



Super Useful Diagonal Scale Pattern

Anders
Mouridsen



Any Style

BEGIN



Add a professional touch to your playing technique with the Diagonal Scale Pattern. It might sound difficult, but it's actually pretty easy to learn!

Published: 10/04/2022



Tips For Improvisation

Anders
Mouridsen



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In this episode, I'll go through some really helpful tips that can help get the ideas flowing, whenever you're having trouble improvising. These tools will work whether you're completely new to the topic or you're a more advanced player looking to boost your creativity when you solo.

Published: 11/17/2022



From Minor To Major And Back Again

Anders
Mouridsen



Any Style

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Here's this week's episode of Insider, where we explore the very powerful transition from minor soloing to major soloing - and back again. Being able to switch between these two sounds allows you to create two drastically different moods with your soloing - one is gritty, tense and bluesy and the other is more pretty and pleasing.

Published: 12/01/2022



Diagonal Scale Pattern Part 2

Anders
Mouridsen



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In this week's episode we continue to build on the very popular diagonal scale pattern by adding one more super useful pattern to the mix. This is prime access to major soloing vocabulary and even before you combine it with your other major and minor patterns it's extremely useful - all by itself.

Published: 12/28/2022



Adding Major Notes To A Minor Pattern

Anders
Mouridsen



Any Style

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In this week's episode, we continue to improvise over the one-chord backing track from last week, but now we stay within our regular blues scale/minor pentatonic pattern and add a couple sweet sounding major notes within it in order to ease musical tension.

Published: 02/02/2023



JamTrack Challenge

Anders
Mouridsen



Any Style

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In this week's episode of Guitar Insider, we start the JamTrack challenge using the GuitarTricks YouTube backing track. We talk about note choice and making a large impact with a few notes, and it also contains an important lesson on choosing your primary subdivision, whenever you solo over a backing track or a song.

Published: 02/09/2023



The Quintessential Country Lick

Anders
Mouridsen



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Published: 02/23/2023



JamTrack Challenge Follow-Up

Anders
Mouridsen



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Here's this week's episode of Guitar Insider where we follow up on the JamTrack Challenge, and I offer some useful feedback based on the submitted videos. First on all the things people did well and then on a few areas where there's more room for improvement. These were not the things I expected, so it's been a fun and inspiring process for me to get a glimpse of where people are at on this journey.

Published: 03/01/2023



Which Notes To Bend

Anders
Mouridsen



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Published: 05/17/2023



Full Minor/Major Scale

Anders
Mouridsen



Any Style

BEGIN



Published: 05/24/2023



Navigating the Fretboard with Triads: Pt. 2

Anders
Mouridsen



Any Style

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Navigating the Fretboard with Triads: Pt. 1

Anders
Mouridsen



Any Style

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In this week's episode of Guitar Insider, I respond to numerous questions about the CAGED system and how best to navigate the fretboard. While there's nothing wrong with learning the CAGED system or any other system that helps you, I think the best way to learn the fretboard is by learning triad shapes all over the neck and using those as your anchor points. These triad shapes are not only immediately musical...

Published: 06/29/2023



Navigating the Fretboard with Triads: Pt. 3



Any Style

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In this week's episode of Guitar Insider, we continue our triad navigation bootcamp by adding three more A major triad shapes - this time on the A- D- and G-string. These triads are not only musically useful right away, they also help you connect your scale patterns to chord tones and basic music theory. I generally recommend a much more dynamic approach to practicing and learning things li...

Published: 07/18/2023



Navigating the Fretboard with Triads: Pt. 4



Any Style

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Here's this week's episode of Guitar Insider, where I'm filming in the music room of my childhood home in Denmark. This is the space in which I spent a huge chunk of my young years stubbornly trying to master the guitar, and it's inspiring to be teaching from here. First we'll do a brief follow-up on the writing challenge and then we'll cover the last set of triads on the bottom 3 strings. Once you...

Published: 08/02/2023



Minor Triad Lead Fun



Any Style

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This week we start exploring some of all the fun things you can do with the triads we've been drilling. Don't worry if you haven't gotten to all of them, cause we'll only use the ones from the very first triad lesson - and you may even be able to hang on without having watched that one. After using our basic theory knowledge to turn the triads minor, we'll come up with a cool, horizontal chord-tone lick that...

Published: 08/17/2023



Open Position Blues Licks



Any Style

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This week on Guitar Insider, I respond to a request for 'some blues licks' by exploring some really cool open position blues vocabulary -- which is particularly fun when you play all by yourself. First, I'll show you the basic concept and then we'll explore a couple of licks. Finally I hope you'll continue to explore this great sound on your own.

Published: 10/17/2023



Capo Blues Soloing



Any Style

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This week on Guitar Insider, we explore how to use a capo to move our position blues vocabulary up the neck in order to be able to use it in different keys. This gives us an entirely different sound that we get when we play our regular fretted blues scale, and some guitar players have made a whole career out of this awesome and very accessible trick.

