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Angus Young

Player Studies









Practice summary



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Young-isms

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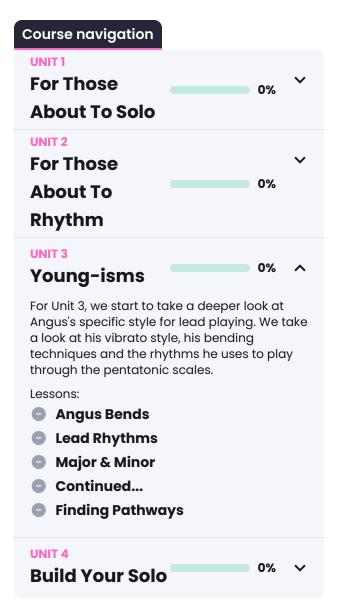
Lesson notes Diagrams

Major & Minor

Another huge part of Angus's playing is bringing in that classic blues influence by using both the major and minor pentatonics over the classic rock style backing tracks. This major and minor crossover is something we see a lot in the blues, thanks to the dominant 7th chords (see our Blues Essential courses for more on that!), so how come we can use this theory over rock tracks?

... well, the key lies in the powerchords

As you know, powerchords are built using only the root and fifth of the scale. There is no major third, minor third, 7th, flat 7th etc... There is essentially nothing that gives these chords a clear tonality beyond the basic root note. Therefore, we can let the scale do a lot of the work over the top. Using the minor pentatonic, you can suggest minor, and you can suggest major tonality with the major pentatonic. There is freedom there that Angus Young chooses to exploit regularly!



Starting in one postion.

There are two main positions that Angus Young uses, which we can work through and can act as our 'airports' across the fretboard. The first is the mixing of the minor and major based around the E string root. For example, with a G powerchord, we can use the Pentatonic box 1 in minor and box 2 in major. Use the fretboard diagrams and get these awesome shapes learnt before the next lesson! (NOTE: If you want to explore this topic even more deeply, we recommend our Blues Essentials set of courses).



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