Major Scale Patterns

The following patterns are based on the 1, 3, 5, and sometimes 7th tones of each mode of the major scale. For maximum benefit, the patterns should be cycled through the full range of the instrument. When you reach the upper and lower range limits of the instrument, simply change the direction of the pattern to complete the cycle.

These patterns are shown in the key of C, but should be practiced in all keys. Try practicing one or two patterns i all twelve keys in some sessions. In other sessions, practice as many patterns as possible in one or two keys.

Make note while you practice these patterns, that in addition to developing technical facility, you are also developing an understanding of the keys/chords/modes within a key signature. For example, as you practice a patter based on the C major scale, you are developing an understanding of all chords that contain all naturals, including Dm7, Em as a iii chord, F maj(#11), G7, A pure minor, and Bm7(b5). Patterning and thinking in this manner can he you learn to think of key signatures as pools of notes that you can dip into for improvisation purposes.

It is important to practice for speed, but only after achieving accuracy. Use a metronome to help keep constant time, and to help in speeding the patterns up in small increments.



