

How to Structure Your Solos (Textbook Solo)

A common mistake amateur guitar players make when soloing is keeping the entire performance the same, leading to flat and boring solos.

The 4 stages of a solo:

1. Calm before the storm

Generally, you aren't going to start a solo playing all your best licks straight out of the gate. We want to keep things chill here. We're in no rush because we have time.

2. The build-up

At this stage in the solo, we'll start playing some licks.

3. Climax

This is where you'll be going all out. For lack of a better term, we're trying to be "flashy" here.

4. Cool down

These are the last few bars of the solo. You've already shown your best playing and now you're slowing things down to transition things into the next section of the tune.

**Know how long you're going to solo for and plan your solo accordingly.*

Practice Routine:

1. Write a solo over the backing track provided (backing track is available for download). The chord progression is C#m, B, A, E. your solo will be 16 bars. Apply the techniques you've learned in this lesson.
2. Share your solo in the group once complete. Title the video "Shaping my Solo: Take 1". Get feedback and write another one to post. Title it "Shaping my Solo: Take X".
3. If you want, learn my solo that I played in this lesson. The tab is underneath this video.

When can I move on?

This is a super straight forward practice routine. You may move on after you complete it.

Why am I doing this?

To avoid creating/improvising solos that have no shape and getting boring fast. If after 20 seconds the listener has heard everything you've got, it could be a long 2 minutes...