

YOUR BAD CHORDS: IS MY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE A CRY FOR HELP?

I love the Wrong Chord thread and the nice ways good folk have been coming up with for dealing with the problem of errant backup.

I offer the following actual statements for guidance as to the right way and the wrong way of handling this difficulty. "Old" represents the Gruff Bad Hurtful New York Style of dealing with the problem, while "New" represents what might be called the Mellow West Coast Attitude. I leave it to you to determine which pest-removal method is the most effective at your session!

Situation 1:

Old: You rotten tone-deaf son of a beagle-beating drunkard, if you ever again play a diminished chord at this session, I'll personally see to it that you're disemboweled by a butcher school dropout while an IRS auditor of my choosing is going over every tax return you ever filed.

New: Wow, that was an interesting voicing you just threw at us there, Todd! Shame it didn't go anywhere, but that's probably our fault. Keep those challenges coming!

Situation 2:

Old: Look, I've had just about enough of that goddam noise you insist on making while we're trying to play. Either learn what this music is all about or get your sorry behind out of here never to return.

New: You know, I never realized that a D major chord and a C minor chord could be so artfully interchanged. Thanks for sharing that insight with us! [warm chuckle] And confidentially I was getting pretty tired of playing "Silver Spear" the old way anyhow.

Situation 3:

Old: I don't know where you got that bouzouki, but it's a pity they didn't give you a few dozen instruction books with it. It's not really that your playing is awful, but I've heard cows farting on barbed wire fences that made better music. Either get a clue how to tune it or else send the bloody thing back to Serbia and take up quilting, please.

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New: ... let's see, you have eight strings on that bouzouki, right? Now correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't a few of them supposed to be in tune with each other? ... I realize of course that tuning is primarily a European construct and may not apply in other cultures, so please forgive me if I am showing any disrespect ...

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*Sorry, gotta run. The nurse is coming around with the pills. Let's keep in touch, okay?
Love ya! :)*

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