Single-Note Playing (parts 1-2)

Ted Greene 2-27-1976

The biggest mystery surrounding the subject of single-note playing (also known as "lead" playing, or "soloing") can be summed up in the question, "What notes or scales sound good over any given chord changes?" There are basically two types of situations that you have to be ready to deal with as far as chord changes go:

- 1) One in which two or more successive chords belong to the same key or scale (all scales have certain chords inherent in their notes—more on this soon), and
- 2) One in which each successive chord belongs to its own key or scale.

Actually, most songs or pieces of music contain *both* situations, so naturally you will want to be familiar with ways to deal with both types.

So, back to the premise that chords are inherent in scales—here is a simple way to build the chords from virtually any scale:

1) The first chord in a scale is built by combining every other note in the scale, starting with the 1st note.

Example: Using the C major scale (C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C) we will combine every other note in the scale, starting with the first note of the scale, stopping after 3 notes are combine. Result: we would have a chord consisting of the notes C, E and G. Three-note chords built in this fashion are commonly called **Triads**.

2) Triads can also be built by combining every other note in a scale but *starting from other notes* than the 1st one. Example: In the C major scale, you also have the following triads: DFA, EGB, FAC, GBD, ACE and BDF. Naturally, all these triads have names:

NAMES:	C	Dm	Em	\mathbf{F}	G	Am	Bo
	<u>C</u>	D	Е	F	G	A	В
NOTES:	E	F	G	A	В	C	D
	G	Α	В	С	D	Е	F

If you do not understand why the chords are called what they are, then you should be studying the fundamentals of music theory at the same time that you are studying this material.

Another way to view the construction of the triads from a scale is to build the first chord as explained above, and then *move each note of this first triad up to the next note in the scale*.

Take a moment and apply this type of thinking to the C major scale.

So now you may be wondering, "How is all this information going to help me learn to play good solos?" Be patient, the answers are coming soon. But first....

Sticking with the major scale for now, it is very important to realize that all the above information can be applied to any and all keys. Following is a list of the triads that can be built from the other major scales:

Key of G:	G Am Bm C D Em F#°	Key of F:	F Gm Am Bb C Dm E ^o
Key of D:	D Em F#m G A Bm C# ^o	Key of Bb:	Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm A°
Key of A:	A Bm C#m D E F#m G# ^o	Key of Eb:	Eb Fm Gm Ab Bb Cm D°
Key of E:	E F#m G#m A B C#m D#°	Key of Ab:	Ab Bbm Cm Db Eb Fm Go
Key of B:	B C#m D#m E F# G#m A#°	Key of Db:	Db Ebm Fm Gb Ab Bbm C ^o
Key of F#:	F# G#m A#m B C# D#m E#°	Key of Gb:	Gb Abm Bbm Cb Db Ebm F ^o
Key of C#:	C# D#m E#m F# G# A#m B# ^o	Key of Cb:	Cb Dbm Ebm Fb Gb Abm Bb°

Triads built from scales are also called diatonic triads (diatonic means "using only notes of the scale"). This new word will take on increasing importance as you progress on.

Actually, the full titles of the above are the DIATONIC (Major Scale) TRIADS.

As you may have noticed, the same chord *qualities* (types of chords) appear in all the keys. That is, the first, fourth and fifth chords are majors; the second, third and sixth are minors; and the seventh is a diminished. The commonly accepted musical shorthand for this information is as follows: **I** ii iii **IV V vi vii**^o

These Roman numeral symbols will be a big help to you in various areas such as transposition (playing something in a different key than it was written or given in), communication with other musicians, and the theme of these sheets—your single-note playing.

You should commit all of the information given so far *to memory*, as soon as possible. In the long run it is the fastest way to go, even though it may seem to be the slowest, most tedious way right now.

So, how can you use this info in your single-note playing? By using the following principle:

When any chord progression contains two or more chords that are derived from the same scale, use that scale in your single-note playing for those particular chords.

