







Order of Tension when playing with a chord.

(Notes arranged from least tense to most tense.)




1. Root

| A | Am | A7 |
|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |
| Root | | |
| T | | |
| A | | |
| B | | |
| 5 | 5 | 5 |

2. Other Chord Tones (3rd and 5th, sometimes 7th)

| Major Arpeggio | Minor Arpeggio | Dominant 7 Arpeggio |
|---|--|---|
| A | Am | A7 |
|  |  |  |
| Root 3rd 5th | Root b3rd 5th | Root 3rd 5th b7th |
| T | | |
| A | | |
| B | | |
| 5 4 7 | 5 3 7 | 5 4 7 5 |

3. Scale notes 2 frets (Whole Step) from chord tones

| Major Pentatonic | Minor Pentatonic | Dominant Pentatonic |
|---|--|---|
| A | Am | A7 |
|  |  |  |
| 2nd 6th | 4th b7th | 2nd |
| T | | |
| A | | |
| B | | |
| 5 7 4 7 4 7 | 5 3 5 7 5 7 | 5 7 4 7 5 7 |

4. Scale Notes 1 fret from chord tones

A - Major Scale Am - Minor Scale

4th 7th 2nd b6th

T
A
B

5 7 4 5 7 4 6 7 5 7 8 5 7 8 5 7

Other Related Modes:

Lydian = Major with a #4

Dorian = Minor with a major 6th

Phrygian = Minor with a b2

A7 - Mixolydian

4th 6th

T
A
B

5 7 4 5 7 4 5 7

Other Related Modes:

Lydian Dominant = Mixolydian with a #4

5. Any other note - The notes that are not part of the scale will create a lot of tension against the chord. These notes can be used as passing tones or to create intentional tension.