

ANATOMY OF A SEVEN NOTE SCALE pt.2

Lesson 71 dealt with how to extract minor pentatonic/blues scale options from the A dorian scale. The A dorian is mode II of G major - the implication being that there's always 3 minor pentatonics locked into any of the major modes. In the case of A dorian we can see them off the 1 of A - the A min pent/blues scale, the 2 of A - the B min pent/blues scale and the 5 of A - the Emin pent/blues scale.

THE BREAKDOWN

1. SCALE 7 note structure
2. SEXATONICS 6 note structure
3. PENTATONICS 5 note structure
4. ARPEGGIOS 4 note structure
5. TRIADS 3 note structure
6. DYADS 2 note structure

The 1- 2 - 5 relationship is unique to the dorian, it will change with each of the other modes. (refer to the table on p2 lesson 71).

Remember that any type of 5 note or 6 note grouping is technically a pentatonic or sexatonic scale respectively, so there's many potential options that you can draw from.

ARPEGGIOS

Arpeggios (arps) are traditionally the chord tones of the 4 note 7th chords i.e. Maj 7, min7, 7th, min7b5(a.k.a half diminished) and diminished 7th, To extract them from the dorian it's simply a matter of leapfrogging every second

scale note as shown in ex1. All these arps are of course found in the other 6 G major modes, but the A dorian is particularly useful as there's no avoid notes, therefore all these arps can be superimposed over an Amin/Amin7 dorian chord.

ex.1

A dorian = A B C D E F# G A B C D E F#

A = Amin7 arp
 B = Bmin7 arp
 C = CM7 arp
 D = Emin7 arp
 E = F#min7 b5 arp
 F# = GM7 arp

What positions, fingering as well as articulations i.e. hammer ons, pull offs, bends, taps etc is outside the scope of this lesson and is huge area of study in itself.

TRIADS

Triads can be figured out the same way minus the 4th note. Simple!

ex.2

A dorian = A B C D E F# G A B C D

A = Amin
 B = Bmin
 C = CMaj
 D = DMaj
 E = Emin
 F# = F#dim
 G = GMaj

As you can see it's not rocket science. This method will help you extract arp and triads from any 7 note scale from any of the 4 mode systems - major, harmonic minor, melodic minor or even the sadly neglected melodic major. How you master them and apply them that's the tricky part.