## **Jamming In D** Tips and Tricks For Blues Solos in D and Beyond



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Key: D
BPM of Backing Track: 70
Video Tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Laq3Ld8ZB-Y

\*The backing track in the video is called a *vamp* meaning it is just one chord, the whole time it is just a D7 being played with a walking bass line over it. Vamps are a great way to practice timing, resolution, or focus on any specific details of your playing you are trying to improve.

These licks are built from the blues, but

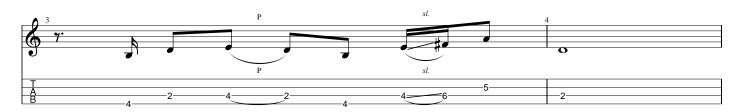
Lick 1

- All D minor licks can be used for D blues, D minor and F major songs
- All D major licks can be used for D blues, D major and B minor songs

5 5

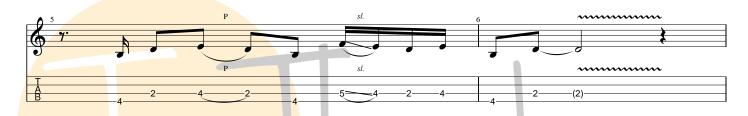
- This lick comes from D Minor Pentatonic Shape 1
- In a blues context, this phrase works over all 3 chords.
- The F note (5<sup>th</sup> fret of the C string) is the minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, so giving it a blues curl would also sound great
- Note the lick starts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> beat, not starting on the 1 is a great way to give your licks and phrases movement.
- The lick also doesn't resolve on the 1, another way to make the phrasing more interesting.
- If you have a high G but want a lower substitute the 7<sup>th</sup> fret on the G string for the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the C string.





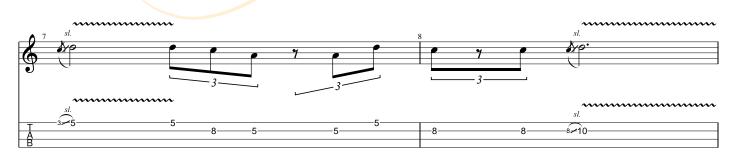
- This is built from D major shape 1
- This lick will sound best over the I and V chords
- Adding vibrato to the last note will give the lick a nice depth
- Make sure to time the pull off on the & of the 2<sup>nd</sup> beat correctly, try not to rush it.

Lick 3



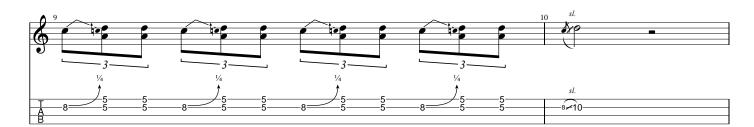
- D major pentatonic shape 1 and D minor pentatonic shape 5
- Sounds best over the I and V chords
- The 16<sup>th</sup> note can be tricky, so if you have a metronome or a vamp practice just that part
- This lick starts on a 16<sup>th</sup> note and finish on an 8<sup>th</sup>. Those unexpected start and stop times are great for the ukulele and your phrasing.

Lick 4



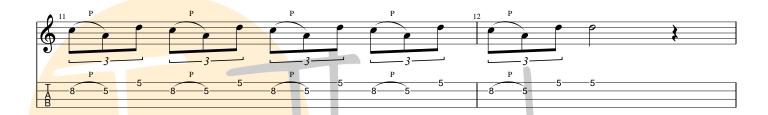
- D minor shapes 5 and 1
- Sounds great over I, IV and V chords
- Resolves on the D note of the E string
- The first lick with triplets, pay attention to the rest on the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> beat to really get the timing right.

## Lick 5



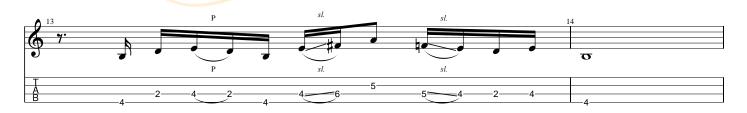
- D minor shape 1
- Sounds great over I, IV and V chords
- I barre the 5<sup>th</sup> fret with the index and use my ring for the blues curl, that is tricky, this one is deceptively tricky

Lick 6



- D minor pentatonic shape 1
- Sounds great over the I, IV and V chords
- I didn't play this one very well in the video, but it is a good one. I was too fast, so as a side note when you are playing your triplets to make sure you take your time and lock into the pocket.
- Note how the repeating triplets go into the next measure, this slight technique with phrasing sounds really nice.

Lick 7



- This is a modified version of the first lick
- I took it out and made it easier because it was too hard, but I put it back in because I know I have some pretty talented students that like to push themselves, so here it is!
- The tricky part is getting the slides and pulls in the 16<sup>th</sup> to stay in time and in the pocket, so pay attention and really try and nail the details.