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## Introduction

The inspiration for writing this book was to create a series of technique building exercises as well as some useful melodic and harmonic studies and incorporate them into one format. Setting up a daily practice routine is vital to becoming a more proficient player. This book uses various scales and melodic motifs to explore ways of approaching different chord types. The idea is to study these scales and exercises in a way that will be useful for improvisation while, at the same time, providing a practice routine that simply helps improve your technique.

This book is based on the six chord scales most commonly used in improvising, no matter what style of music. They are:

1. The Major Chord Scale
2. The Minor Chord Scale (specifically Dorian Minor)
3. The Dominant Chord Scale (The Mixolydian Mode)
4. The Melodic Minor Scale
5. The Diminished Scale
6. The Pentatonic and Blues Scales

Each chapter is dedicated to a different scale and is divided into five parts:

### PART ONE: "CHORD SCALE EXERCISES"

Part One introduces the chord scale of each chapter. Each key has its scale and corresponding exercise and each exercise has a different melodic and rhythmic treatment. It's important to learn each scale and working on them in this way creates a more interesting and useful practice routine.

### PART TWO: "MOTIF EXERCISES"

This is an exercise that starts with a single short melodic idea. The idea, or motif, is first played in half-steps both ascending and descending. With each successive exercise the interval between motifs grows wider by half-steps until the interval between motifs reaches an octave. Even though the motif stays the same, as the interval widens, each exercise presents a new technical challenge.

### PART THREE: "FINGER BUSTERS"

The idea behind this set of exercises is to help build strong technique and endurance, just as the name implies. Each "FINGER BUSTER" corresponds with the chord type of its chapter. The most benefit will come if each exercise is repeated at least four times. Try to build up to the point where you can make it to the end of number 50 with as few breaks as possible. You can almost think of this as the "workout" portion of each chapter and if you stay with it, you should really notice the benefit.

### PART FOUR: "EXTENDED MOTIFS"

One valuable way to practice is to take a melodic phrase and practice in every key. Part Four uses this idea and is based on five different phrases written chromatically. Each phrase is derived from the chord type emphasized in that chapter. As the phrase changes key, keep the key of the chord in mind as well. Some of these exercises tend to be quite long in order to cover as much of an instrument's range as possible so feel free to break them up to make them easier to finish.