



Using Pentatonic Scales On Minor 7th Chords

When improvising on a minor 7 chord, we can use a variety of minor pentatonic scales. Lets use **D minor 7** as an example. The most obvious pentatonic scale which we could use to improvise on this chord is the **D minor pentatonic scale**.

D Minor Pentatonic - D (root), **F** (3rd), **G** (11th), **A** (5th), **C** (7th)

The scale is written above with a guide to how each note relates to the D minor 7 chord. This scale gives us all of the notes of the chord, along with an 11th.

Another scale which can be used over the D minor 7 chord is the **A minor pentatonic**.

A Minor Pentatonic - A (5th), **C** (7th), **D** (root), **E** (9th), **G** (11th)

If we use this scale, we still have 3 notes from the chord but now we have 2 extensions. This gives the improvisation a different colour.

There is one more pentatonic minor scale which is commonly used on the minor 7th chord.

E Minor Pentatonic - E (9th), **G** (11th), **A** (5th), **B** (13th), **D** (root)

This scale gives us 2 notes from the chord along with 3 extensions. All of these scales have a distinctive quality when used over a minor 7th chord. The D minor pentatonic is the most settled as it contains the most chordal notes. The other 2 scales provide a diatonic, but less settled quality.

When improvising on a minor 7th chord. You can use minor pentatonic scales starting on the root, 2nd or 5th of the chord. For example, for a Bb minor 7, you can play either the Bb, C or F minor pentatonic scales.