

Minor ii V Soloing Workout

One of the toughest parts of soloing over Stella is the last 8 bars, the three groups of minor ii V chords.

To help you build your vocabulary and confidence over those chords, here are four exercises to work on in your studies.

Each exercise uses one scale and one arpeggio in different combinations over these chord changes.

When soloing over any ii V, combining scales and arpeggios is an effective way to outline the chords but not sound predictable.

Though a small item, this goes a long way to creating interest in your solos over these, or any, chord changes.

The first exercise runs up the Em7b5 arpeggio and then down the A Phrygian Dominant scale as you outline a minor ii V progression.

To get the most out of this, or any, exercise, make sure to practice it in all the keys from the last 8 bars of Stella.

Then, use these shapes in your solos over those chords to get the most out of these workouts in your practice routine.

Singing along will help integrate these patterns into your ears as you learn them on the fretboard.

Audio Example 34

Em⁷♭⁵ **A⁷ALT.**

T
A
B

7 10 8 7 | 9 7 6 8 7 5 8 7

Em⁷♭⁵ **A⁷ALT.**

T
A
B

2 5 3 3 | 5 3 2 3 2 0 3 2

Em⁷♭⁵ **A⁷ALT.**

T
A
B

9 12 11 10 | 12 10 9 11 10 8 10 9

You now reverse the previous pattern as you play down the Em⁷♭⁵ arpeggio and up the A Phrygian Dominant scale.

When you can play this example from memory, take it to the last 8 bars of Stella to expand on this pattern further.

From there, mix it with other patterns from this section to get the most out of these exercises in your studies.

Audio Example 35

Em^{7(b5)} **A⁷ALT.**

7 8 10 8 7 8 5 7 8 6 7 5

Em^{7(b5)} **A⁷ALT.**

3 3 5 3 2 3 5 2 3 2 3 5

Em^{7(b5)} **A⁷ALT.**

10 11 12 10 9 10 8 10 11 9 10 12

Switching gears, you now play up the E Locrian mode and down the A7#5 arpeggio.

Work this pattern with a metronome, then take it to the last 8 bars of Stella when comfortable.

Remember to work this pattern from a technical and soloing perspective to get the most out of it in your studies.

Audio Example 36

E_m7(b5) **A⁷_{ALT.}**

T
A
B

7 8 5 7 8 5 7 5 | 6 6 7 5

E_m7(b5) **A⁷_{ALT.}**

T
A
B

2 3 5 2 3 5 3 5 | 6 2 2 5

E_m7(b5) **A⁷_{ALT.}**

T
A
B

9 10 12 10 11 13 10 12 | 13 9 10 12

Here, you now play down the E Locrian mode and up the A7#5 arpeggio.

After you can play this exercise over these chords, take it to the last 8 bars of Stella to expand on this pattern in your studies.

Lastly, mix this with previous patterns and add them to your solos, one at a time then as a group, when ready.

Audio Example 37

Em⁷♭⁵ **A⁷ALT.**

5 7 5 8 7 5 8 7 4 8 5 7

Em⁷♭⁵ **A⁷ALT.**

5 3 5 3 2 5 3 2 4 3 5 2

Em⁷♭⁵ **A⁷ALT.**

12 10 13 11 10 12 10 9 6 10 8 10