

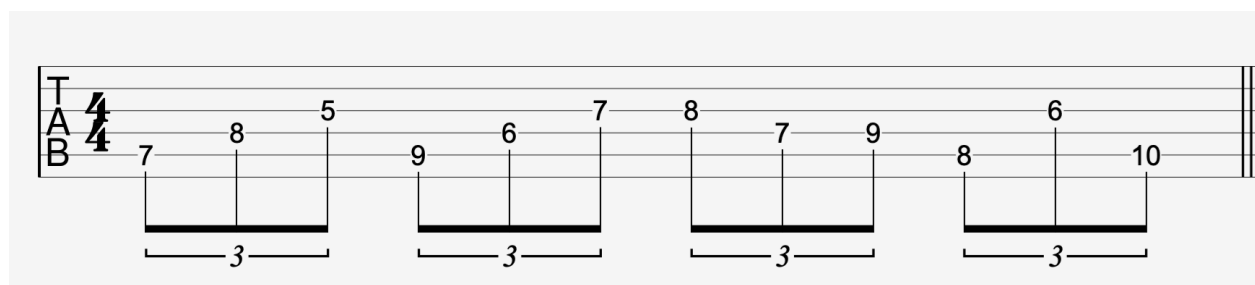
12-Tone Row

12-Tone Row = A compositional tool used in atonal music.

Atonal Music = Music with no tonal center. Each of the 12 tones of the chromatic scale is considered of equal value.

To create a true 12-tone row, arrange the 12 tones in any order you like, playing each note only once. Marty Friedman says “I just write the letter names of the notes in random sequence on a piece of paper and then play them in the order I wrote them.” Just as the order of notes is completely adjustable, so is the rhythmic phrasing. “These trippy sounding licks are effective as attention-getting devices amidst more standard licks. If you play something weird for just one measure, it’s gonna make everybody listen to everything else you’re playing, even if it’s mostly the same old stuff.”

Marty’s example is below. **Play at every position and try to work it into an improv.**



Now create your own 12-tone row, play it at every position, and try to work it into an improv.