

How To Be A Groovy Jamm Miester



Depending on what you mean by groovy!

There are four main areas to be proficient in to establish a solid lead solo technique. We will be doing exercises in each of these areas. As you gain more experience in these areas you will find the benefits will flow through to all of your musicianship. The areas are:-

1

Scale Knowledge

There are many types of scales but the most important ones are ;

The Major Scale which has an interval structure of T,T,S,T,T,T,S.

For example C D E F G A B C. Most of our music is based on this scale.

The Minor Pentatonic Scale which has an interval structure of T1/2, T, T, T1/2, T.

For example A C D E G A. This type of scale is very versatile.

The Blues Scale which has an interval structure of T1/2, T, S, S, T1/2, T.

For example A C D D# E G A

The Harmonic Minor Scale which has an interval structure of T, S, T, T, S, T1/2, S.

For example A B C D E F G# A

2

Lead Lines or Licks

Lead lines, which are more commonly called licks, are short phrases of notes which sound cool. Every musician or singer will either hear or invent licks that they like. Once discovered these licks are practised until they can be done proficiently, they are then incorporated into ones own style. Licks are often the thing which distinguish one player from another. Players of equal skill sound different usually because of the choice of licks that they use and have collected over the years. The licks you use reflect your personal choices. You may of heard of the term 'trademark licks'.

We will be learning some licks.

You should invent some of your own and begin collecting your 'Library of Licks'!

3

Improvisation

To improvise in music is to play something 'on the spot' and not a set thing which was written down or rehearsed earlier. However you can practice improvising. Improvising is at its best when you are interacting with the music and play something new and inspired. Most of the time though, musicians improvise by repeating similar things that they have practised before. We still have to work within the structure of the scale and will usually include some of our licks when improvising. This can still sound very cool even if it is not totally fresh and inspired.

4

Technique

Great musicianship is often not determined by what notes you play or how fast you can play them but rather; **how you play the notes you play**. This is where technique comes in. In most cases what I mean by technique is how slurs in the music are played, that is, how to move smoothly from one note to the next. The ways this can be done vary from instrument to instrument but for example on the guitar technique would involve; hammer ons, pull offs, slides, bends, vibrato etc. Each instrument has its own set of techniques which can be employed to put expression into the music that is played on that instrument. It should be remembered that music is a language. Sometimes people make the observation, "he made that guitar talk"!