

Look for the triads...

In this column I would like to look at two symmetrical scales and the triads found within them. The two symmetrical scales we will look at are the diminished scale and the augmented scale. The augmented scale is a great choice if you are looking at playing something that sounds "outside" over a major or minor 7th chord. It can be daunting to incorporate these unfamiliar scales melodically into your soloing, I will show you how to quickly find some familiar sounds and shapes hidden within these scales to create a modern sound that will be sure to impress.

I am going to look at the Ab diminished and C augmented scale for the examples in this column. The diminished scale is built from stacked minor third intervals with each note being approached from one half step below, an eight note scale.

Ab - Bb - B - Db - D - E - F - G - Ab

From the above scale we can find major and minor triads off the notes **G, Bb, Db** and **E**.

The augmented scale is built from stacked major third intervals with each note being approached from one half step below, a six note scale.

C - Eb - E - G - Ab - B - C

From the above scale we can find major and minor triads off the notes **C, E**, and **Ab**.

Triads are easy shapes to play on the fretboard and have a very defined sound, I am going to write some examples of lines that incorporate these triads and you can hear how they sound over different chords. I have written three examples you can use over a dominant chord and three you can use over a major 7th chord. Remember that each lick can then be played over other chords, each lick over the G7b9 can also be used over a Bb7b9, Db7b9 or E7b9 or the familiar E7#9 (Jimi Hendrix voicing). The licks over the CMaj7 can be used over a EMaj7 or AbMaj7 chord. I have also included two fretboard diagrams of major and minor triad inversions for those of you who are still working out the shapes. Enjoy.

This image shows a musical score for guitar in 4/4 time. The score is divided into four measures, labeled 1 through 4. The top staff is a treble clef staff with notes and accidentals. The bottom staff is a tablature staff with fret numbers. The key signature is G7b9. The notes in the treble staff are: Measure 1: G4, A4, B4, C5; Measure 2: D5, E5, F5, G5; Measure 3: A5, B5, C6, D6; Measure 4: E6, F6, G6, A6. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: Measure 1: 5, 4, 3, 5; Measure 2: 4, 6, 8, 7; Measure 3: 6, 8, 7, 9, 11; Measure 4: 10, 12, 14, 13, 12, 14, 13, 15, 17, 16, 15.

1

2

3

4

G7b9

T
A
B

4
4

5 4 3 5

4 6 8 7

6 8 7 9 11

10 12 14 13

12 14 13 15

17 16 15

1

2

CMaj7

T
A
B

4/4

4/4

5 5 5 4 5 6 4 5 4 3 5 5 4 4 8

1

2

3

G7b9

TAB

4/4

4/4

3 2 5 4 3 6 3 3 6 5 4 7 7 4 5 6 3 3 6 3 4 5 2 3

Detailed description: This image shows a musical score for guitar. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, starting with a G7b9 chord. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some slurs and accidentals. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature staff, with fret numbers (3, 2, 5, 4, 3, 6, 3, 3, 6, 5, 4, 7, 7, 4, 5, 6, 3, 3, 6, 3, 4, 5, 2, 3) and fingerings (1-3) indicated. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and there are three numbered markers (1, 2, 3) above the staff.

