



Take That Scale And Shove It!

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Here's a simple recipe for generating hip altered notes over the V in a IIm-V-I progression.

In a IIm-V-I progression, the V is typically the critical chord to color with altered sounds. A V provides tension that you release by playing the I chord; adding melodic tension to the V makes this release even more dramatic. Here's a simple recipe for generating hip altered notes over the V in a IIm-V-I progression. Let's try it in G, over Am7, D7 and Gmaj7.

Bar 1: Find the fifth-position A minor pentatonic scale we all know and love, and use it to craft a line over Am7 (the IIm) containing no more than eight eighth-notes.

Bar 2: Move up a minor third to the eighth-position C minor pentatonic position and repeat the line over D7, the V.

Bar 3: Resolve the phrase by a half-step to a Gmaj7 chord tone. (Visualizing Gmaj7 voicings at the 7th fret will help you see the one-fret resolutions.)

Ex. 1 illustrates the "pentatonic-up-three-frets" IIm-V process. First record the changes, and then play the line to hear the tension and release. Moving bar 1's phrase up a minor third in bar 2 automatically gives you three of D7's altered notes -- the #5 (A# - notated here as Bb) b9, (Eb), and #9 (notated here as F)

In Ex. 2, notice how the last note of bar 2's transposed line changes to accommodate the half-step resolution in bar 3. Once you hear this V-I shift, you'll find it easily on the fretboard. Again, for maximum payoff, play this over the chords.

When you've mastered the basics, you can loosen things up. For example, you don't always have to resolve by step (although this sounds the smoothest), nor are you limited to a minor pentatonic scale. Ex. 3 moves an A Dorian phrase up the neck to C Dorian and then resolves to the I with a major-third interval.

Use this finger-friendly technique to create uptown sounds with minimum effort.

EX 1

Am pentatonics (5th fret)

C minor pentatonics (8th fret)

Am7 D7 Gmaj7

T
A
B

EX 2

Am7 D7 Gmaj7

T
A
B

EX 3

Am7 D7 Gmaj7

T
A
B



About the author

Chris Standring is a contemporary jazz recording artist who performs throughout the USA and Europe regularly. He has enjoyed much radio airplay with several albums, opening up a busy touring schedule. His music appears on many compilation CDs also. For more info on Chris' popular home study jazz guitar course go to www.PlayJazzGuitar.com Visit him on the web at www.chrisstandring.com



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