

# Mark Boling's List of 10 Recommended Jazz Guitar Solos for Transcription

1. Grant Green "Cool Blues"
2. Wes Montgomery "Satin Doll"
3. George Benson "Billie's Bounce"
4. Pat Martino "Days of Wine and Roses"
5. Wes Montgomery "Unit Seven"
6. Wes Montgomery "Four on Six" (from Smokin' at the Half Note)
7. Wes Montgomery "Missile Blues"
8. George Benson "Mimosa"
9. Pat Metheny "KC Blues" (from YouTube)
10. Pat Metheny "Old Folks"

Disclaimer: I make no claim that these are the best jazz guitar solos ever. These are just some of the solos that I have learned and many of my students learned. There is plenty of useful "jazz language" you can pick up from any of these solos.

## Recommended Process for Transcription:

- Use Amazing Slow Downer or Transcribe! software to slow down and loop portions of the solos.
- Learn the melody and chord changes for each tune from the recording before learning the solo.
- You will get best results by learning to play the melody and solo with the recording from memory.
- If you want, write the solo out later for analysis, or just write out your favorite phrases from the solo to help assimilate and create variations.
- Make sure you are aware of where you are in the chord progression at all times when playing the solo.
- Make sure you are aware of where you are in the time when playing the solo. Tap your foot on 1 and 3 if you are in 4/4.
- After you can play the solo with the recording, emulating the sound, time feel, articulation, etc., play the solo with the metronome on 2 and 4 (for 4/4 time).
- Extract favorite phrases to learn in all keys. Be sure to maintain the fingering, articulation, and phrasing. Start with 1 or 2 bar ideas. At first, focus on II-V licks and turnarounds.
- Be aware of longer sections of the solo (4-8 bar phrases). Take note of instances of motivic development, sequences, changes in tessitura, antecedent-consequent phrasing, unique rhythmic phrases, etc.
- Create your own variations on these phrases. Make them fit different chord qualities.
- Write your own solo etude on a standard tune using ideas borrowed from transcribed solos.
- You can buy books that have whole albums worth of excellent transcriptions, but the ones you will remember are the ones you learned by listening to the recording over and over!
- Steve Khan has a great website with transcription recommendations and lots of solos he has transcribed. Check it out at <http://www.stevexhan.com/>,