## The One Big Secret: LEAD TONES

When it comes to guitar soloing, especially improvisation and especially blues/rock, this single idea will transform you from weak, puny girlymen (or women) into pumped up soloing Governors of Calfornia! And it separates you from what I like to call the "flailers". \*

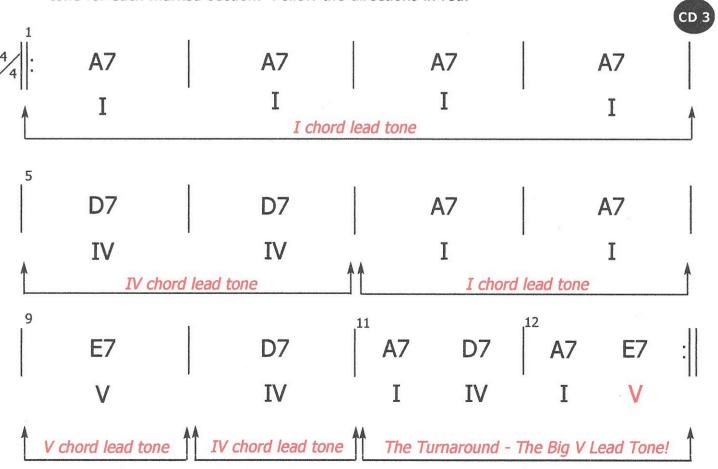
Simply put, a lead tone is the root note of the chord it's being played over. ie. Band plays A7 chord = You play A note

Therefore, in a I IV V progression, play the I chord lead tone over the I chord, IV chord lead tone over the IV chord, and the V chord lead tone over the V chord.

## I IV V Lead Tones

I chord = I chord lead tone
IV chord = IV chord lead tone
V chord = V chord lead tone

**Playing the Lead Tone Map** - In the following 12 bar, play only the corresponding lead tone for each marked section. Follow the directions in red.



This is the most critical lead tone of them all. When the band hits the V, you hit the V.

<sup>\*</sup> Flai • ler, n., 1. Those players who just keep playing the scale over and over without any direction or melodic content.

Known to make painful face gestures to divert attention from their misguided solo.