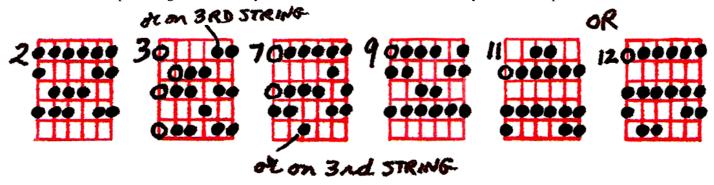
Example: Suppose you see this chord progression: G - A - D, or this one: Em - A - D.

Which scale would you play over these chords? Answer: the D major scale.

To be sure, there are some toss-up situations (for instance, which is right for the chord progression G-D? Two answers: The G or D major scales), but these are virtually eliminated in contemporary music, due to the use of more modern chord types such as 7ths, 9ths, 11ths and 13ths (this statement will become clear very soon).

Before we go any further, you should get a chance to apply some of this information to some chord progressions; naturally, in order to do this, you have to know how to play the major scale, so here are some diagrams that you should play through and memorize. As far as the left hand fingering goes, experiment, and also get other players' opinions on the subject.

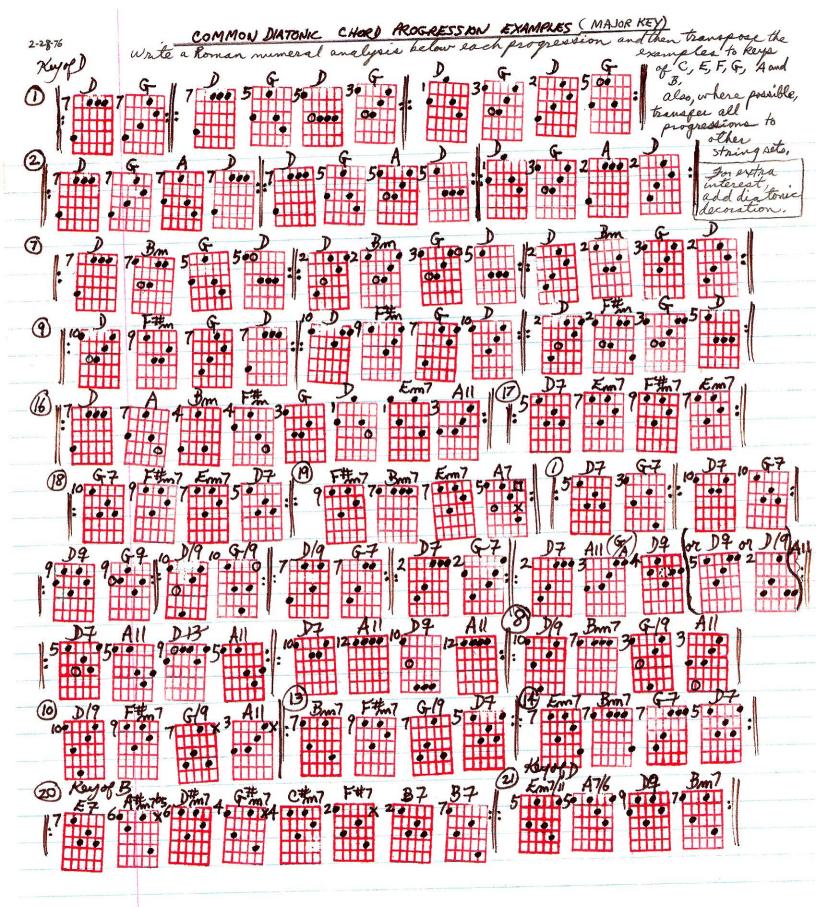
All examples are given in the key of D but should be learned in all keys as soon as possible.



Now, for applying these sounds—here are some diatonic chord progressions in the key of D. You might put them on tape and practice your scales "over" them, or maybe you could get together with another person who can play the chords while you solo. (As far as *how* to play these scales, or how to mix the notes up, just experiment for now. Separate material will be given soon on this subject.) Try lots of different rhythms and right-hand techniques in these progressions.

