

# How to improvise over Sus chords

## 1. Myxolydian mode

A7sus4

## 2. "m7" arpeggio from the 5<sup>th</sup>

Those arpeggios can also be played descending from the top note.

E-7/A = A9sus4

## 3. "Δ<sup>7</sup>" arpeggio from the b7<sup>th</sup> (hole step below the root)

Those arpeggios can also be played descending from the top note.

GΔ7/A = A13sus4

## 4. Mixing 2 Major triads : from the root + from the b7<sup>th</sup>

Ascending triads, and their 2 respective inversions. You can of course reverse the order, starting from the last G arpeggio.

2 The two same triads, descending. You can still reverse the order.

(A) (G) (A) (G) (A) (G)

TAB: 2 2 4 4 5 5 | 6 7 7 9 10 | 9 11 12 12 14

First triad ascending, the second descending... etc.

(G) (A) (G) (A) (G) (A)

TAB: 5 5 7 7 10 10 | 4 6 7 7 9 11 12 | 14 12 12 14 14 16

Once you are familiar with those triads, no further need to stop between each.

(G) (A) (G) (A) (G) (A) (E-7)

TAB: 5 5 4 6 7 7 10 9 | 12 9 11 12 14 12 14 | 14 11 14 10 14 12

You can also play the same stuff using 4 notes arpeggios.

(A) (G) (A) (G)

TAB: 12 11 14 12 12 9 10 7 | 7 6 9 7 4 5 5 4

## 5. "Blues pattern"

Major blues patterns will sound great over sus chords.

TAB: 7 7 7 5 6 | 7 (0) 5 6 7 3 4 5

- You can (you need to...) work those tips in all keys.

- Then practice over different chord changes.

You can go from any "sus" chord to any other one !  
 → Begin by switching between 2 chords, then 3, then 4... etc.  
 → You can also change the length of each chord.

## 6. Copy the "masters"

Copy the great musicians you listen to ! No one should chose them for you !  
 What do they play over sus chords ?

Maiden Voyage - Herbie Hancock (begining of George Coleman's solo)

D7sus  
8

D7sus

T  
A  
B

17-15 14-15 14-17 14-19-17 16-17 19-17 17-17 17-15 17-18

F7sus  
8

F7sus

T  
A  
B

15-18-17-15 15-15-17-15 15-15-15

D7sus  
8

D7sus

T  
A  
B

17-15 14-15 14-17 16-19-17 16-14-12 16-14-12 15-14-12 15-13

F7sus