

Basic Chord-Scale choice. (www.playgtr.co.uk)

This is an introduction to how to use the right scale for the chord of the moment. I will not be talking about modes yet as I find this creates a bit of confusion at this stage. We have seen how on every degree (=note) of the scale we can build a triad of some kind and add a 7th to it. These are three examples so you can have the most popular 'chord shapes' to play with and on 3 different string sets.

The first is an example in G major: the roots of the chords are all on the 6th string.

Chords: Gmaj7, Am7, Bm7, Cmaj7, D7, Em7, Fm7(b5), Gmaj7

T	3	5	7	8	10	12	13	15
A	4	5	7	8	11	12	14	15
B	3	5	7	8	10	12	14	15

To find the correct scale for the chords just play a G major scale starting from the degree the chord sits on (like I do in the video).

G maj7 → G major from G to G (1st degree)

Am7 → G major from A to A (2nd degree)

Bm7 → G major from B to B (3rd degree)

And so on... I am sure you get the idea.

The next is an example in C major: the roots of the chords are all on the 5th string. Watch the video and find the related scales

Chords: Cmaj7, Dm7, Em7, Fmaj7, G7, Am7, Bm7(b5), Cmaj7

T	5	7	8	10	12	13	15	17
A	5	7	8	9	10	12	14	16
B	5	7	8	10	12	14	15	17

And again this is an example in F major: the roots of the chords are all on the 4th string. You know what to do...

Chords: Fmaj7, Gm7, Am7, Bbmaj7, Cmaj7, Dm7, Em7(b5), Fmaj7

T	5	6	8	10	12	13	15	17
A	5	6	8	10	11	13	15	17
B	5	6	8	8	10	12	14	15