

Pet Licks of the Month

August 2015

Add Color and Focus to Your Breaks by Targeting Roots and 3rds.

1 Many players string together breaks by starting on the root of each chord and moving out from there. This example shows how this could be played over the opening bars of the song *After You've Gone*. Notice how, by step or by skip, each lick moves smoothly to the root of the next chord. This helps focus the sound by grounding the melody in the chord progression.

Gtr

2 Targeting the 3rd note of the chord, (as in Root-3rd-5th), adds a little color to the sound of your melody while maintaining focus on the chords.

3 You can add chromatic half steps to add even more color to your break. Notice how this example also pushes the targeted note forward rhythmically by half a beat.

Gtr

4 You can also create some forward momentum by making each link lead to or *target* the 3rd of the next chord.

Gtr

August 2015 *Tips and Tabs Newsletter* features a break over *After You've Gone*, using all of the above techniques. The break is tabbed for guitar, mandolin, tenor banjo, and ukulele.

Time for a little target practice!