

Miniature Beams

electric guitar with whammy bar
and paper clip preparation

For Satchel Henneman

Marguerite Brown
2023

Performance Notes

Miniature Beams is a ~ 5:30 - 6:00 solo for electric guitar with whammy bar. A paper clip is affixed to the lowest two strings at the 12th fret, resulting in a round, gong-like sound with no buzzing or rattling. The prepared lower two strings yield a P₄ above the fundamental tones: 6 = Eb (fundamental) – Ab (resulting from preparation). 5 = G – C (sim.)

The prepared notes are to be played *sul pont.* to keep the paper clip in place, which can wobble as one plays closer to the fretboard.

The overall tone of the guitar should be relatively dark and thick, utilizing Humbucker pickups (or nearest equivalent) to avoid hum. Reverb and compression (from the amplifier or pedals) should be used to lengthen sustain and thicken tone while still maintain intelligibility of sonorities.

Dynamics are left up to the discretion of the performer but should be relatively delicate throughout. It is recommended to play everything *forte* with the gain low to avoid the amount of plucked noise on the artificial harmonics.

All notes are performed L.V. with as much over-ringing as possible, producing a resonant and cloud-like effect. Rest stroke should not be used to avoid complete decay of any given note.

Phrase markings, written instructions, and systems/spacing are used to express form and timing. A pause of variable duration occurs at breath marks but should not be too long to avoid full decay. The performer can take liberties with phrasing and time as long as they nearly align with the destination time frames at the bottom of pages 1 and 3 (2:30 – 3:00, and 5:30 - 6:00, respectively).

Scordatura:

① = *F (-31)

② = Ab

③ = G

④ = C

⑤ = G

⑥ = Eb

* Tune 7/4 F (-31) from 5th string G or use a tuner

Notation:

The sounding pitches of the prepared strings – fundamental tone and P₄ above (in parentheses) – are represented with square noteheads; however, the partial content is complex and may not be all inclusive in the sounding pitch notation. A Roman Numeral XII denotes that the paper clip preparation is affixed at the 12th fret.

Natural harmonics are notated with a filled in note head and a little circle above (“nat.” in TAB), while artificial harmonics are notated with an unfilled in diamond note head (“art.” In TAB).

(-31): 31¢ flat from the 12-tone equal tempered version of any given pitch.

(+2): a 3/2 partial is present in the sonority.

(-14): a 5/4 partial is present in the sonority.

Preparation:

The paper clip preparation should be affixed at the 12th fret like so. An alternate preparation object may be used if a round, gong-like sound with no buzzing or rattling is achieved, in addition to the P₄ above the fundamental tones.



- ① = F (-31)
- ② = Ab
- ③ = G
- ④ = C
- ⑤ = G
- ⑥ = Eb

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very slow tones, freely
bell-like, spacious

accel...poco a poco
until end of page

Electric Guitar (sounding)

Electric Guitar (played)

nat. art. nat. art. nat. art.

12 2 5 12 6 12 4 2

0 12 0

pont. pont.

nat. art. nat. art. nat. art.

12 6 3 12 4 6 12 5 6

0 12 0

pont. pont.

slow,
beat = about 40, regular

nat. art. nat. art. nat. art.

12 4 6 12 6 8 12 8 5

12 0 0 12

pont. pont.

to whammy bar

about 2:30 - 3:00

faster,
beat = about 50

whammy rhythm:

rit.

pont.

rit.

pont.

rit.

pont.

slow,
beat = about 40, regular

rit...poco a poco
until end

Musical notation for the first system. The treble clef staff contains notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings: $\overset{\circ}{\text{nat.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{nat.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{nat.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$. The guitar tablature staff shows fret numbers: 12, 6, 8, 12, 7, 3, 12, 6, 2. Articulation markings 'nat.' and 'art.' are placed above the notes, with lines connecting them to the corresponding fret numbers.

Musical notation for the second system. The treble clef staff contains notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings: $\overset{\circ}{(+2)}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{nat.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{nat.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$. The guitar tablature staff shows fret numbers: 5, 12, 10, 5, 12, 4, 7, 12, 8, 6. Articulation markings 'nat.' and 'art.' are placed above the notes, with lines connecting them to the corresponding fret numbers.

very slow tones, freely
bell-like, spacious

Musical notation for the third system. The treble clef staff contains notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings: $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{nat.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{nat.}}$, $\overset{\circ}{(-31)}$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{art.}}$. The guitar tablature staff shows fret numbers: 7, 12, 7, 6, 12, 7, 7, 12, 6, 7. Articulation markings 'nat.' and 'art.' are placed above the notes, with lines connecting them to the corresponding fret numbers. A box labeled 'flick the paper clip' is positioned above the final note. The system ends with a double bar line and a XII fret marker.

about 5:30 - 6:00