

Octave Displacement for Guitarist

Tom Giacabetti

Octave displacement can be a very effective way to add another dimension to your playing. Due to the mechanical and visual nature of the fretboard, it is relatively easy to apply this technique on guitar

In the following exercise, limit yourself to a 4 fret area of the instrument. (which is the normal range of position)

When one or more notes can't be played as written use octave displacement to stay within a 4 fret area

(numbers represent fingerings, ○ numbers indicate strings)

Cmaj7 A7 Dm7 G7 Cmaj7

In the example above, if you start on the 1st string it is impossible to play this in a 4 fret position. One or more notes will be out of the 4 fret area.

Apply octave displacement using each finger on the 1st string.

① ② ③ ④ ① ② ③ ④ ① ② ③ ④ ① ② ③ ④

Continue exercise on every string and apply it to one of your favorite licks