

Adding Spice to Major Scales

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4th-5th fret
position 1)

Lower 1/2 step approach tone into diatonic 3rds:

Try all these runs with a
straight 8th feel *and* a
swing 8th groove too.

Musical notation for a 4th-5th fret major scale run. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes with various fingerings: 2, 3, 2, 4, 4, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 3, 4, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1. Below the notes, there are circled numbers: (2 3), (3), (3 2 4).

The fingering options are quite a bit due to whether one stays strictly "in position" or not.

Now rhythmically displacing it
by starting on the beat:

And extended a bit, still with the rhythmic off-set thing:

Musical notation showing rhythmic displacement and extension of the scale run. The first part starts on the beat, and the second part is extended with a rhythmic off-set.

And a further extension:

Musical notation showing a further extension of the scale run.

The feel slightly changes if you push the phrase back a little using 2 notes before the down-beat:

Musical notation showing the phrase pushed back a little using 2 notes before the down-beat.

Another subtle
difference:

The 1/2 step approach tone was omitted where it was already
diatonic, i.e., in the scale already. And notice the accent marks (>).

Musical notation with accents (>) on the notes.

Of course, you can start on other degrees of the scale:

Musical notation showing the scale run starting on other degrees of the scale. Fingerings: 3, 2, 4, 4, 2, 1, 2, 1, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 2, 3, 1, 4, 2.

And other scale positions are the next step,
here presented in another key:

Notice that the 1/2 steps are "kept
in position" here via the pinky.

5th fret

Musical notation for a 5th fret major scale run. Fingerings: 4, 1, 1, 2, 3, 2, 4, 1, 4, 2, 1, 3, 4, 2, 4, 1, 4.

Add accents
if you wish

Same thing now with the 1/2 steps via the 1st finger going "out of position":

A wonderful feature of the guitar, as
you may know, is the ability to add
slides and pull-offs and so on.

Musical notation with accents (>) and fingerings (1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 1, 4, 2, 1, 3, 4, 2, 1, 1, 4) for the 5th fret run.

Here is the prior example with added slides now:

I sure like this...hope you do too,
especially with added accents
and a jazz swing groove.

Musical notation with slides (indicated by a curved line) added to the 5th fret run.

Slides usually sound hipper when done from the weak part of a beat to a strong part of the next beat (this is when using 8th notes).

** Assignment:

- 1) Try and find some pet phrase using these concepts. It's a *long-term* project but, learn *something* even in your first practice session so you come away feeling good. Likewise in subsequent sessions.
- 2) Keep exploring...there are "sounds with your name on it" just waiting for your visit. Or so it will seem.

ADDING SPICE TO MAJOR SCALES

Jeff
6/16/11

LOWER 1/2 STEP APPROACH TONE INTO DIATONIC 3RDS:

4th. STR. FRET POSITION

The fingering options are quite a bit due to whether one stays strictly "in position" or not.

TRY ALL THESE RUNS WITH A STRAIGHT 8th LULL AND A SWING 8th GROOVE TOO.

NOW RHYTHMICALLY DISPLACING IT BY STARTING ON THE BEAT:

AND EXTENDED A BIT, STILL WITH THE RHYTHMIC OFF-SET THING:

AND LOWER A FURTHER EXTENSION:

THE FEEL SLIGHTLY CHANGES IF YOU PUSH THE PHRASE BACK A LITTLE, USING 2 NOTES BEFORE THE DOWN-BEAT:

ANOTHER SUBTLE DIFFERENCE:

THE 1/2 STEP APPR. TONE WAS OMITTED WHERE IT WAS ALREADY DIATONIC i.e., in the scale already. And notice the ACCENT MARKS.

OF COURSE, YOU CAN START ON OTHER POSITIONS OF THE SCALE:

AND OTHER SCALE POSITIONS ARE THE NEXT STEP, HERE PRESENTED IN ANOTHER KEY:

NOTICE THAT THE 1/2 STEPS ARE "KEPT IN POSITION" HERE NEAR THE PINKY. SOMETHING NEW WITH THE 1/2 STEPS NEAR THE 1ST FINGER GOING "OUT OF POSITION":

ADD ACCENTS IF YOU WISH

A WONDERFUL FEATURE OF THE GUITAR, AS YOU MAY KNOW, IS THE ABILITY TO ADD SLIDES + PULL-OFFS + DO ON. HERE IS THE PRIOR EX. WITH ADDED SLIDES NOW:

I SURE LIKE THIS, ESPECIALLY WITH ADDED ACCENTS AND A JAZZ SWING GROOVE. I HOPE YOU DO TOO.

★ ASSIGNMENT: try and find some fret phrases using these concepts.

Slides usually sound hipper when done from the weak part of a beat to a strong part of the next beat (this is when using 8th notes).

It's a long-term project but learn something every time you pick up your guitar. I'd like to see your work. Please send me your work. I'll be glad to give you feedback. I'll be glad to give you feedback. I'll be glad to give you feedback.