



GUITAR BLOG

NOTE: These stand-alone lessons were developed to explore specific areas of study. As a student, you can work through these lessons in any order you choose. Enjoy!

1) Upgrade Your Jazz /Soul R&B Chords

Expand simple chord progressions by way of larger chord types. Add extensions like the “6th, 9th and 11th” onto chords for a larger more dynamic sound. The lesson also explores scale passing tones used to fill space and balance chord transitions.

2) Country Rock: Scales and Key Center

Major and Minor key studies of the “Country-Rock” guitar style. Major tonality examples apply the Mixolydian scale and Minor tonality use the Natural Minor. The focus is on popular harmonies of the “I-IV-V” and the “Im-VII-VI.” Includes melodic examples.

3) Lemon Tones for Unique Guitar Melody

Resolve phrases into off-color tones that are not functioning as a part of the more common chord tone resolutions. Exercises work with extensions of the 4th, 9th, 11th, and 13th. The “Lemon Tones” function against common “Root, 3rd and 5th” chord tones.

4) Rock /Metal Guitar Licks (Perfect, Inverted & Diminished)

Applies the popular Rock /Metal intervals of “5th, 4th, octave and diminished.” Discusses their use in lead and rhythm riffs. Examples of stacked power chords and octaves used with 4th chords, (the inverted power-chord), are included as studies.

5) Developing Patterns (Rock, Pop, Blues, Jazz)

A collection of small regional neck patterns are used to help the student better apply scales on the guitar neck. These “Developing Patterns” can help establish licks and riffs for all styles of music. The lesson explores; Rock, Pop, Blues and Jazz.



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6) Jazz Guitar: Easy Chord Melody

A simplified method of chord melody training designed for students to be able to match melodic lines against chord changes. Begins with one chord and expands to cover a progression with five chords. Includes harmonic techniques for choosing chord options.

7) Composing Minor-key Chord Progressions

Learn how to apply the most common minor harmonies used in modern music. Topics include; Minor Key Substitutes, Extended Harmony, Dominant Chord application, Harmonic Minor, and Diminished. Study the tension & resolution of minor keys.

8) IMPROVISATION: Ballad Guitar Soloing

Introduces ballads for lead guitar development of improvisation. Studies include chord progressions covering the most popular harmonies. Including; Minor key (Jeff Beck), Major Blues (Clapton), and a 6/8 waltz Minor, (Pink Floyd).

9) Composing Melodic Minor Guitar Ideas

Fully explains the use of composing Melodic Minor melodies and harmonies. The scales theoretical use as the “Jazz Minor” scale is the primary focus. Learn examples of chord types applied to progressions along with accompanying melodic lines.

10) 9th and 13th Chords for Blues

Rich sounding extended dominant chord types of the “9th and 13th” sound great in Blues. Study how you can start applying their sound off of 6th, 5th and 4th string root voicings. Several progressions are included for practicing their sound and their shape.

11) Triad Chord Voicings in Solo Guitar

Gain an understanding of the theory and application of the popular 3-note triads for Major & Minor. Learn common voicings on the neck and work on building grooves and riffs through a series of studies. Minor Dorian mode examples in “G” are also included.



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12) Ghost Notes and Chords

Percussive hits on muted guitar strings are referred to as “Ghost Notes.” This sound is popular in almost every music style and can be applied to both rhythm riffs and single-note line melody. Examples are given in several different grooves and keys.

13) Better Strumming & Picking

Enhance your skills for rhythm and lead playing by learning techniques to help better apply strumming and picking methods. Focuses on exercises that combine various strumming & picking drills. Includes; “String-Skipping,” “Double-Stops,” and “Pedal-Point”

14) Rhythm Guitar Riff Basics

Learn how riffs are created in the styles of Rock, Funk, Country and Blues. Gain the skills necessary for expanding upon your riffs and understand more about how they can be stretched further to cover other chords in the progressions you perform.

15) Easy Jam Tracks for Guitar Solo Practice

JamTracks are integral for developing scales & arpeggios. Learning how to create them is the focus of this video lesson. The lesson explains both major & minor harmony of the common “I-IV-V,” how to expand diatonic harmony and the use of chord extensions.

16) Using a Guitar Solo to Develop Scale Patterns

Make your next solo a “perfect” guitar solo by studying an entirely new perspective of how scales are applied over chord changes. This lesson reverse engineers a 16-bar guitar solo examining how chord changes are covered using Major & Minor patterns.

17) The Jazz Power Chord Concept

Learn how to break down the large seventh quality (4-note) chords used in jazz into smaller two and three note chord voicings, (jazz power-chords). The lesson works on isolating the root, 3rd & 7th, mixing intervals, blending harmony and much more.



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18) Diminished Scale Licks & Runs

The Diminished Scale is one of our most important Jazz scales. It covers altered chords with “#9, b5 and #5.” This lesson explains the scale theory and how Diminished can be used musically. Several example licks help demonstrate its situational use.

19) Major Key Concepts for Lead Guitar

This lesson covers the sound of Major key Lead Guitar. We'll work on the application of Major Scale, Major Pentatonic, the b3rd passing tone and the use of diatonic arpeggios. Four examples will apply lead concepts in the keys of, “A Major” and “E Major.”

20) Acoustic Guitar Riffs & Licks

Study how the acoustic guitar can be used to perform beautiful open sounding progressions with rich melodies. Learn unique intervals to connect phrases that introduce principles of melodic harmony, arpeggiated riffs, connecting licks and picked patterns.

21) Reverse String Bending

String bends are common in guitar melodies & solos. This lesson focuses on developing another technique based around bending. The “Reverse Bend” is a unique sound that produces a “crying” note effect. Four examples demonstrate several variation.

22) Using Guitar Scales Musically

This lesson covers the melodic application of a scale in several common situations. Both Pentatonic and the 7-tone Major scales are presented within context. Melody line construction, neck runs and how to modify melodic themes are all explained.

23) More Interesting Guitar Riffs

Develop skills for enhancing guitar riffs in several different styles. Learn to make laid back riffs more active, work with different chord voicings & counter rhythms, study rhythmic meter on quarter and eighth-notes plus develop advanced counter rhythm.



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24) Blues Scale for Lead Guitar

Blues Scale can be used in several different styles with broad application all across the fingerboard. This lesson moves through examples of Blues Scale applied across the entire neck in the styles of; Classic Rock, Jazz, Funk, Swing and traditional Blues.

25) Dual Guitar Harmonies

Discover the sound of “Dual Guitar Harmony” with examples that cover; “Major and Minor 3rd,” the “Perfect 5th,” and the “Major and Minor 6th.” As well as, the “Perfect 4th.” These twin guitar examples demonstrate the strong effect of this technique.