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Blues Rhythm

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The Grooves

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 5** << PREVIOUS

Lesson notes Interactive tab Diagrams

Minor Blues

Our final groove is the less commonly taught, but incredibly powerful, minor blues! Think “Tin Pan Alley” or “Thrill Is Gone” to give you a rough idea of the vibe. It’s a different theory set to the normal slow blues, so we’ll break it all down in this lesson.

The Tab

UNIT 1

The Grooves

0% ^

When it comes to blues, we all love the idea of ripping into a face melting, 36 bar solo, taking the audience on a journey through time and space

Lessons:

- The Shuffle
- Texas Shuffle
- Slow Blues
- Moving Riff Blues
- Minor Blues

Standard tuning
♩ = 65

The Basic Progression

The tab has all the specific parts (the flicks and fancies), but at the core of this progression is once again a super simple blues 12 bar, only this time we're using minor chords instead of dominant chords. We're in the key of B minor to keep testing you in different keys up and down the neck!

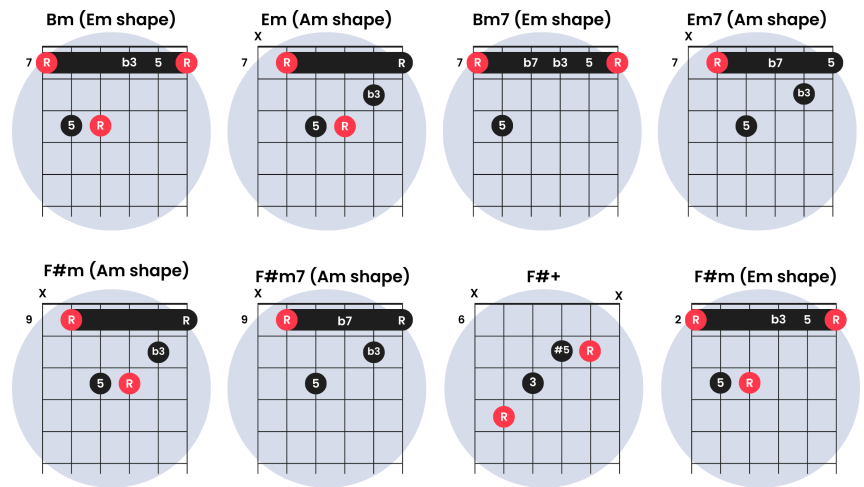
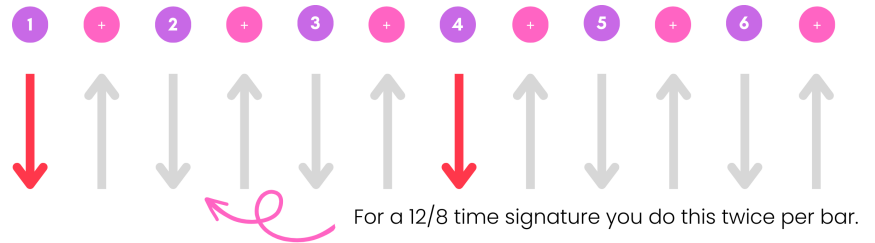
Remember also that one bar is 12 8th notes, as this is in 12/8 time signature (see rhythm pattern below).

| Bm7 | Em | Bm7 | Bm7 |
 | Em | Em | Bm7 | Bm7 |
 | F#m | Em | Bm7 Em | Bm7 F#aug | (x4)



all the minor chords can be changed to minor 7th, minor 9th or any minor extension you would like to try!

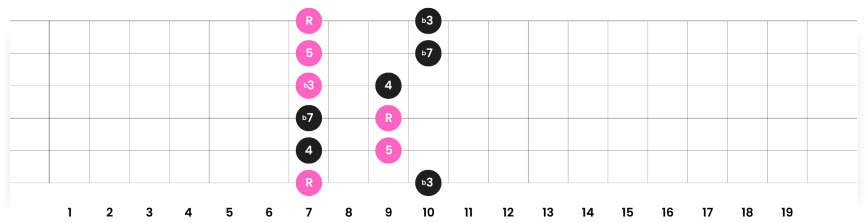
As for that groove, it's all about the 1 and the 4 in a 12/8 or 6/8 timing, like this:



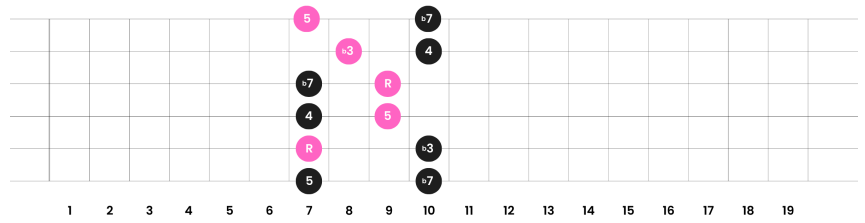
The Fun Stuff

With the core principles out of the way, we can dive into the fun stuff! There are a world of licks and flicks and fills in this track to dive into, and we'll study one at a time in the video. In terms of the ideas we are using for these fills, it's all based around the B minor diatonic and pentatonic scales, or the scale that relates to the chords specifically. Here is the way I see it in diagrams:

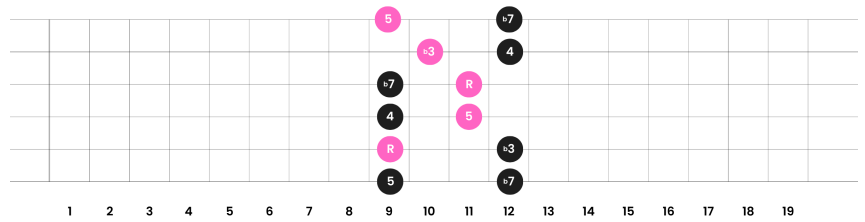
B Minor Pentatonic & B Minor Chord



E Minor Pentatonic & E Minor Chord



F# Minor Pentatonic & F# Minor Chord



“

There we have it! You have now learnt (or are in the process of learning) all 5 grooves! Your work isn't finished here though, this is just the start. Take these ideas, and try to match them up to your favourite blues tracks. Stay in touch, and best of luck.

DAN HOLTON

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guitar club

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