Common Diatonic Chord Progressions (Key of D) Using Triads

```
1) \parallel : D - G - D - G : \parallel
                                                       2) \parallel: D - G - A - D : \parallel
                                                                                                  3) \parallel : D - A - G - D : \parallel
 4) ||: D - A - G - A :||
                                                       5) \parallel: D-G-D-A :\parallel
                                                                                                  6) \parallel: D-G-A-G :\parallel
 7) \parallel: D - Bm - G - D : \parallel
                                                       8) ||: D - Bm - G - A :||
                                                                                                  9) ||: D - F\#m - G - D :||
10) \parallel: D - F \# m - G - A : \parallel
                                                     11) \parallel : D - Em - G - D : \parallel
                                                                                                12) \parallel : D - Em - G - A : \parallel
13) \parallel: Bm – F#m – G – D : \parallel
                                                     14) \parallel: Em – Bm – G – D : \parallel
15) \parallel : D - A - Bm - F \# m - G - D - Em - A : \parallel
16) \parallel: D - A_3 - Bm - F \# m_3 - G - D_3 - Em 7 - A11 : \parallel
         Bass note
                                                     These more modern chords are used here for extra color
                                                     (they will be discussed soon).
         (3rd of chord)
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Single-Note Playing (parts 3-4)

Ted Greene 2-28-1976

Most music written in the 20th century does not use triads only, but also, more modern chord types such as 7ths, 9ths, 11ths and 13ths.

Building 7th Chords

If you were to start from the 1st tone in a scale, and combine every other note until you had 4 notes (remember that triads were the result of the combination of 3 notes), the result would be what is called a *diatonic 7th chord*. It is called a 7th chord because it contains a note ("on top" of the triad) that is, the interval of a 7th above the root. As with triads, diatonic 7th chords can be built *starting from other notes* in a scale. Following are all the diatonic 7th chords in the key of C major:

	В	C	D	E	F	G	A
DIATONIC	G	A	В	C	D	E	F
(Major Scale)	E	F	G	A	В	C	D
7th CHORDS:	<u>C</u>	D	Е	F	G	A	<u>B</u>
NAMES:	C 7	Dm7	Em7	F 7	G7	Am7	Bm7b5 (also written B \varnothing ⁷)
NAMES: The common Roman	C7	Dm7	Em7	F 7	G7	Am7	Bm7b5 (also written Bø ⁷)
	C 7	Dm7	Em7	F 7	G7	Am7	Bm7b5 (also written BØ ⁷)

ASSIGNMENT: Write out similar charts of the diatonic 7th chords in all 15 keys.

Diatonic 7th chords are often used in place of diatonic triads (meaning, if you saw a progression of, say, Bm - F#m - G - D, [key of D] you might play Bm7 - F#m7 - G7 - D7). As far as soloing over the diatonic 7th chords goes, the principle is the same as with diatonic triads; that is, if you see two or more successive 7th chords that are diatonic to the same scale, use that scale in your single-note playing. To get familiar with the *sound* of all this, you might try going back to the chord progressions on page 2 [part 2] and substituting diatonic 7ths for the triads, and then soloing over these new chords. Also, here are some new progressions to practice: (Given in key of D)

