drop D, you can play major or strong chords just by sliding your index finger over the frets.

Also, an excellent option is to use the setting of Drop D. By dropping the key of the 6th string to a full tone to achieve DADGBE, you can also tune the shape of the E-string chord to suit your manicure. To keep your index finger from playing two frets above the other (or two) on the 6th string, you can use only one finger to barre the 6th, 5th, and 4th strings.

For example, holding your finger on the first fret of the guitar gives you the power chord D♯ /E5. Holding your finger on the second fret gives you E5 and so on. By moving this finger up and down the frets, you can play the rhythm guitar part in many punk and metal songs. But even, with the Drop D setting, you can run into difficult riffs or alternate form chords that will make it difficult or even impossible to play with long acres. Plus, most of the time these songs are played by string tension, not fingerpicked. But if your nails are short enough to play tilted using a plectrum, you could achieve success playing guitar anyway.

**Final Thoughts**

With so many options, there's no reason why you can't practice with the guitar, provided you have to keep your nails long, if that's what you really want. You'll just have to adjust the way you pick the strings, the fret, and the tuning of the strings, to suit yourself.

Except that you may not be able to strum long chords or use advanced lead guitar playing techniques. But with these minor adjustments, you'll become a skilled rhythm guitarist with great looking and even better playing fingers.

**Can you play guitar with longer nails?**

It is quite possible, but there are problems with the number of chords and how to clamp them gently without damaging yourself.

**Can I play guitar with fake nails?**

Yes, it is possible, and if you take all the facts into account, there is no big difference between false and natural nails when playing the guitar.

**Are guitars harder with long nails?**

Only at first, then the difference is not particularly noticeable, but still there is a difficulty, as it is terribly inconvenient to clamp some chords, and some are not possible and have to somehow replace or upgrade them.

**How do you hold guitar strings with long nails?**

To clamp the guitar strings with long fingernails, you need to find the right angle, and then you will be available a few chords, which will need to remake or throw out.