

Lesson

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Learn to play a riff based on Major Scale Pattern #1

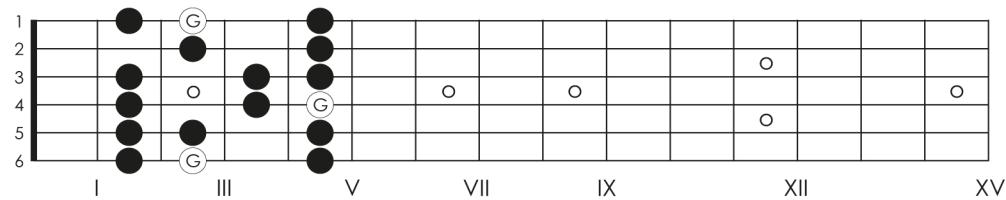
Now we are going to look at some riffs that are based on the major scale. You will be able to use these riffs over almost any chord progression that is in the key of G major.

These riffs utilize the various techniques we've been studying in the course, like hammer-ons and pull-offs, slides, vibrato, and they also give you a chance to experience a practical application of the skills you learned in the transposition drills.

So you see, we've been breaking things down into smaller goals and now we are putting it all back together to create music!

This first riff is based on pattern #1:

G Major Scale Pattern #1

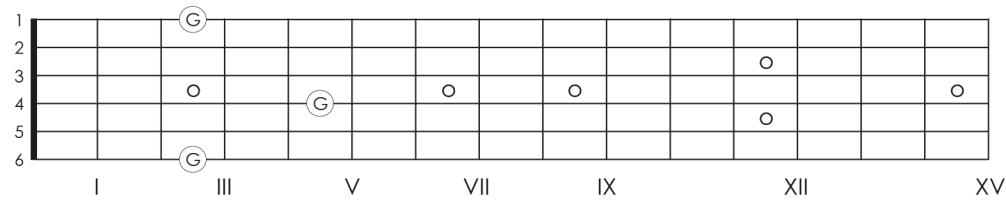


Riff #1 in the Key of G Major

Tablature for Riff #1 in the Key of G Major. The staff shows the strings T (Top), A, and B. The tab includes fingering (e.g., 4, 2, 5) and picking (e.g., 3, 1, 4, 2, 1, 3, 3, 1, 3, 1) markings. The riff consists of a repeating sequence of eighth-note patterns: 4-2, 5, 2, 4-5, 3-5, 3, 1, 3, 1.

While you are playing the riff, visualize the tonic shape it “lays over”. See it in your mind as you play the notes of the phrase. The tonic shapes are your point of reference. This will enable you to transpose more easily.

G Tonic Shape #1



Here is the riff in a few different keys:

Riff #1 in the Key of D Major

T A B

11—9 12 9—11=12 10—12 10
7—5 5—7=8 6—8 6

fingering: 3 1 4 1 3 3 1 3 1 3 1
R.H. picking: □ □ V □ V □ □ V □ V □
tonic: D Bb

Riff #1 in the Key of Bb Major

Riff #1 in the Key of A Major

Riff #1 in the Key of E Major

T A B

6—4 7 4—6—7 5—7 5
13—11 14 11—13=14 12—14 12

fingering: 3 1 4 1 3 3 1 3 1 3 1
R.H. picking: □ □ V □ V □ □ V □ V □
tonic: A E

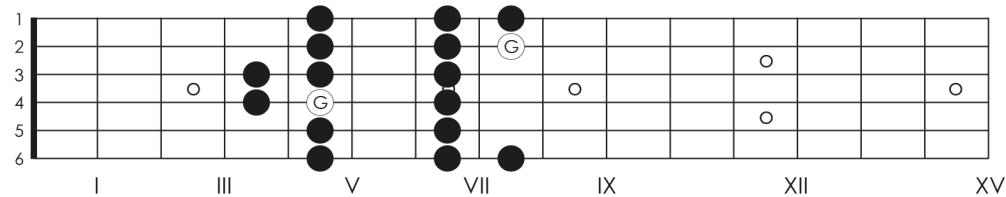
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Learn to play a riff based on Major Scale Pattern #2

This riff is based on pattern #2:

G Major Scale Pattern #2



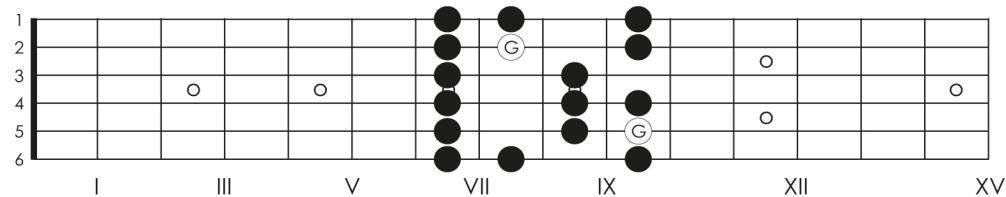
Riff #1 in the Key of G Major

Tablature for Riff #1 in the Key of G Major. The staff shows six horizontal lines representing the strings. The notes are indicated by numbers above the staff: 5, 7, 5, 8, 7, 5, 7, 5, 8, 7, 5, 4. The letters T, A, and B are positioned above the first, second, and third lines respectively. Below the staff, the fingering is given as: 1, 3, 1, 4, 3, 1, 3, 1, 4, 3, 1, 1. Below that, the right-hand picking is indicated by a series of vertical bars under each note.

Learn to play a riff based on Major Scale Pattern #3

This riff is based on pattern #3:

G Major Scale Pattern #3



Riff #3 in the Key of G Major

Tablature for Riff #3 in the Key of G Major. The staff shows three lines (T, A, B) corresponding to the top three strings of a guitar. The tab includes a melodic line with note heads and stems, and a harmonic line with vertical stems. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 7-8-7, 8, 7-9, 8, 9-7, 10-9-7, 9-7, 10. R.H. picking is indicated below the staff: 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 3, 2, 3, 1, 4, 3, 1, 3, 1, 4. The tab ends with a vertical bar line.

You could experiment with the picking strategy on this one. Just be consistent with whatever you choose to do with your right hand.