ASSIGNMENT: Notice the Roman numerals included here. If you haven't already done so, go back to the progressions on page 2 [part 2], figure out what the progressions would be in terms of Roman numerals, write out these numerals on a separate page, and then transpose the progressions to at least a few new keys. Then transpose the above progressions also. The reason for all this emphasis on transposing and progressions is so that you learn to instantly tell what key a song or portion of a song is in, which then tells you which scale to play for soloing.

Building 9th, 11th and 13th Chords, and "Added Note" Chords

If you were to take the principle of combining alternate notes in a scale and carry it out farther until you had 5 notes, the result would be *diatonic 9th chords*; with 6 notes, you have *diatonic 11th chords* and with 7 notes, you have *diatonic 13th chords*. Not all of these chords are commonly used, because some of them sound pretty awkward, but the ones that sound good, *really* sound good.

In addition, many of these chords sound good when certain notes are left out. Also, another group of important chords are the "added note" chords. Example: Dadd9 (D/9) contains the notes D, F#, A, E. Anyway, on the next page will be a bit of the more commonly used of all these chords; the list will be given in the key of D.

							(C# ←	Em13)		
		В						A			
E		E		E		F#	A	F#		В	
C#	E	C#	В	В	E	D	D	D	F#	E	
A	A	A	A	A	A	В	В	В	В	C#	
F#	F#	F#	F#	F#	F#	G	G	G	G	A	
D	D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	F#	
D 9	D/9	D13	D6	D6/9	D2	Em9	Em7/11	Em11	Em/9	F#m7/11	1
		I or l	4				ii or ii7			iii or iii	7

Triad or 7th symbols are commonly used for the "fancy" chords as well.

		Γ	V or	IV 7					V	or V7		
G 9	G/9	G 13	G6	G6/9	G/9+11	G6/9+11	A9	A13	A7/6	A7sus	A11	A13sus
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	A	A	A	A	A	A
В	В	В	В	В	В	В	C#	C#	C#	D	()	()
D	D	D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E
F#	A	F#	E	E	E	E	G	G	G	G	G	G
Α		A		Α	C#	A	В	В	F#		В	В
		E				C#		F#			D	A
												F#

	vi or vi	7		vii ø ⁷
Bm9	Bm7/11	Bm11	Bm9	C#m7b5/11
В	В	В	В	C#
D	D	D	D	E
F#	F#	F#	F#	G
A	A	A	C#	В
C#	E	C#		F#
		E		

ASSIGNMENT: Naturally, you should try using these new chords in your progressions, as substitutes for the triads or 7th chords, and then try soloing over them. Do all this in various keys, as before.

DIATONIC ARPEGGIOS (Major Scale)

Many of the best single-note players derive most of the notes in their solos from the *notes in the chords* over which they are soloing. Example: in the key of D, if an Em chord comes up, a lot of players would probably see the notes of the different Em types (that are diatonic to the key of D)—namely, E, G, B, D, F#, A and maybe the C# too.

"Wait a minute," you're saying, "this is the whole D scale, so what's the big deal?" The big deal is that players use these notes in certain groupings which, like it or not (don't worry, human ears like it), the ear integrates as a chord being played one note at a time, which brings us to the definition of an arpeggio: An *ARPEGGIO* is simply a "broken chord"—that is, in an arpeggio, the notes of a chord are played successively rather than simultaneously. A thorough knowledge of diatonic arpeggios is ULTRA-important to anyone wanting to be a great single-note player.

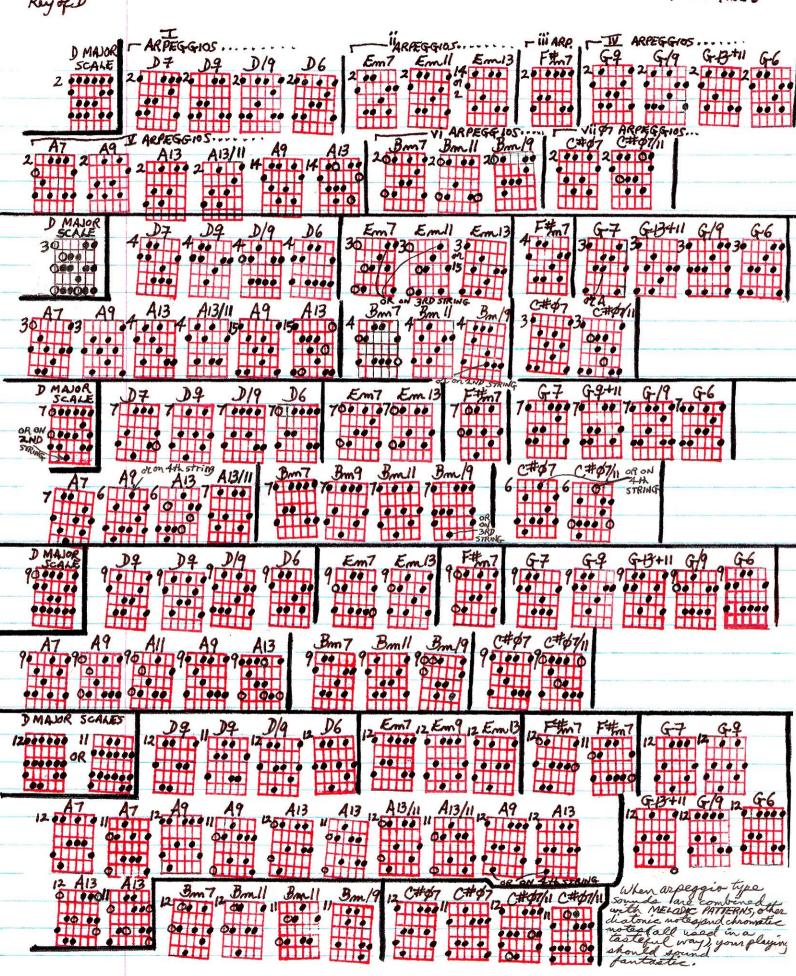
A list of these arpeggios will follow soon.

Here is a practice procedure for learning and applying them:

- 1) Learn a fingering of a given arpeggio "from the bottom up."
- 2) Then try breaking it up into 4 (or 3) note groups, also from the bottom up. Example: given a D7 arpeggio with the notes D, F#, A, C#, D, F#, A, C#, D from the bottom up, the 4-note groups would be: D F# A C, F# A C# D, A C# D F#, C# D F# A, D F# A C, etc.
- 3) Now reverse the procedure, from the "top down."