Published: 11/15/2023



Instrumental Arrangement Trick



Any Style

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I just released an album with ten of my favorite old Christmas hymns arranged for solo electric guitar, and this week on Guitar Insider, I share the harmonized scale that I use as a basis for most of these arrangements. This harmonized scale will work for countless classic songs, and it's also very easy to come up with your own ideas using these notes. I find it incredibly gratifying to play instrumental...

Published: 12/13/2023



Productive Ways to Use Jam Tracks



Any Style

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This week on Guitar Insider, I respond to a question from George, who asks for some more productive ways to use the jam tracks that we have in the Guitar Tricks Jam Station. We all know how fun it can be to just get lost soloing over a track that loops indefinitely, but you've probably also experienced how it can eventually get boring and lack focus when you just solo mindlessly over the sa...

Published: 03/06/2024



Rhythm and Lead Workout



Any Style

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This week on Guitar Insider, I respond to two questions about the rhythm and counting workout we did a few weeks ago. There are infinite tutorials on what notes to play out there, but almost no one talks about the all-important rhythmic decisions we have to make whenever you we play a solo. So this week we explore the power of counting and verbalizing rhythms in a lead context, and...

Published: 04/03/2024



Thumb Bass PLUS Lead



Any Style

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This week on Guitar Insider I respond to a question from Stephen who wants to know how to develop thumb independence, so you can keep a bass line going while playing leads over it. This is often explored in an acoustic Travis Picking context, but today I'll show you how cool and accessible this can be in a blues/rock context. I'll be on electric guitar, but this also works on acoustic.

Published: 06/21/2024



Intro to Slide Guitar



Any Style

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This week on Guitar Insider I respond to a request from John for some basic slide guitar skills. Slide guitar is one of my absolute favorite sounds, and today I'll show you just how far you can get with even the most basic slide vocabulary on an acoustic guitar.

Published: 08/13/2024



Electric Slide Leads



Any Style

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This week on Insider we go deeper into the world of slide guitar playing - this time on electric. The vocabulary we explored on acoustic last week will translate perfectly to the electric, and we'll also explore how to play classic sounding single note lead lines. Depending on the tone you're using and how "dirty" you like your sound this will require some effective right hand muting, but I'm sure you'll see...

Published: 08/29/2024



It's Not How Much You Know: Lick Timing



Any Style

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This week on Insider I demonstrate a powerful way to breathe some new life into your most tired old lick by starting it on the different beats and upbeats of the bar. This is an example of getting better at using the vocabulary you already have - rather than always rushing to learn the next thing. This skill is so underrepresented in the guitar world, and it really is the main thing that sets us...

Published: 10/10/2024



Chord Tone Soloing and Essential Lick Feature



Any Style

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This week on Insider I respond to a request for tips on chord tone soloing. To explain this concept I use two fun licks from the "Essential licks" section under features. We'll explore the difference between a chord tone lick and a regular scale-based lick and we'll try to tie these two licks to the visual shape of your A-minor shaped barre-chords - that way you'll always have these licks and others...

Published: 10/23/2024



Level Up Restraint



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This week on Insider I offer another powerful tip for leveling up your playing - no matter where on your guitar journey you find yourself. This is the concept of restraint or holding back, and I'll show you a few examples of how this can be used as a tool to boost the sound of your lead playing, rhythm playing and even your writing.

Published: 01/09/2025



Intro to Jazz



Any Style

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This week on Insider we explore a topic that isn't really covered by anyone, which is jazz for beginners. Jazz can be incredibly advanced, but it is fun and helpful to learn some of the basics even in the earlier stages of your journey. Not necessarily to become a jazz player, but simply to experience the power of the aesthetic and the building blocks from this style of music. We'll use a simple...

Published: 03/06/2025



Level Up Touch



Any Style

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This week on Insider I offer another way to more or less instantly level up your sound by paying attention to your TOUCH. One of the coolest things about the guitar is that we have our fingers directly on the strings and that gives us almost infinite possibilities for how to shape our tone. Once you throw different types of amps and pedals into the mix you start to see why it is that no two guitar player...

Published: 03/13/2025



Octaves



Any Style

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This week on Insider I respond to a question from Sascha, who asks for a formula for finding octaves around the neck. I share a few different ways to find octaves and unisons, and then we talk about how to use this for navigating the neck and playing the same lick in multiple places. We also explore how to use octaves for jazzy leads and fun rock riffs.

Published: 03/20/2025



Level Up Writing Solos



Any Style

BEGIN



This week on Insider I share one of my favorite tools that always has and continues to help me level up my lead playing. This tool is to write the most amazing solo you can imagine over a given backing track. It's a fun process where you first imagine something and then figure out how to play something like it. Then you rehearse and memorize it lick by lick until you can play the whole...

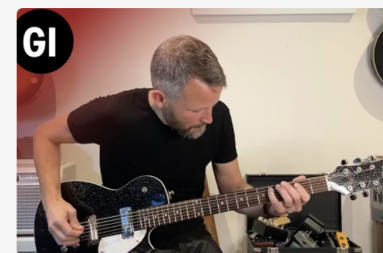
Published: 03/27/2025



BOSS Guitar



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This week on Insider I demonstrate the raw and simplistic power of what I personally refer to as "BOSS Guitar". This is the type of guitar playing that perfectly exemplifies the fact that when it comes to getting good at guitar it's not how much you know, but rather what you do with the stuff you know that counts. The players of this style could make a whole venue full of people go wild using...

