

PENTATONIC IDEAS FOR IMPROVISING

Pentatonic scales can be used in a huge variety of improvisation situations. They can be used in blues, rock, metal, jazz, country, funk etc.

Listed below are some ideas to try.

MAJOR CHORDS

Use the minor pentatonic built from the 3rd, 6th and 7th degree of the chord.

| CHORD | Min Pent 3rd | Min Pent 6th | Min Pent 7th |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cmaj | E | A | B |
| Dbmaj | F | Bb | C |
| Dmaj | F# | C | B# |
| Ebmaj | G | C | D |
| Emaj | G# | C# | D# |
| Fmaj | A | D | E |
| Gbmaj | Bb | Eb | F |
| Gmaj | B | E | F# |
| Abmaj | C | F | G |
| Amaj | C# | F# | G# |
| Bbmaj | D | G | A |
| Bmaj | D# | G# | A# |

MINOR CHORDS

Use the minor pentatonic built from the root, 2nd and 5th degree of the chord.

| CHORD | Min Pent Root | Min Pent 2nd | Min Pent 5th |
|-------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cmi7 | C | D | G |
| Dbmi7 | Db | Eb | Ab |
| Dmi7 | D | EA | A |
| Ebmi7 | Eb | F | Bb |
| Emi7 | E | F# | B |
| Fmi7 | F | G | C |
| Gbmi7 | Gb | Ab | Db |
| Gmi7 | G | A | D |
| Abmi7 | Ab | Bb | Eb |
| Ami7 | A | B | E |
| Bbmi7 | Bb | C | F |
| Bmi7 | B | C# | F# |

DOMINANT 7th CHORDS

Use the minor pentatonic built from the 2nd, 5th and 6th degree of the chord.

| CHORD | Min Pent 5th | Min Pent 6th | Min Pent 2nd |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| C7 | G | A | D |
| Db7 | Ab | Bb | Eb |
| D7 | A | B | E |
| Eb7 | Bb | C | F |
| E7 | B | C# | F# |
| F7 | C | D | G |
| Gb7 | Db | Eb | Ab |
| G7 | D | E | A |
| Ab7 | Eb | F | Bb |
| A7 | E | F# | B |
| Bb7 | F | G | C |
| B7 | F# | G# | C# |

Let's say we have a blues progression in C.

Chords are: C7, F7 & G7 for basic blues. Listed below each chord is the minor pentatonic scales you can use against those chords. It's up to you which ones you choose.

I would suggest starting with the following:

Over C7 use Am

Over F7 use Cm

Over G7 use Dm or Em

| C7 | F7 | G7 |
|----|----|----|
| Gm | Gm | Dm |
| Am | Dm | Em |
| Dm | Gm | Am |

Work out your choices over the 4 blues tracks on your practise CD. Write them down and have fun practising them.