- 4) Then try random "break ups."
- 5) Then mix in other diatonic notes with the arpeggio tones.
- 6) Repeat the process for other arpeggios, and when you have enough different sounds under control, try applying all of this to your progressions.

Please note that a sophisticated arpeggio sound may be played over a more simple chord; in fact, this is desirable. Example: over an Em chord, try an Em7 or Em9 or Em11 or Em13 arpeggio.

The principle doesn't work too well in reverse (like an Em7 arpeggio over an Em11 chord is not as desirable as an Em9 or Em11 arpeggio over an Em11 chord).



SINGLE NOTE PLAYING - Page 1

The biggest mystery surrounding the subject of single note playing (also known as "lead" playing, or "solving") can be summed up in the question " What notes on scales sound good over any given chord changes?" There are basically two types of situations, that was here to be a situations that was here to be a scale of the second changes?" of situations that you have to be ready to deal with as for as chord changes go : 1 One in which two or more successive chords kelong to the same key or scale (all scales have certain chards inherent in their notes - more on this soon), and @ One in which each successive chord belongs to its own key or scale. actually, most songe or pieces of music contain both situations, so naturally you will want to be familiar with ways to deal with

both types. back to the premise that chords are inherent in scales here is a simple way to build the chords from virtually any scale: 1) The first chord in a scale is built by combining every other note in the scale, starting with the 1st note. Example: Using the Comajor scale (CDEFGABC), we will combine every other note in the scale, starting with the first note of the scale, stopping after 3 notes are combined result: We would have a chord consisting of the notes C, E and G. Three note chords built in this fashion are commonly called TRIADS. @ Triads can also be built by combining every other note in a scale but starting from other notes than the 1st one. Example: In the C major Scale, you also have the following triads: DFA, EGB, FAC, GBD, ACE and BDF. Naturally, all these coming soon. But first in major scale for now, it is very important to realize that all the above information can be applied to amfand all keys. Following is a list of the triads that can be built from the other major scales:

Keyof G: G Am Bm C D Em F#0 " D: D Em F#m G A Bm C#0 " " A: A Bom C#m D & Fitting Gitto " E: E Fth Gthm A B Ctm Deto

" B: B C#m J#m E F# G#m A#o · · Fat: F# Gt. Atm B C# Jt. Ette

KeyofF: F Fm Am Bb C Dm Eo " " 36: Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm Ao " " Eb: Eb Fin Gim Ab Bb Com. Do Ab: Ab Blum Com Db Eb From Go " " Jb : Jb Elm Fm Gb Ab Blm Co " " Gb : Gb Alm Blom Cb Db Elm Fo

" C#: C# D#m E#m F# G# A#m B#o " Cb: Cb DAm Ebm Fo Go Abm Bbo it risds

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increasing importance as you progress on are the DIATOWIC (MAJOR SCALE) TRIADS.

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SINGLE NOTE PLAYING - Page 2 appear in all the keys. That is, the first, fourth and fight chords appear in all the keys. That is, the first, fourth and fight chords are majors, the second, third and sixth are minors, and the seventh is a diminished. The commonly accepted musical shorthand for this information is as follows: I ii iii IV I vi viio These Roman memeral symbols will be a big help to you in various areas such as transposition (playing something in a different key than it was written or given in), communication with other