1

2

CMaj7

T
A
B

4/4

3 2 5 6 4 5 4 4 8

1

2

3

G7b9

T
A
B

4/4

4/4

5 4 3 3 4 5 4 6 3 3 3 6 5 4 6 7 5 5 4

1

2

3

CMaj7

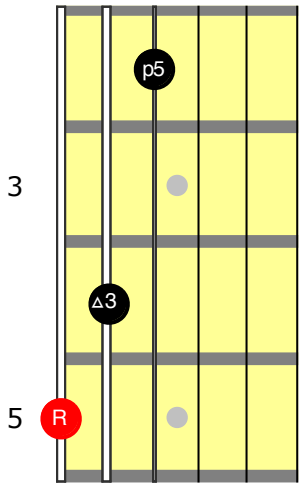
T
A
B

4/4

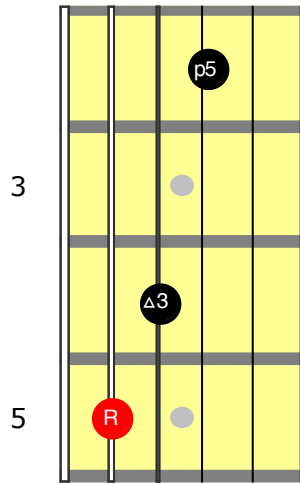
4/4

4 3 6 7 6 4 5 5 3 4 8 8 4 3 5 5 4 6 7 6 3 4

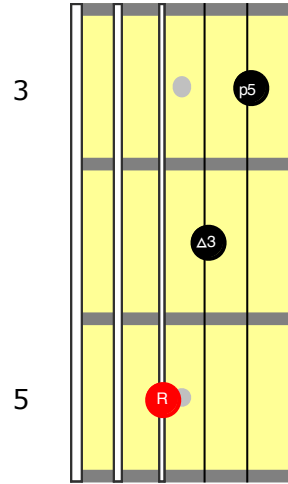
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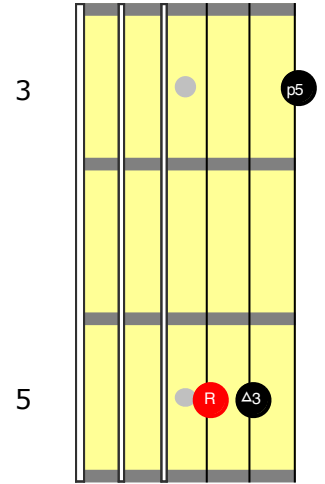
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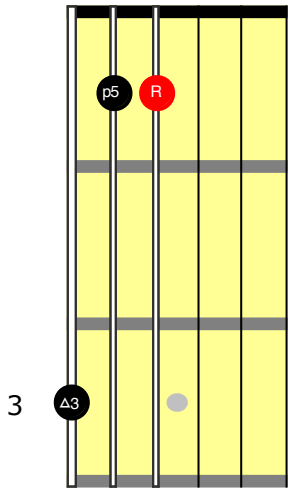
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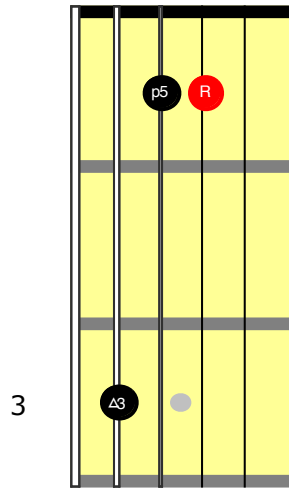
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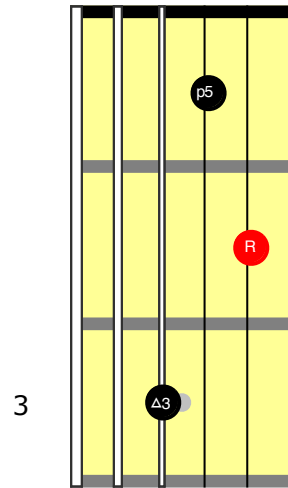
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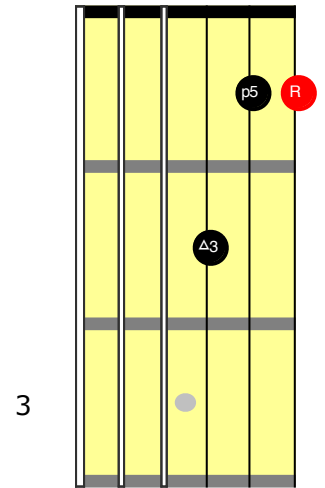
