

Jazz Melodic Minor Scale

The Jazz Melodic Minor is identical to a major scale except it includes a lowered third (minor third). The sixth and the seventh are raised regardless if the scale is ascending or descending. Below is the Ab Jazz Melodic Minor Scale. I like to use the major scale fingerings and just lower the third a half step. This seems to be the easiest way to learn it.

Guitar

Guitar

T
A
B

4 6 | 2 4 | 6 3 | 5 6 | 3 4 | 2 4

The Jazz Melodic Minor is often used against a dominant 7th chord a half step lower. For example, use an Ab jazz melodic minor against a G7 chord. In the context of the G7 it will include the flat 9, sharp 9, third, flat five, sharp 5, 7 and the root! See the below for an example.

Gtr.

Gtr.

6 3 4 | 7 9 3 5 7 R 9

Here are three ii V I lines in C major utilizing the Ab jazz melodic minor over the V7 (G7) chord.

Gtr.

Gtr.

4 5 3 2 1 4 3 2 | 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 3 | 5 3 2 3 4 3 2

D-7 G7 C Maj7 D-7

Gtr.

Gtr.

1 3 5 4 1 4 2 1 | 5 | 7 8 7 5 8 9 6 8 6 8 9 | 5

G7 C Maj7 D-7 G7 C