municians, and the theme of these sheets - your single note playing, and the though commit all of the information given so far, to you should commit all of the information given so far, to memory, as soon as possible. In the long run it is the fastest way to go, even though it may seem to be the slowest, most tedious way right now. so, how can you use this info in your single note playing? By using the following principle: When any chord progression contains two or more successive chords that are derived from way right now. the same scale, use that scale in your single note playing for those particular chords. Example: Suppose you see this chord progression: GAD; or this one: Em AD. which scale would you play over these chords? answer: the Dimajor scale. To be sure, there are some toss-up situations (for instance, which scale is right for the chord progression GD ? 2 answers: The G or D major scales.), but these are virtually eliminated in contemporary music, due to the use of more modern chord types such as 7ths, 9ths, 11ths and 13ths (this statement will become clear very soon).

Before we go any further, you should get a chance to apply some of this information to some chord progressions; maturally, in order to do this, you have to know how to play the major Scale, so here are some diagrams that you should play through and memorine. Is far as left hand fingering goes, experiment, and also get other players' opinions on the subject. in the key of D but should be learned in all keys as soon as possible.

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O D G D G etc. 2 D G A D D G A D D etc. 2 D A G D D A G D D Bm G D & D Bm G A & D Bm G D &

OF DF# GDI OF DF# GAI OF DEM GDI OF DEM GAI OF BON F# GDI (A) F. Em Bm GD: (B) & DA Bm F#m GD Em A & B & DA Bm F#m GD Em A A B Bm F#m GD Em A A Bm F#m GD Em A Bm F#m GD Em A Bm F#m GD Em A A Bm F#m GD Em A Bm F#m G

es of chords are used here for extra color (they will be discussed soon).

SINGLE NOTE PLAYING - Page 3 Most music written in the 20th Century does not use triads only, but also, more mordern chord types such as 7ths, 9ths, 11ths and 13ths. BUILDING 7th CHORDS every other note until you had 4 notes (remember that triads were the result of the combination of 3 notes), the result would be what is called a distoric 7th chard. It is called a 7th chard, because it contains a note ("on top" of the triad) that is the interval of a 7th above the root. Is with triads, diatonic 7th chords can be built starting from other notes in a scale. Following are all the diatoric 7th chords in the key of ASSIGNMENT: Write out similar CA BG A charte of the diatonic 7th 3 chards in all 15 keys. DIATONIC (MAJOR SCALE) 7th CHORDS: G C7 Dm7 Em7 F7 G7 Am7 Bm7b5 (alsowritten B\$7) The common Roman C7 Dm7 Em7 F7 G7 Am7 Bm705 (alsowritten Muneral symbols are : I7 ii7 iii7 IV7 Y7 Vilm765 or Viid7

Diatonic 7th chords are often used in place of diatonic triads (meaning, if you saw a progression of, say, Bom F#om GD, you might play Bom 7 F#om GPD). As far as solving over the diatonic 7th chords goes, the principle is the same as with diatonic triads; that is, if you see two or more successive 7th chords that are diatonic to the same scale, use that scale in your single note playing. To get familiar with the sound of all this, you might try going back to the chord progressions on page 2, and substituting diatonic 7ths for the triads, and then solving over these new chords.

Also, here are some new progressions to practice: (Hiven inkeyoff)

Of: D7 Em7 F#m7 Fm7: 1 BH: G7 F#m7 Fm7 D7: 1 PM: F#m7 Bm7 Em7 A7:11

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