



The Problem: Playing the same licks over the same chords.

There's an easy way to MULTIPLY your soloing options over any chord - no new licks or scales required!

The Solution: You can build new chord options derived from the chord tones of the original chord.

By using the chord tones of the original chord, you can derive other chords that you can then use your licks, arpeggios and even pentatonic patterns.

There are three main types of chords – major, minor, and seventh.

Here are the options for each type of chord. Grab your guitar and let's learn!

Major Chords

For any major chord, these are the chord options possible...

- Over the 3rd use a Min7 chord.
- Over the 5th use a Major triad.
- (An additional option) Use a Minor triad on the 6th step.

For example, over a C major chord, you could use an Em7 (3rd), a G major triad (5th), or an Am7 (6th).

C	(Em7	G	Am)
Original Chord C-E-G	Other Options from Original Chord Tones		An Additional Option

Minor Chords

For any minor chord, these are the chord options possible...

- Over the $b3^{rd}$ use a Maj7 Chord.
- Over the 5^{th} use a Min7 Chord.
- Over the $b7^{th}$ use a Maj7 Chord.

For example, over an Am7 major chord, you could use a Cmaj7 ($b3^{rd}$), an Em7 (5^{th}), or a Gmaj7 ($b7^{th}$).



A musical staff in 4/4 time showing the original chord and its options. The first measure is labeled 'Am7' and 'Original Chord A-C-E-G'. The next three measures are grouped under the label '(Cmaj7 Em7 Gmaj7)' and 'Other Options from Original Chord Tones'. Each measure contains a single eighth note, representing the chord tones of the respective chord.

Seventh Chords

For any seventh chord, these are the chord options possible...

- Over the 3^{rd} use a Min7($b5$) Chord.
- Over the 5^{th} use a Min7 Chord.
- Over the $b7^{th}$ use a Maj7 Chord.

For example, over a C7 major chord, you could use an Em7($b5$) ($b3^{rd}$), a Gm7 (5^{th}), or a Bbmaj7 ($b7^{th}$).



A musical staff in 4/4 time showing the original chord and its options. The first measure is labeled 'C7' and 'Original Chord C-E-G-Bb'. The next three measures are grouped under the label '(Em7(b5) Gm7 Bbmaj7)' and 'Other Options from Original Chord Tones'. Each measure contains a single eighth note, representing the chord tones of the respective chord.

Connecting chords by using their chord tones is an easy way to multiply your soloing options.

Experiment with your favorite licks, pentatonic patterns, or even chord substitutions.

Have Fun and Learn all you Can!

- Steve