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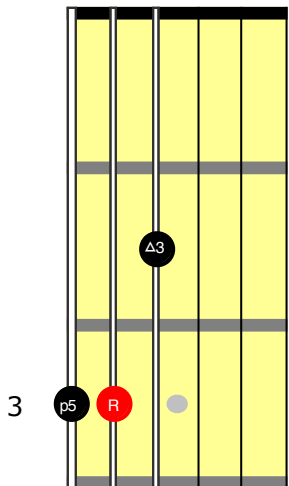
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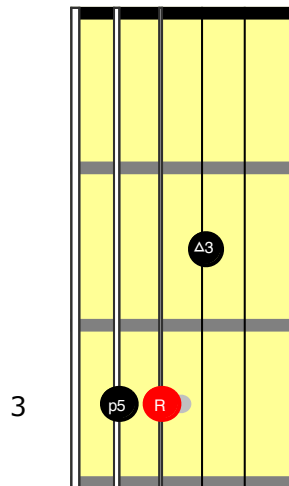
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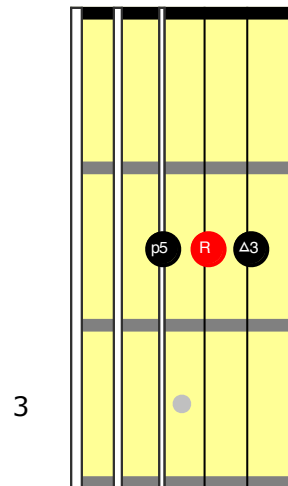
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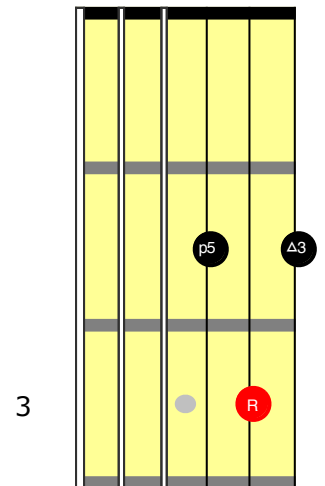
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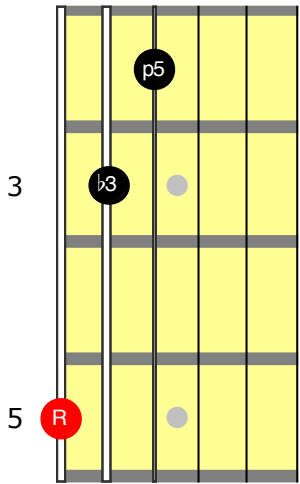
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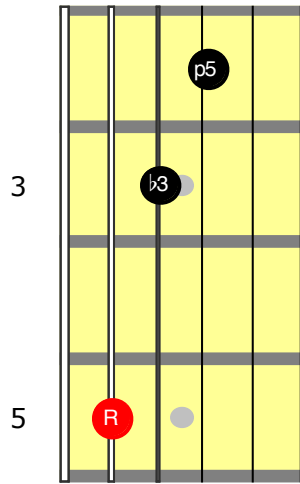
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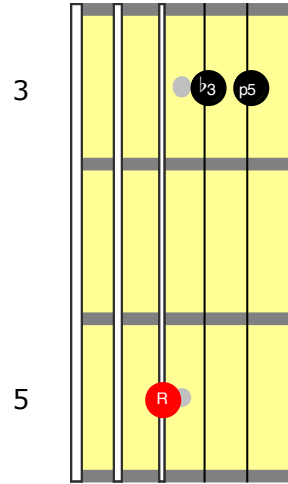
