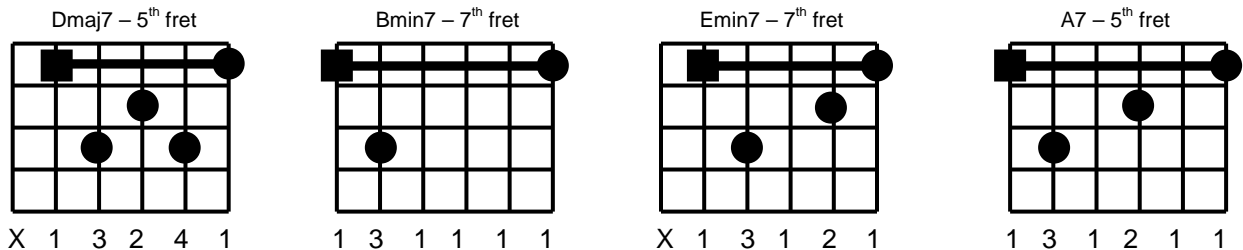


Playing Arpeggios and Modes over each chord -written by David Taub

Lets apply what we have learned to a four-chord progression. As discussed previously you must analyze the chords and the progression as that is what gives the roadmap to what you can utilize for soling and improvisational purposes. Illustrated below we have a I – VI – II – V progression in the key of D major. All the chords below are common to the key of D major so you can utilize the D major scale over the whole progression as D major **relates to all** the chords. That is one road to take. Another road is to play over each chord individually with a different scale or arpeggio as it relates to that one individual chord that you are playing over. Below are some suggestions of a few scales, modes, and arpeggios that work over the given chords. There is a myriad of options and I list a few to get you started, so get creative. Remember to listen carefully for the chord changes and try to end your phrases on strong chord tones. Mix things up – perhaps play through the changes at first with a scale that relates to all and then switch and practice playing over each chord. Practice with the jam track and really work on treating each chord like a separate event.



Dmaj7 – Bm7 – Em7 – A7

1. **Play what relates to all** – D major scales, (Ionian mode), over all the changes

2. **Play over each chord** – try to finish the phrases on the strongest chord tones – roots, 3rds, or 7ths, 5ths, or b7ths

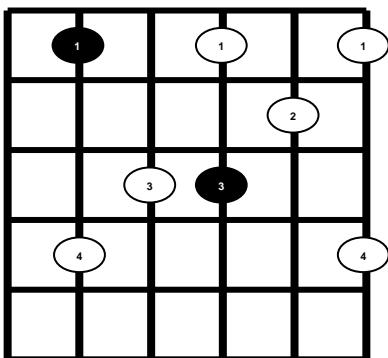
over the **Dmaj7 chord** – play D Lydian, and D major7 arpeggios

over the **Bm7 chord**– play B Aeolian, B Dorian, B minor pentatonic and blues, and Bm, Bm7, and Bm9 arpeggios

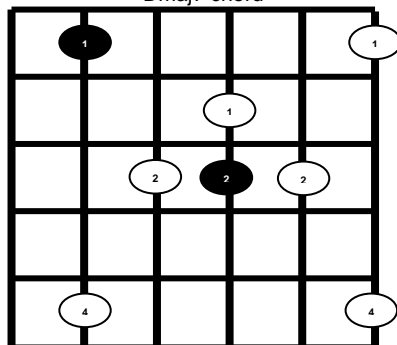
over the **Em7 chord** - play E Aeolian, E Dorian, E minor pentatonic and blues, and Em, Em7, and Em9 arpeggios

over the **A7 chord** – play A Mixolydian, A major pentatonic, and A major and A7 arpeggios

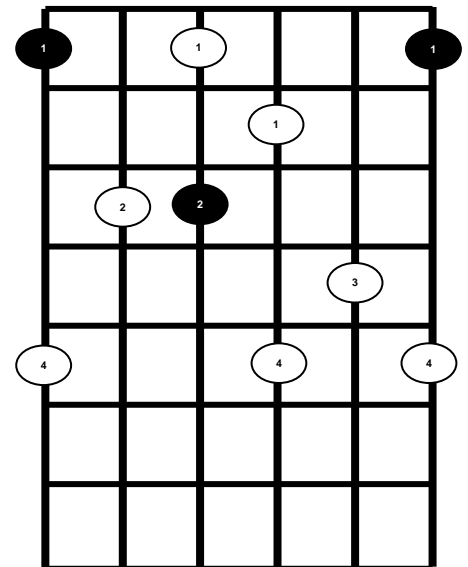
m7 arpeggio – play over the Bm7 and Em7 chords



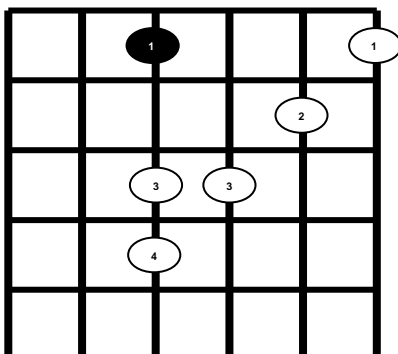
Maj7 arpeggio – play over the Dmaj7 chord



7th arpeggio – play over the A7 chord



m9th arpeggio – play over the Bm7 or Em7 chords



Maj7 arpeggio – play over the Dmaj7 chord

