

Guidelines for Phrasing

1. Move in a variety of Intervallic motions. Skipping a string ensures motions of 6ths and 7ths.
2. Secure rhythmic variety
3. Change direction often
4. Feel free to insert an eighth note rest on the down beat
5. Feel free to play some notes 2 or more times in a row
6. Use a variety of bends: 1/4, 1/2, 1, 1 1/2, 2 step bends
7. Use 1/2 step bends from notes out of key into notes that are
8. Play with dynamics: change volumes and use accenting
Try accenting normally weak beats.
9. Use all six approaches to soloing:
1 - Scale Choice 2 - Triads 3 - Quadrads 4 - Pentatonics within scale choice
5 - Interval motions 6 - Sequences
10. Solo should explain the chords behind it. First and last note of a measure should be a chord tone.
11. Use repetitive licks for emphasis and tension building.
12. Use mixed groupings. Phrases using 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 notes mixed together.
13. Change between pentatonics and other appropriate scales.
14. Don't neglect playing 2nds (9ths) & 6ths (13ths). Slowly bending either a 1/2 step several times in a row is great. I call this milking a 6th.
15. Use slides, slurs, hammer ons, harmonics all your technique tricks.
16. Don't get stuck in the box. Move to other places on the neck. Even if it's the same notes, they will sound different.
17. Use theme and melodic development. Repeat a phrase several times in a row, changing it slightly each time. (especially the ending)
18. Use appropriate substitute arpeggios. (Em7 over Am - Cmaj7 over Am etc)
19. In 3 note per string patterns, don't just play low to high or high to low. Play low-high-mid, or high-low-mid.
20. Get a jam tape/Cd to practice with. I like the Jam with Michael Angelo cd.
21. Play chromatic passing tones occasionally.
22. Try to have as short an interval as possible between the last note of a chord change and the first note used over the the next chord.
23. Play in phrases, not one long ramble on. Short phrases are just fine. Each phrase should influence the next. Try to play vocally, as if you were speaking.
24. Play some phrases just on one string.
25. Develop a bank of licks to use.
26. Try starting four and three note sequences on the off beats, not just on the down beats.