

Chapter 20: Chord Solos

Playing melodies and chords at the same time

This topic could fill an entire book; maybe I'll write one, but not today! I'm going to keep it simple. Try this little exercise, then try picking out a few basic chord solos for yourself. Perhaps in Volume Two of this series, I'll delve deeper into this.

There are two parts to playing chord solos: “Melody Notes” and “Chords.”

1. CHORDS: Understand the chords of the song.
2. MELODY NOTES: After you know the chords, put them aside and concentrate solely on the melody. Try and pick out the melody notes, without worrying about the chords. This is hard for beginners, but as you play more, you'll find yourself able to do it. Try using tabs. The best tab source is my friend Dominator's website: GotTabs.com

Sometimes, the melody notes are the same as the notes within the chords. Try the following exercise. When the chord's name appears above the diagram, strum the entire chord. Where a single note is indicated, play just the single note:

This Land is Your Land

This land is your land, this land is my land

from California, to the New York island

From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf Stream waters,

this land was made for you and me

[Listen: Audio File 38](#)

[Get your full-sized chart for this exercise.](#)