

The AMAZING SLOW DOWNER

(Please note I will get to the point quickly but I need to set up the use first.)

My studio is in repair land for a few weeks so I decided to use the time as to practice guitar (for a change).

The first thing I did was to play jazz solos using the Jamey Aebersold Miles Davis Play-along for the rhythm section. Each track was recorded in two versions — a slow version and a fast version.

The concept of this part of the practicing session was to get away from my stock ideas and learn other melodic shapes.

Yea, I started with the slow version and as expected, easy to keep a flow playing jazz lines BUT I want to learn new shapes so when I played a melodic line I just went for but the scale used was close but could be better, I paused the CD and worked on the melodic line. After working out the line, I would play it at least 10 times until the playing sounded smooth and swung. I would then start the CD again and made sure to use the line within the solo many times as to get used to it further. While doing this, when I come up with another idea that could use tweaking, I use the same process.

After a while, I then play along with the fast tempo version. Ouch! The tempo is very fast and I quickly end up playing familiar licks since barely hanging in there just to keep up! Playing with the fast tempo is a good thing to do as to humble me up and set a goal BUT I need to practice the solos in many tempos.

If you are not familiar with the AMAZING SLOW DOWNER, this is the tool needed as to play along at most any tempo without changing the pitch! You can slightly speed up and slow down as slow as you like! Such a great tool!

I import the audio into the AMAZING SLOW DOWNER and set the tempo (speed) to taste as to jam with the track. I might use the fast version and slow it down to a mid tempo and after getting comfortable with that tempo, I set the speed slightly faster.

Another use for the AMAZING SLOW DOWNER

Another part of my few weeks of practice is to learn solo ideas. Joe Pass was an incredible Beboper and I decided to borrow some of his ideas. The song I worked on tonight is “Oleo”. A very fast tempo and Joe played his ass off as usual! I once wrote out the solo before I started using the AMAZING SLOW DOWNER. (If I had the AMAZING SLOW DOWNER when writing out the solo, I would have saved many hours slowing down the tempo!)

So I could never play along with Joe’s solo in full as the original tempo was to fast. Yea, the AMAZING SLOW DOWNER has been in play for a few days as to slow the speed down while playing along. I work out the fingering of the licks as needed and then start from the “Mark Point” as to play the lick along with the track. Such a great tool!!!

So much more on the practicing thing for another time but the reason for the above info is simply this — the AMAZING SLOW DOWNER is a needed tool for any musician that wants to do research as to discover notes played or slow down/speed up a track to jam with. Further, you can change the pitch if you like and there is an EQ mode that helps when needing to boost or roll back frequencies as per application!

Jay Graydon.

<http://www.ronimusic.com/>

