

## ONE SCALE through CHORD CHANGES exercise

I get a lot of questions regarding how to use scales and modes over chord changes. I usually answer by saying that I don't really think of it that way. Within a tune, the key may change quite often, so I usually build my harmony based on the chord changes. This means that I'm re-evaluating what notes I have available to me with every chord change.

If you want to practice scales over changes, I suggest that you practice altering the chromatic scale throughout the changes to any given tune.

Try walking a bass line in a step-wise motion from your lowest available note up to the highest and back down while constantly changing your "scale" to remain appropriate for the chord you're playing over.

Here's an example over the changes to "Stella By Starlight".

(note: there will be some things you will need to decide. Will you play a b6 on minor chords or a natural 6 (Dorian), for example.

Take note of all appropriate extensions (#11, b13, etc...)

Just to make it interesting, I chose some hi-tech scales to adhere to here...

I chose to make:

Major chords are Lydian

minor chords are Dorian

Dominant chords are Lydian-Dominant

Dominant7#5 chords are Whole-tone

Please be aware that this is NOT how you develop a great walking bass line but, rather is a way to get more comfortable with note choices as well as a useful study aid in beginning to think linearly through changes.

Not all of these note choices will sound all that great (especially played in a low register).

**THIS IS AN EXERCISE**

It is also a good idea to try this at different points on your fret-board to really test your abilities.

Do it SLOWLY and work up in tempo. Change tunes often as well (to keep you working through changes and not just memorizing a pattern).

2  $Em^{7(b5)}$   $A^{7(b9)}$   $Cm^7$   $F^7$

6  $Fm^7$   $Bb^7$   $Ebmaj^7$   $Ab^7$

Dorian Lydian Dominant Lydian

10  $Bbmaj^7$   $Em^{7(b5)}$   $A^{7(b9)}$   $Dm^7$   $Bbm^7$   $Eb^7$

Lydian

14  $Fmaj^7$   $Em^{7(b5)}$   $A^{7(b9)}$   $Am^{7(b5)}$   $D^{7(b9)}$

Lydian

18  $G^7(\#5)$   $Cm^7$

Whole Tone Dorian

22  $Ab^7(\#11)$   $Bbmaj^7$

Lydian Dominant Lydian

26  $Em^{7(b5)}$   $A^{7(b9)}$   $Dm^{7(b5)}$   $G^7(b9)$

30  $Cm^{7(b5)}$   $F^{7(b9)}$   $Bbmaj^7$

Lydian