

Techniques for Improving Soloing

Rhythm comes first

Articulation supports rhythm

Don't be afraid to leave space

Don't look down at keys

Limit range (to about an octave or slightly more)

Alternate hands (alternate comping and melody)

Keep the left hand quieter than the right hand

Play short phrases of two or three measures with breaks between

Use finger legato (connect notes to create phrases)

Use dynamics to support your phrases

Play softly (to help avoid speeding up)

Play slightly behind the beat

Use an appropriate blues scale (to keep focus on rhythm)

Develop and learn "plug-in" lines for difficult passages or quick chord changes

Use lines from transcriptions transposed into the correct key

If you are part of an ensemble, listen to what is going on around you and how you relate to the music as a whole