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Metal Essentials

LEVEL 2 • Guitar Skills



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Metal Toolbox

UNIT 3 • **LESSON 4** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Diagrams

Solo Writing Process

In this lesson we're going to get an exciting inside look at Claire's solo creation process. She'll be using a backing track that we've given her for the first time, and constructing a solo over it.



“

This process can be different for every player, but I hope it will be helpful for you guys to see how I go about this and take some of the tips

Course navigation

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The Modes of Metal

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In this unit, whilst you're still working with that awesome song, we'll be diving into a massive toolbox of metal techniques, ideas and songwriting concepts to get you understanding the genre even further.

Lessons:

- Drop A Tuning
- Drop A tuning continued
- 7 Core Metal Techniques
- Solo Writing Process
- Metal Tones!

UNIT 4

Savage

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and ideas
to apply
to your
own
solos.

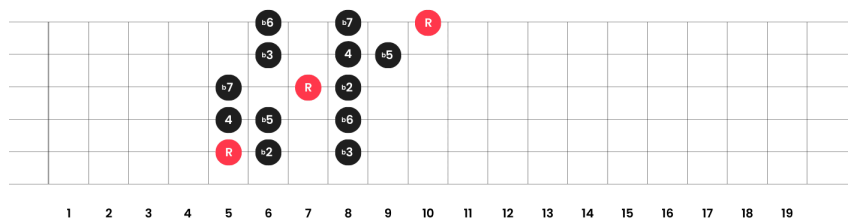
Claire



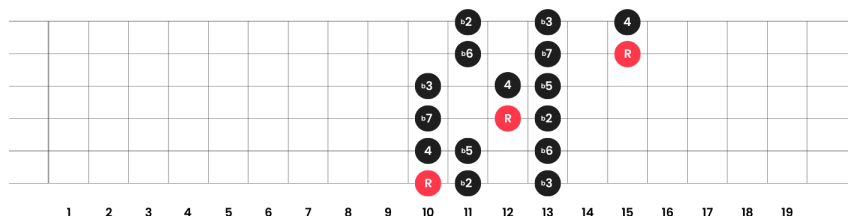
Melodic soloing

The first step for Claire is to find what works melodically. She establishes the key as loosely based around D minor, but wants to then dive a little deeper to see which intervals work on top of that. As you can see, she discovers quite quickly that the minor second interval sounds great, and talks about the idea of playing Locrian over the top of this track to match its epic darkness! So let's draw out those scale shapes across the board:

D Locrian Box 4



D Locrian Box 1



Speed and riffing

Once the key and scale are established it's time to start thinking about ways to structure the solo. Claire

tends to think in terms of melody, speed and then riff based lead work. They all have their different functions in the solo, and are all equally important! Working melodically gives your solo a sense of space, time and something more structured. Using moments of speed, like legato runs, are also very important as they can move you nicely to new sections of the solo and create a sudden sense of speed, urgency and a dynamics! Finally, using riff based lead work, with down picking, helps tie the solo in more deeply with the track itself!



“

Now it's your turn! Take the backing track, or any other metal jam track, and try this for yourself! What can you come up with? Don't be too judgemental either, it's all a process!

Claire

”



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