

“RECOIL” TECHNIQUE

I named this technique after a rattlesnake, because of its habit of returning to its ready position after striking and biting.

In more fundamental styles such as blues, rock and folk, an improviser often uses a single scale fingering pattern as a source for melodic tones. This makes it easier to develop an improvisation by having to recall only one pattern. In these styles, an improviser can slide up to a note, then return to the original scale fingering area.

To make this quick and efficient, keep the ball of the thumb in contact with the back of the neck. Slide up the neck, then quickly return. Try this in the exercise below.

recoil technique example 1

S
 fingers: 2 2 0 0 0 3 3 0 3 0 3 2 0 2

T 4/4 2 4 0 0 0 3 5 0 3 0 3 2 0 2
 A 4/4
 B 4/4

recoil technique example 2

S S S S
 fingers: 2 2 0 0 3 3 0 3 0 2 2 0 0 3 3

T 4/4 2 4 0 0 3 5 0 3 0 2 4 0 0 3 5
 A 4/4
 B 4/4