Published: 09/10/2025



Halloween Special



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This week on Insider we're doing a very special Halloween episode! Ever since Tony Bones - The Tonal Terrorizer first appeared on the GuitarTricks Youtube channel, the world has been anxiously waiting for the third song. However, shortly after his short stint of fame and fortune, Tony went back to the depths where he came from, and we never got a chance to record it. At the time I wrote this song...

Published: 10/30/2025



In The Lab - Climbing Pentatonics



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This week on Insider I respond to a request from George for more examples of "lab" work - particularly in relation to the world of moving pentatonic shapes around the neck. So in this episode we take a simple pentatonic lick into the lab and use our ears and knowledge of the neck to come up with an epic climbing pentatonic lick.

Published: 11/06/2025



The Perfect Solo



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This week on Insider I respond to what might be my favorite Insider question ever. The question is from Bill who asks for some tips on how to play melodic and catchy solos rather than the usual pentatonic riffing. This is something I strive to do anytime I play a solo, so I'm excited to offer some tips on making your solos more catchy, recognizable and melodic. To me, the perfect solo is one that you...

Published: 01/15/2026



Make Up Your Own Scales



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This week on Insider I share one of the important lessons that I wish someone would have shared with me early on. This is the fact that a scale is simply a collection of notes that makes sense to the player so anything can be a scale. You can even make up your own based on simple variations on scales you already know or random visual patterns on the neck. Try it out remember the...

Published: 01/22/2026



Timing, Timing, Timing



BEGIN



This week on Insider I respond to two questions from Larry and John about finding your way through all the many Insider episodes we've done so far. After that we continue to the topic of the day which is as clear a demonstration as I can imagine of the power of rhythm and timing. I have recorded a simple rhythm guitar and a solo with the worst timing I could pull off, and then I'll show you ho...

Published: 01/29/2026



Chasing A Hopeful Feeling



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This week on Insider I respond to a request for more "lab work" - particularly the concept of chasing a particular emotion in the lab. The "lab" refers to the headspace in which we stretch and build upon our existing knowledge - see the episode called "5 Rooms" for more info. The emotion were trying to evoke is "hopeful" and in order to conjure up this feeling well use all the tricks, tools and...

Published: 02/12/2026



MicroLicks



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This week on Insider I invite you all to join me in a bit of an experiment. I have always encouraged everyone to break down a longer lick or phrase into smaller chunks - in order to get creative with each of the chunks individually. Today we'll reverse engineer this process by learning four micro-licks and then exploring all the different ways you can string those together to make long and elaborate...

Published: 02/26/2026



Chord Scale Lightbulb Moment



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This week on Insider I share a true lightbulb moment I had in the earlier part of my guitar journey. This all comes down to a simple, but powerful exercise that really made the relationship between chords and scales click on a whole new level. We'll be soloing in the key of A minor, using a small pattern of the full minor scale. Then the harmony will go to a major V-chord, which uses a note that isn't...

Published: 03/05/2026



Me and Willie



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This week on Insider I share the behind-the-scenes story of how I ended up playing on a song with the great Willie Nelson that just came out. I spent some time in Nashville last year, and while I was there I played on a song for a great artist named Lily Meola. I played my heart out and the producer was extremely happy. Unfortunately the artist didn't think it was the right vibe stylistically, so th...

Published: 03/12/2026



Blues Shuffle MicroLicks



Blues

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This week on Insider I share another powerful group of "microlicks" - this time to work in a blues shuffle context. The medium tempo blues shuffle can be hard to solo over, because everything becomes triplet based and it can feel very disorienting to navigate for both your phrasing and your technique. These 5 microlicks can be used in a million different ways and can serve as a kickstarter...

Published: 03/19/2026



Jazz Blues MicroLicks



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This week on Insider we continue to explore the concept of "micro-licks", this time in a jazz blues context. Jazz blues is an intriguing sound that mixes up the basic blues pattern with notes from the major chord/scale along with other cool sounding tension notes. We will break down and practice four short licks that can be used and combined in a bunch of different ways. This new, jazzy sounding...

Published: 03/26/2026



Chicken Pickin' Micro Licks



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This week on Insider we continue our exploration of the concept of "micro licks" - this time within the context of "Chicken Picking". Chicken picking refers to the percussive sound we get when we use a combination of regular picked notes and notes we "pluck" with our fingers. This is a really fun sound to explore and you often hear it within a country context - but it can be used in many other styles a...

Published: **04/16/2026**



Going Brand New Places with the Old Familiar Pattern



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This week on Insider we explore some very advanced soloing sounds, BUT we do this using the most simple and basic pattern of the minor pentatonic. It's an often overlooked fact that you can get easy access to sounds like minor, major, Mixolydian, Lydian and more by simply moving the old familiar pattern around on the neck. First I'll build an ambient C5 loop and then I'll demonstrate how to move the basic minor pentatonic shape around to create some new, exciting and wildly different sounds.

Published: **06/25/2026**