

The Choices When Soloing:

When soloing/improvising there are TWO CHOICES:

1. Solo with what “relates to all” – use the same scale or mode over all the chords. No matter what chord is sounding, play the same scale over each chord. You play what works over *ALL* the chords.

This is the most common choice and definitely what most players do when first developing their soloing skills. Start with what “relates to all”. Get proficient at this before moving on to the next choice described below.

Or you can:

2. Treat each chord like a “separate event” - this choice is more challenging but yields a very sophisticated sound. By treating each chord as a separate event you solo with a different scale or mode over each chord and change the scale or mode with each chord change. This technique does not stay within the confines of the same scale as with what “relates to all”.

With this approach you must listen to what is going on underneath the soloing. You have to listen to which chords are sounding and also for the changes. Then time your playing and change scales as the chords change.

Employ this technique whenever there is enough time on a given chord. If the chords are flying by fast, there won't be enough time to treat each chord as a “separate event”.

This technique takes practice but it will skyrocket your playing to the next level. Practice this technique with slow tempo progressions where there is lots of time on each chord and remember to listen for the changes.

At first practice with the coinciding jam tracks that have slow moving changes to perfect this technique. You want lots of time on each chord.

KEY POINT: The above two choices are **NOT** mutually exclusive, you can mix them both together. Treat each chord as a “separate event”, then switch it up and play what “relates to all”. Toggle back and forth and get lost exploring the possibilities within the jam tracks. And give yourself plenty of “fun time” on that guitar!

KEY POINTS:

There is no substitute for learning scales and studying the sounds and relationships between chords and scales.

Keep developing your ear and practice using jam tracks. Continually push yourself to the next level. Stay positive and remember..... YOU CAN DO IT!

