

\$5 Fiddle Workshops

Playing Fiddle in a Band

Rhythmic accompaniment

1. Learn the chords
2. Start with simple chops
3. Add rhythmic variations
4. Add accents to give a syncopated feeling

Licks

1. What are the chords?
2. Think scales and arpeggios that fit
3. What is the melody?
4. Echo the lead
5. Find or make up a theme that you can repeat

Solos

1. Start with the melody.
2. Add variations - rhythms, passing notes, neighboring notes
3. Play around the chords
4. Harmonize yourself with simplified chord melody
5. It's ok to play simple
6. Play it like you mean it,
7. but don't kill it.

Harmonies

1. The simplest harmony is a third above the lead (tenor harmony)
2. Use the root of the chord as your base
3. You must know the melody and chords first before you can play a harmony

Tips

1. Listen for space
2. Don't take all of the space
3. Don't step on the singer
4. Play with feeling
5. Don't be afraid to just go for it.