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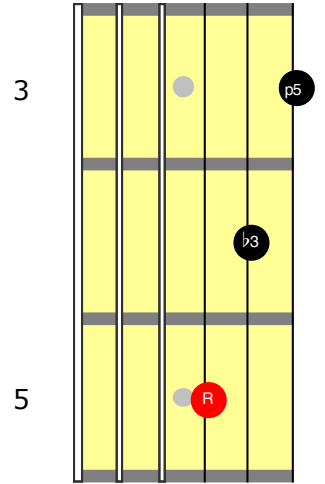
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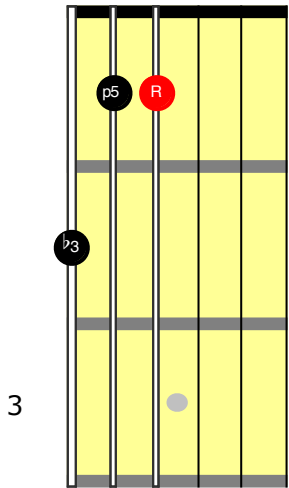
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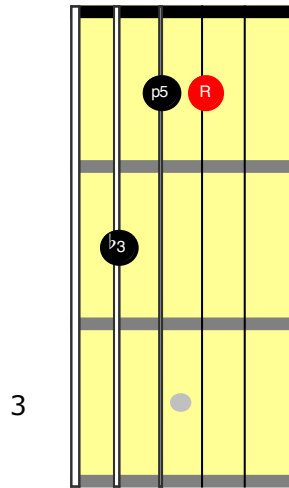
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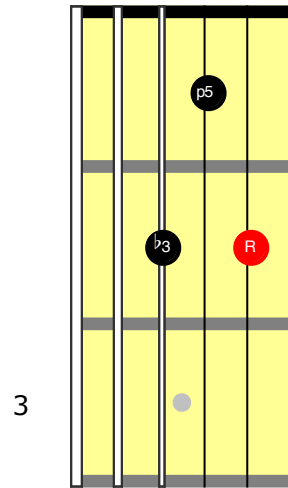
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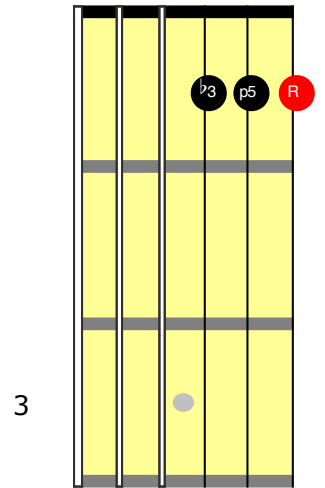
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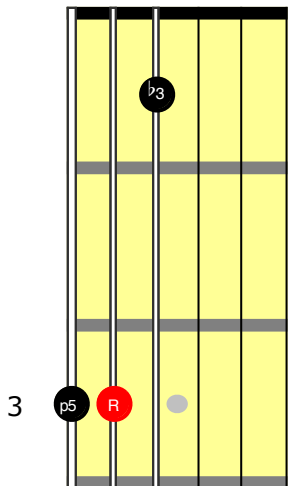
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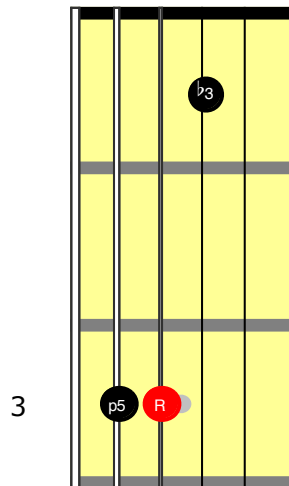
1st inversion



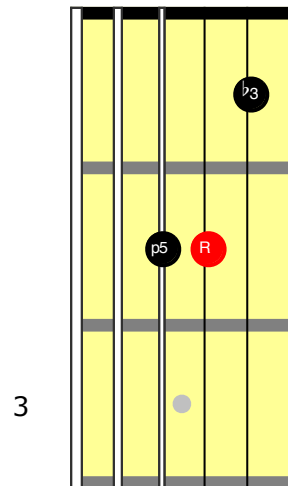
2nd inversion



2nd inversion



2nd inversion



2nd inversion

