DANIEL SERIFF MUSIC · LESSON SUMMARY

7 Easy to Fix Soloing Mistakes That Will 10x Your Playing

After thousands of lessons, the same 7 mistakes show up in almost every intermediate solo. Every one of them is easy to fix once you know what to look for.

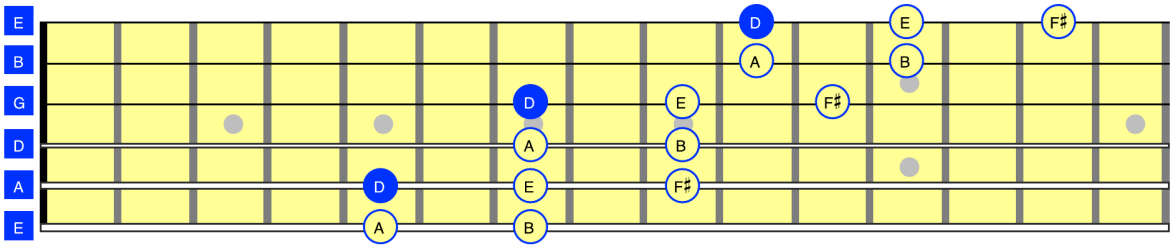
🎸 The Setup

Backing track: A over D going to G over D, in the style of "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

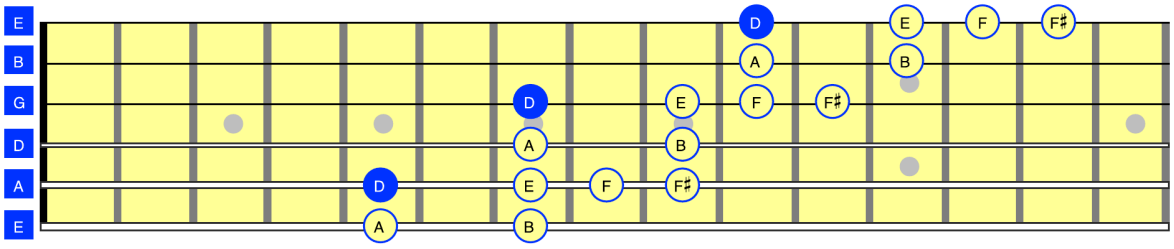
Scale: D major pentatonic (D, E, F#, A, B), always with the blue note added (F). Blue dots are the root, D.

🗺️ The Diagrams

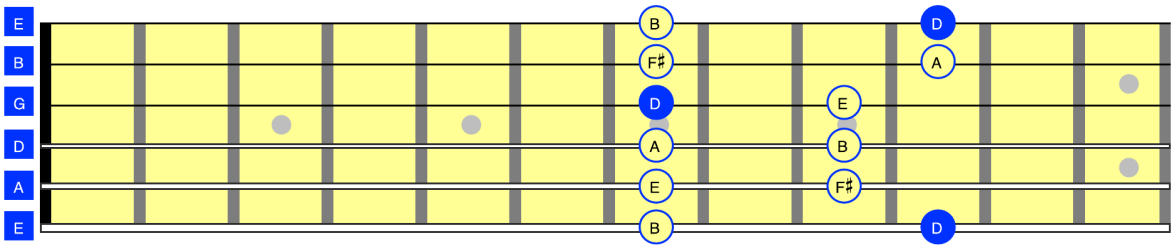
D Major Diagonal Pentatonic



D Major Diagonal blues scale



D Major Pentatonic - Box 1



🚫 The 7 Mistakes (and the Fixes)

1. Choppy, Disconnected Notes

The guitar is naturally a staccato instrument, so notes come out short. Playing lyrically like David Gilmour or Jeff Beck takes a legato, connected sound.

The fix: Skip the track. Just you and your guitar. Make every note last as close as possible to the next note, with no gaps between them.

2. Running Up and Down Scales

Learning a scale is not the same as learning how to solo. Scale runs and scale exercises don't sound like music when you improvise.

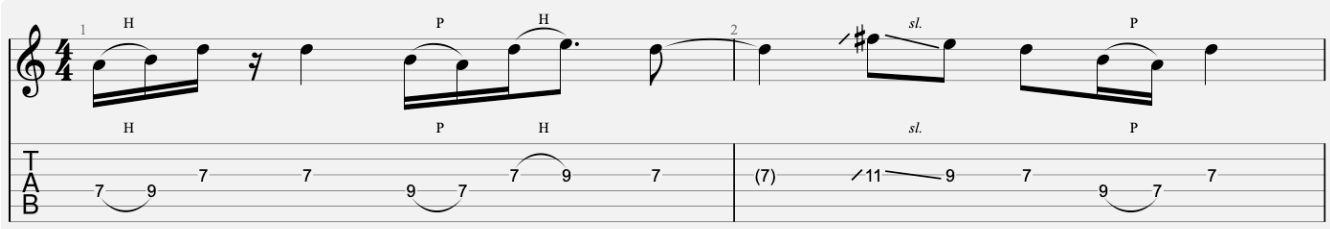
The fix: Listen to the great guitar players and find short phrases, nuggets and tiny licks. Put small parts of your favorite solos on repeat so you start to hear musical phrases inside the scale.

3. Picking Every Note (No Embellishments)

Picking every note puts a strong accent at the start of each one. It's like over-accenting every syllable of every word. That's not how people speak, and music is a language.

The fix: Connect your notes with slides, hammer-ons and pull-offs. While you do, keep thinking about the rhythm.

Example lick: H = hammer-on, P = pull-off, sl. = slide



4. Playing All the Notes Right Away

We get trained to play the whole scale so we don't get lost. In a solo, that's like a movie where every character walks out in the first scene and tells you the whole plot.

The fix: Visualize the scale shape in your mind instead of touching every note. Build the solo slowly: start with three notes, then add one more.

5. Playing Without Space

Singers and horn players have to breathe. Guitar players don't, so we can play without ever stopping. That gives the listener no time to process what you just played. It's like the person who never stops talking.

The fix: Take your hand off the guitar and leave space between your phrases.

6. Jumping Around the Fretboard

A lick here, a lick there, a lick over there. Jumping around like that gives your solo zero cohesiveness. Nothing builds on what you just played.

The fix: Stay in one area and build. When you start a new phrase, start it on the note you ended the last one on. (In the video, a phrase ends on A, so the next one starts on A.)

7. Not Using Repetition

Guitar players tend to drop one idea and jump to the next, over and over.

The fix: Use the 3 to 5 time repetition rule. In the practice room, improvise an idea and repeat it 3 to 5 times before moving on. Once that feels good, play a phrase, then repeat it and change only the last note.

✅ Quick Checklist

- ☐ Are my notes connected, with no gaps?
- ☐ Am I playing phrases instead of scale runs?
- ☐ Am I using slides, hammer-ons and pull-offs?
- ☐ Did I start with just a few notes and build?
- ☐ Am I leaving space?
- ☐ Am I staying in one area and starting phrases where the last one ended?
- ☐ Am I repeating my ideas 3 to 5 times?

🔥 Want the Full System?

These 7 fixes turn scale running into real solos. **Creative Solo System** takes you step by step through 34 professionally recorded backing tracks, so you can build phrases, space and repetition into your playing over real music.

Click or tap here to start