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Melodic Phrasing L-30



A melodic or melody line is the catchy part that runs through a song - the part you would hum if you got the tune stuck in your head. These melodic sections can build ease and familiarity with your listener. If you take a listen to popular guitarists like Joe Satriani you will find melodic lines repeated all over his tunes.

This exercise will help you to understand how you can use a melodic line in your lead playing. Your teacher will set up a metronome at 4/4 and around 90BPM or use a backing track. You will alternate in playing. The teacher will start with playing the following in the key of Am over the first bar;

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E|-----|
B|-----|
G|-----5-5-----|
D|7-7-7----7----|
A|-----|
E|-----|
```

The tricky part is that on the students bar they must play an improvised line. Before you start think about scales to use - e.g. pentatonic, Aeolian etc.

Once the student can do this - let the student play both the melodic repeating bar and an improvised bar several times through.

Now change to a major key in A and try the same;

```
E|-----|
B|-----|
G|-----|
D|-----|
A|-----7-7-----|
E|5-5-5----5---|
```

Again start off by talking about what scales to use, then the tutor playing the melodic phrase, then the student doing both. You could try changing the melodic phrase slightly every now and again to stop making it sound too mundane.

Homework: Come up with 2 of your own simple melodic phrases - one in minor and the other major and mix it up with improvised sections similar to the exercise above.