

Jamming Over A Minor

Remember that to make your usual major scale sound as its relative minor, all you have to do is treat your vi chord or the sixth scale degree as the home note or the i chord. Here's a transcription of Steve's improvised solo on top of an A minor backing track:

Ex. 69

Moderately Slow ♩ = 74

The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

- System 1 (Measures 30-31):** Chords: Am, F, Em. Treble staff: Am (quarter), F (quarter), Em (quarter), Am (quarter). Tab: Am (x7/12), F (12), Em (10-9-10-12), Am (10-9-10-9-9).
- System 2 (Measures 32-33):** Chords: Am, F, Em. Treble staff: Am (quarter), F (quarter), Em (quarter), Am (quarter). Tab: Am (12), F (10-12), Em (13-12-10-12), Am (10-12/14-12-10-9-10-12-10-9).
- System 3 (Measures 34-35):** Chord: Am. Treble staff: Am (quarter), Am (quarter), Am (quarter), Am (quarter), Am (quarter), Am (quarter). Tab: Am (9), Am (10-9-10-12), Am (10-10), Am (10-12-13-15-13-12), Am (10-10).
- System 4 (Measures 35-36):** Chords: F, Em, Am. Treble staff: F (quarter), Em (quarter), Am (quarter), Am (quarter). Tab: F (15-13-12), Em (12-13), Am (12-14), Am (12), Am (14\12-10-12/14), Am (12-14), Am (14).

In soloing over the jam track, we need to consider the chord progression to make our solo sound good. We can first start off with getting used to targeting the root note of each chord:

Ex. 70

37 Am F Em Etc...

The musical notation for Example 70 consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar TAB staff. The treble staff shows a simple melodic line: a whole note G (root of Am), a quarter note F (root of F), and a quarter note E (root of Em). The guitar TAB staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 7 for Am, 3 for F, and 2 for Em.

Now, playing the roots of the chords is fine although many of us would want to make that a little more interesting than that. We can then add some degree of movement and embellishment based on the scale positions we have learned previously.

Ex. 71

39 Am F Em Am

The musical notation for Example 71 is divided into three systems, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar TAB staff. The first system (measures 39-41) covers chords Am, F, and Em. The second system (measures 42-43) covers chords F, Em, and Am. The third system (measures 44-45) covers chords F, Em, and Am. The guitar TAB staff shows various fret numbers and techniques such as bends and slurs to create a more complex and melodic solo line.

42 F Em Am

44 F Em Am