

Day 11

Your First Solo

#TenThumbsBluesChallenge in D



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Key: D

Harmony: D7, G7, A7

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wirXgjDggNQ>

What is a phrase?

- A phrase is a lick, or we can think about it as a musical sentences.
- A solo is a collection of phrases, or a paragraph.
- The most important note in your phrase is the last note
- We are going to start with "root note phrasing" this means that every phrase we play is going to finish on the root note of the underlying harmony
- That means if the band is playing a D7, the phrase ends on a D, if the band is playing G7, we finish on a G note.

Phrases 1 and 2

The image shows musical notation for two phrases in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating the key of D. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. Above the staff, the chord "D7" is written above the first measure. The first phrase consists of four measures: Measure 1 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4. Measure 2 has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5. Measure 3 has a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. Measure 4 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The second phrase also consists of four measures: Measure 1 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4. Measure 2 has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5. Measure 3 has a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. Measure 4 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. Below the staff, there are two lines of guitar fretting diagrams. The top line is for the Treble (T) and the bottom line is for the Bass (B). The diagrams show the following fret numbers for each measure: Measure 1: T (4, 3, 1), B (2, 1, 3, 1); Measure 2: T (3, 1), B (2); Measure 3: T (5, 4, 3), B (5, 3, 4); Measure 4: T (5, 3, 1), B (2).

- When jamming a lot of times the first two measures are singing and then 3 and 4 are for nice responding lick. When taking a solo the guitar is the voice so it is a lick followed by a lick.
- Both licks finish on the D note, that is because the underlying harmony is D7, so D is the root note.
- A quick change makes the 2nd bar the G7, if that is the case the first phrase will finish on a G note.
- Phrase 1 uses shape 4 of the blues scale
- Phrase 2 uses shape 5 of the blues scale

Phrases 3 and 4

5 6 7 8

G7 D7

0 3 1 2 1 3 2 1 3 5 4 5 3 5 3 4 5 4 3 1 2

- Here we see two more phrases, measures 5 and 6 are over a G7, that means this phrase finishes on a G note.
- It is followed by two measures of D7, meaning they finish on the D note.
- Phrase 3 is shape 4 of the blues scale, phrase 4 is shape 5

The Turnaround

9 10 11 12

A7 G7 D7 G7 Ab7 A7

5 4 5 3 5 3 2 3 1 3 2 8 7 6 5 7 8 9 7 8 9

- Here we are leaving the scale approach and using arpeggios over the A7 and the G7, both finishing on the respective root notes.
- At the end the solo we use a classic turnaround, this is fairly common, these turnarounds work great within solos as well.

Full Solo

1 2 3 4

D7

4 3 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 2 5 4 3 5 3 4 5 3 1 2

5 6 7 8

G7 D7

0 3 1 2 1 3 2 1 3 5 4 5 3 5 3 4 5 4 3 1 2

9 10 11 12

A7 G7 D7 G7 Ab7 A7

5 4 5 3 5 3 2 3 1 3 2 8 7 6 5 7 8 9 7 8 9