

Here are some of the greatest guitar solos of all time! Really I should have added more to the list, but I only allowed one solo per band. Heavy metal fans will know Randy Rhoads has written tons of killer solos, but he's not going to hog everything, here. (R.I.P.) Let's go...

#### 12th Powerslave (Iron Maiden)

A very nice solo, coming from a band that goes E5, C5, D5 and E5 again and again so much, it's almost unbelievable. But if it makes them happy, fine. Interestingly it makes a lot of other people happy, but not so much music teachers. I'm certain they'd be like 'Are these guys serious?' It seems they are, as I've never heard an Iron Maiden joke. (They probably have joked, but I haven't heard them. Or remembered them. Or whatever). I've heard anecdotes of them playing naked, (and playing naked seriously and with straight faces, if you can imagine such a thing), but no jokes. (I think. No, actually I have heard them goof around! :D) Anyway, if they like the progression so much, why don't they marry it? I'm serious, these guys would never cheat with another chord sequence. I say go for it. Anyway, the solo: Nice and bluesy, and melodic, too. How strange. (I will try harder with my writing from now on).

#### 11th Rock Bottom (UFO)

Annoyingly, Rock Bottom isn't at the bottom. It very nearly was, then I thought 'No. The Maiden solo is pretty good. Let's be fair and include it on this list'. Stupid fairness. I was thinking of putting Led Zeppelin's 'Whole Lotta Love' on the list too, but I didn't want Rock Bottom to be even higher. No one will ruin my play on words. >:( Then again, the Zep solo's short anyway, so screw it. Would you believe, just as the solo in this song came around so I could analyse it with my trademark expert ears, a plane flew over, ruining the thing! That kind of stuff happened enough before lockdown, but now?? With no one even daring entering the country? It makes you wonder if there's some mysterious individual who's trying to annoy me. In fact, that's what I've been thinking for a very long time. Nice solo, though.

#### 10th Bark at the Moon (Ozzy Osbourne)

A bit of shredding at the end of the solo, here. Interestingly, the song was released in October 1983, just a month after the very shreddy Alcatraz debut album was released and two months after the even more shreddy Steeler LP was released. Ozzy guitarist Jake E. Lee nearly powned both albums! HOWEVER, band UFO had some shredding in the 1975 song 'Mother Mary'. Cool! You don't care do you? I do, this is history, it's very important. Not as important as the stuff that gets taught in schools, I'm presuming, but no one listens to anything there anyway, they just throw crap all the time. I believe I once saw a teacher join in. Well it wouldn't surprise me. (P.S., nice solo).

#### 9th Painkiller (Judas Priest)

A bit scrappy, sure, but certainly epic. Epic enough to take attention away from the lyrics that were a little dumb. They go 'He is the painkiller. This is the painkiller. Planets devastated, mankind on its knees. A saviour comes from out the skies, in answer to their pleas.' The band DO know painkillers treat headaches and such,

right? What's all this wacky planet destroying nonsense all about? It continues 'Through boiling clouds of thunder, blasting bolts of steel, evil's going under deadly wheels.' What?? Personally I just ignore the words.

#### 8th Black Star (Yngwie Malmsteen)

A melodic solo from Yng??? I'm just as surprised as you are. Well it's not that melodic. It's pretty melodic, to be fair, though. Weird, huh? It's not making sense! And how can a star be black? The first fact was bad enough, but the second (apparent) one hit me like a ton of bricks. I need to lie down. At least the guitarist spelt the song title the right way, though, with perfect English. That's helped me find a grip on reality. Good man. He didn't have to do that, he's from Sweden. I certainly don't know the Swedish for 'Black Star'. Blav Stav?? Let's check online translator: 'Svart Stjarna'. Whoops, I was miles away. I got the 'v' right, though.

#### 7th Tornado of Souls (Megadeth)

Megadeth?? Don't you mean 'Megadeath??' Back to bed I go. Ok, after my short break, let's talk about this killer solo! Well, it kills doesn't it? Does it kill a million times like a megadeth (sic) would? Well, it's certainly been listened to more than a million times, so I guess it does! However, it's arguably NOT a million times better than a killer solo, as that would be unbelievable. Let's have another lie down.

#### 6th Under a Glass Moon (Dream Theater - sic)

Those with a keen ear will spot the note groupings of eleven, in places. (Or those who simply looked at the transcribed guitar parts on Youtube). Eleven?? That's crazy. Doesn't sound crazy though; because it's so speedy it just sounds like an everyday blur. A very musical and impressive blur, though. Just that little bit faster than quintuplets, if you want to get technical, like I do. Most of the solo is pretty melodic, however. Far more melodic than the leads in 'Stream of Consciousness', that track is even more 'intense' than some of Yng's stuff. And by intense, I mean rubbish. But sometimes I like rubbish, like I like rubbish food. Take that as a compliment! (But please don't 'compliment' me like that. Thank youuu).

#### 5th Enter Sandman (Metallica)

The best wah wah solo of all time, and one of the best metal riffs of all time? If you don't like this song, the genre is not for you. There's no shame in liking The Spice Girls, some of their music is very catchy. But I do NOT like The Spice Girls, and if you say I do, I will find you. Then I'll say upset I am, and demand an apology. If I don't get one, I'll start hyperventilating, then film myself and post the video on Youtube. And no, it won't make me look like a nutter, it will make you look like an asshole.

#### 4th Crazy Train (Ozzy Osbourne)

Ok, this is the 2nd Ozzy solo on the list, but it's by a different guitarist with a very different style, so that's ok. I think. Oh no, I'm arguing with myself. Something I always feared. No, I'm fine. Anyway, excellent tapping, here. Really first rate. Here

are some other classic Randy Rhoads solos: 'Goodbye to Romance', 'Revelation Mother Earth', 'Mr. Crowley'. Is that enough for you? And when I say classic, I really mean 'flippin' amazing'. But what could be better than flippin' amazing?

### 3rd Beat It (Eddie Van Halen)

I'll tell you: More tapping from the inventor of tapping! The tapping master. Ok, to be fair, some other jazz guitarist guy tapped before him, but he's not so well known. So really Eddie invented tapping. And he collaborated with Michael Jackson for free! Do you know what I would have said if someone wanted me to work for free? 'Beat it!' Teehee! :)

### 2nd Dry County (Main Solo) (Bon Jovi)

This one might surprise a few people as it's not massively famous, but it is totally super duper. I first heard it when I was 11, and all these years later, it still kicks bum. The same can't be said for the guitar riff of the song of the same album 'If I was Your Mother'. I thought that was amazing at first, now I think it's a boring power chord idea. And the title?? No I don't want you to be my mother. That was a VERY creepy thing to say, especially when it comes from a MAN. Please leave me alone or I'll call the police.

### 1st Crushing Day (2nd Solo) (Joe Satriani)

A solo so difficult to play, Mr. Satriani has to play it sitting down, live. Personally I don't really understand the difference that makes. I think the guy's just holding his guitar wrong. I prefer playing sitting down, but only really because it's comfier. Maybe Joe just likes being comfy, he never said. If that helps him, he could try playing in bed. If he does so when performing 'Flying in a Blue Dream', you could call it next level performance art. The act would need a bit of explaining, but you can't deny it makes sense.

Ok, that was twelve solos for you! Maybe I should have done eleven for the rock bottom play on words, but I think I did the right thing in the end. Here are some honourable mentions, I basically forgot about: 'Waiting for an Alibi' by Thin Lizzy; 'Achilles Last Stand' by Led Zeppelin (ah, I knew I should have included some Zep); and something by Pink Floyd. That's it, I think. Byeeeeeeeee.