

The One Big Secret : LEAD TONES

When it comes to guitar soloing, especially improvisation and especially blues/rock, this single idea will transform you from weak, puny girlymen (or women) into pumped up soloing Governors of California! And it separates you from what I like to call the "flailers". *

Simply put, a lead tone is the root note of the chord it's being played over.
ie. Band plays A7 chord = You play A note

Therefore, in a I IV V progression, play the I chord lead tone over the I chord, IV chord lead tone over the IV chord, and the V chord lead tone over the V chord.

I IV V Lead Tones

I chord = I chord lead tone
IV chord = IV chord lead tone
V chord = V chord lead tone

Playing the Lead Tone Map - In the following 12 bar, play only the corresponding lead tone for each marked section. Follow the directions in red.

CD 3

1	A7 I	A7 I	A7 I	A7 I
4/4	<i>I chord lead tone</i>			
5	D7 IV	D7 IV	A7 I	A7 I
	<i>IV chord lead tone</i>		<i>I chord lead tone</i>	
9	E7 V	D7 IV	A7 I	D7 IV
	<i>V chord lead tone</i>	<i>IV chord lead tone</i>	<i>The Turnaround - The Big V Lead Tone!</i>	
			11	12
			A7 I	E7 V

*This is the most critical lead tone of them all.
When the band hits the V, you hit the V.*

* **Flai • ler**, n., 1. Those players who just keep playing the scale over and over without any direction or melodic content. Known to make painful face gestures to divert attention from their misguided solo.