

ANY Note Is A Good Note

The G Major chord has three notes in it: G, B, and D.
In any order these notes make a G Major chord.

Musical notation for a G Major chord lick in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows a quarter note G4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note D5, and a quarter rest. The mandolin staff shows fret numbers 5, 2, 5, and a rest.

Because G, B, and D are in the G chord, they make up a framework for soloing over a G chord. Playing three note solos gets boring quickly, and you'll want to play some notes that aren't G, B, and D. These are called "non chord tones". The trick to using non chord tones is simple; all you have to do is follow this rule:

"Any note will work, as long as it's sandwiched between two good notes"

We'll start with a lick that only has G, B, and D notes in it

Musical notation for a G Major chord lick in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows a quarter note G4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note D5, a quarter note G4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note D5. The mandolin staff shows fret numbers 3, 3, 5, 2, 5.

Now we'll add one non chord tone at a time, sandwiched between two good notes

Musical notation for a G Major chord lick in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows five measures, each with a non-chord tone (F#, F, E, D#, C#) sandwiched between G and B. The mandolin staff shows fret numbers for each measure: 3 2 5 2 5, 3 1 5 2 5, 3 0 5 2 5, 3 6 5 2 5, 3 5 4 2 5.

Musical notation for a G Major chord lick in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows four measures, each with a non-chord tone (C, Bb, A, G#) sandwiched between G and B. The mandolin staff shows fret numbers for each measure: 3 5 3 2 5, 3 5 2 1 5, 3 5 2 0 5, 3 5 2 6 5.