

Playing over 7b9 chords

Dominant 7b9 chords are built from the following note formula:

1 3 5 b7 b9

Any scale we use to play over that chord must contain those notes. Here is the chord as the dominant or 5^{th} chord in the key of C.

G B D F Ab

There are quite a few options over this chord, but the main thing is to make sure all of the notes of the chord are in the scale. Here are two of the main scales used.

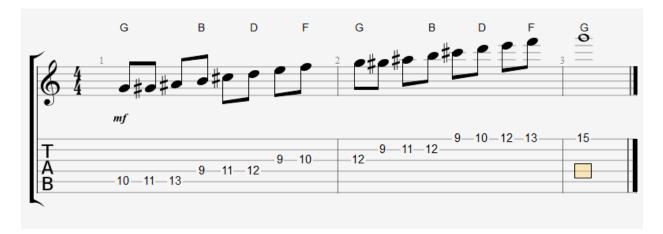
1) Half Whole Tone Scale

This scale contains the following notes:

1 b2 b3 3 #4 5 b6 7

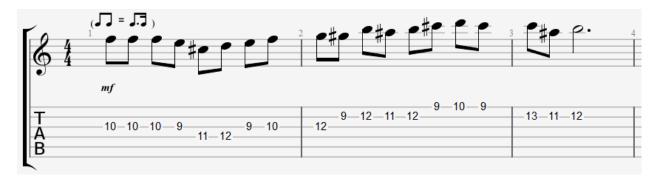
G Ab Bb B C# D Eb F

One way of playing it.



The notes of G7 are noted. If you focus on these notes and treat the others as passing notes, you should be fine.

Here's an example lick you might try:

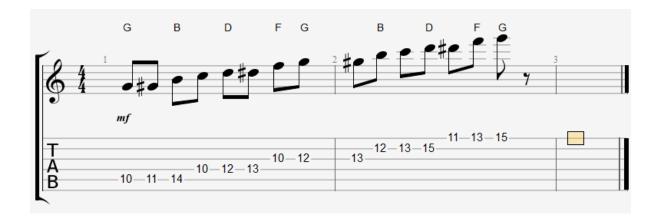


2) The Phrygian Dominant Scale

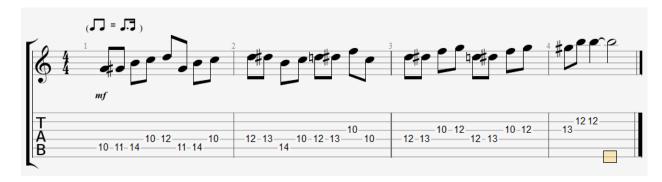
G Phrygian Dominant is the same as C harmonic minor, if that helps you think about it easier.

Here's the formula

One way of playing it:



One way I love to play altered scales is to sequence them, in this case in 5's.



Try playing these licks over a G7b9 in a 2 5 1 in C, it sounds great. Happy Practice.