

How to Solo on Autumn Leaves: the Easy Way

You can solo on E Aeolian or natural minor scale (= G major scale) over this WHOLE tune.

A Better Approach; examine each chord individually.

So you know how to easily solo on this tune, now let's check out each chord for a better approach. Jazz is about outlining the chord changes.

The Am7 Chord

This chord is the II (two) chord in our key of G major. On II chords you play the dorian mode and you can add in the 9th, 11th and 13th as extensions to a plain minor 7 chord.

- Chord:** Am7 (or Am9, Am11, Am13)
- Scale:** Dorian Mode
- Possible extensions:** 9, 11, 13
- Guide tones:** b3, b7 (Your target notes)
- Arpeggio:** 1, b3, 5, b7

The D7 Chord

The V chord is a powerful thing. In the key of G major our V chord is D7. It leads really nicely to G and you can add on many different notes to colour this chord up.

- Chord:** D7 (or D9, D13)
- Scale:** Mixolydian Mode
- Possible extensions:** 9, 13
- Guide tones:** 3, b7 (Your target notes)
- Possible Alterations:** b9, #9, #11, b13
- Arpeggio:** R, 3, 5, b7

The Home Chord: Gmaj7

This chord is your tonic major resting chord.

- Chord:** Gmaj7 (or G6, Gmaj9, Gmaj69, Gmaj13)
- Scale:** Ionian Mode/ Major Scale
- Possible extensions:** 9, 13
- Guide tones:** 3, 7 (Your target notes)
- Arpeggio:** R, 3, 5, 7

Cmaj7: The Lydian IV Chord

- Chord:** Cmaj7 (or C6, Gmaj9, Gmaj69, Gmaj13, Cmaj7#11)
- Scale:** Lydian Mode
- Possible extensions:** 9, 13
- Guide tones:** 3, 7 (Your target notes)
- Arpeggio:** R, 3, 5, 7

F#m7b5: The Half Diminished Chord

This chord is functioning as the ii chord in our minor key of E minor. It prepares the B7 chord which leads nicely to Em and is really simple to learn because there aren't too many options or alterations.

- Chord:** F#m7b5
- Scale:** F# Locrian
- Possible extensions:** 11, b13
- Guide tones:** b3, b5, b7

- Arpeggio:** R, b3, b5, b7

The B7b9 Chord

This is the V7 chord leading to our tonic minor key center – E minor. We treat dominant chords leading to minor chords differently to ones leading to major chords.

- Chord:** B7 (or B7b9, B7#9, B7Alt, B7b13)
- Scale:** 5th mode of Harmonic Minor or Altered Scale
- Possible extensions:** b9, #9, #11, b13
- Guide tones:** 3, b7
- Arpeggio:** 1, 3, 5, b7

The E minor chord

Your home minor chord is E minor. Minor chords are tricky because you have a few options of scales and chords to choose from. Below is a brief overview of your options.

- Chord:** Em7 (or Emin9, Em11, Em6)
- Scale:** Aeolian
- Possible extensions:** 9, 11, 13
- Guide Tones:** b3, b7
- Arpeggio:** R, b3, 5, b7

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