

# Soloing Review Tips

## Key points to determine soloing avenues:

1. **Determine the key signature** - Most of the time you will be soloing in minor key or major key. Knowing the key is the first step. Even when you are noodling around on the guitar, always know what key you are playing. Many guitarists make the mistake of just looking solely at the key – that won't give you all the needed information.

2. **Analyze the chord progression** - It's the chords that give you the complete roadmap to what you can utilize for soloing and improvisation. Analyzing the chords is critical to get the full lead guitar picture. Knowing the key is only part of the equation. The chords provide the road map for what scales, modes, and arpeggios you will want to utilize. The chords also point to the strong notes to land on, resolve to, and emphasize.

Remember that you can mix soloing techniques. Mix what *“relates to all”* with treating each chord as a *“separate event”*. Treat each chord as a *“separate event”*, then switch it up and play what *“relates to all”*.

At times you can also use both major and minor scale elements as well as modal playing. In those examples you can throw a bunch of different soloing applications into the soup.

A critical key in unlocking all the potential of these scales and modes is in learning their interval structure and listening to the mood of each one and how it sounds over a given chord. This way you will know when it is appropriate to apply each in a given soloing or improvisation scenario.

## Two goals of lead guitar playing:

1. **Compliment the song** – in the end, no matter how great a solo is, it's the song that will be remembered. Play for the song, not for yourself.

2. **Draw people into your solo** – you want the listener to latch onto what you are playing and to be on the edge of their seat wondering, “what will they play next?”

Take the listener on a musical journey with ups and downs, great emotion, and passion. Play from the heart while telling a story, and always be aware of melody.

Remember to experiment, it's okay to bend and break the “rules”. Nothing is etched in stone. Work on developing your own style and pulling from all your musical influences.

Keep up all that hard work on that guitar and keep honing your skills and refining your art - YOU CAN DO IT!

## KEY POINTS:

**It's the chords that give the complete roadmap to all the soloing and improvisation options.**

**Take the listener on a musical journey - draw them into your solo and have them latch onto what you are playing.**

**Even when you are just noodling around on the guitar, always know what key you are playing in.**