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Electric Blues Essentials

LEVEL 3 • Guitar Skills



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Modern Blues

UNIT 2 • LESSON 3 << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab Diagrams

The Solo

Next up it's time to tackle the solo that we are playing over the top of this cool modern blues track. We will be using some really cool concepts within this track, including highlighting the m7b5 arpeggios and even bringing in elements of the Mixolydian mode. Let's break it down lick by lick, using the tab as a reference as we go through the track.

grounding...

The solo is based around the key of Bb blues, and we are using a combination of three key ideas: The major and minor pentatonic crossover, the m7b5 arpeggios and the Mixolydian scale. Lick 1, 2 and 3 really beautifully demonstrate how we blend the three ideas, so let's be sure to reference these scale shapes as we work through those first three licks!

!!THEORY ALERT!!

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Funky Blues

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UNIT 2

Modern Blues

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In unit 2, we dial back the aggression and focus on a modern style blues, using the most modern fingerstyle techniques, with a cool new set of chords and arpeggios called the minor 7 flat 5's!

Lessons:

- M7b5 Chord
- Groove and Chords
- The Solo
- Minor 7 Flat 5
- Solo Complete!

UNIT 3

8 Bar Blues

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UNIT 4

Soul Blues

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For those of you who have never studied or come across the Mixolydian scale, it's pretty cool. First up, we will have a full Mixolydian course studying this mode in detail, so check that out for a deep understanding. For now, though, the Mixolydian mode is essentially a major scale with a flattened 7th, like this:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, b7, 8

Flat 7 is the key difference between Mixolydian and major scale (Ionian)

This modal scale is therefore a perfect fit over your dominant 7th chord as we use a 1, 3, 5 and b7 in our dominant chords, which fit perfectly into this scale. The theory can be as simple as that, so let's see what we can do with it!

More Scales

As well as the Mixolydian, we'll be using the minor and major pentatonic scale shapes and the m7b5 arpeggios, which are shown in the fretboard diagrams.

We highly recommend taking the time to learn the m7b5 and Mixolydian shapes, as these can be so useful in your improvisation! We'll talk in more depth about them in the next lesson!



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