Adding Spice to Major Scales

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.

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:

And 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 approach 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 degrees of the scale:

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

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

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.

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.

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.