

Harmonic Analysis

Before you learn how to comp and solo over So What, take a minute to understand the form and chords in this tune.

Unlike most jazz tunes, So What is a modal progression, meaning there's no real cadence or tonal center.

Instead, this song is based on the m7, Dorian, sound and you have two chords that bring out that sound, Dm7 and Ebm7.

Here's a snapshot of the form and chords for So What.

- Two sections A (8 bars) and B (8 bars).
- AABA form
- 32 bars in total
- A section is Dm7
- B section is Ebm7
- No key center, it's a modal tune based on m7 chords

Now that you know the basics for So What, time to check out a lead sheet.

Notice the repeat signs at the start of bar 1 and end of bar 8, the double lines and two dots.

Those tell you to play bars 1-8, then jump back to the beginning and play those bars again before moving on to the Ebm7 chord, B section.

We use repeat signs a lot in tunes such as So What, where you have repeating sections and chords.

Getting used to recognizing and following repeat signs is essential for any jazz guitarists, so here's a chance to develop that skill with So What.

Start
Repeat **Dm⁷**



**End
Repeat**

