

DJANGO AND ARPEGGIOS

You've seen so far how valuable the use of scales are in the the solo sound of Django and gypsy jazz. The next point of study is the way arpeggios played a dominate role in his playing. Arpeggios are basically chords played as single notes and Django was instinctive and an expert in using them. This style of playing certainly had its roots in the gypsy flamenco playing where chords were broken and rolled and individual notes used in improvisation.

If you're not familiar with arpeggios in your practise please take time to review these.

There are many different patterns for all the arpeggios that Django used but let's pick out some of the main ones for practise.

This first one uses a G major arpeggio pattern over a G major chord. It's important to play these in the swing style so listen to the MP3's and watch the videos.

The image shows musical notation for a G major arpeggio pattern. At the top left, a guitar chord diagram for G major is shown. To its right, a diagram labeled 'Gtr I' shows four eighth notes with upward stems, representing the arpeggio pattern. Below this, a treble clef staff in 4/4 time shows the melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), followed by a repeat sign. Below the treble staff, a bass clef staff labeled 'Gtr II' shows the bass line: G2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter), G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter), G2 (quarter), followed by a repeat sign. The bass line includes fret numbers 3, 7, 5, 5, 4, 7, 8.