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Rock Essentials

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills



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Riffing

UNIT 2 • **LESSON 1** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab Diagrams

The Core Riff

Before we kick off, notice that we are using a few tab navigation features, like "Da Coda". The tab can be found in the **Guitar Tabs** section, so keep an eye out for these popping up in the tab which are explained below:

Dal Segno and Da Coda

These two navigation instructions are made up of a written direction and a symbolic marker.



Segno is Italian for 'Sign' and it's a marker on a piece of music. It's paired up with the direction Dal Segno and is literally telling you to go back to the sign and play from there. So, the first time you see the symbol you can ignore it – it comes into play after you see Dal Segno.



Coda is Italian for 'tail' and it's a passage that brings a piece of music to an end. It's paired up with the direction Da Coda means skip straight to the Coda symbol and play from there. The first time you play through a piece you can ignore the Da Coda, and play to the Dal Segno. Then, on the second playthrough you can follow the Da Coda direction!

The Core Riff

Let's start by working out the key of the riff, and the basic scale shapes we are using for the core of the riff. The core of the riff is this section:

Course navigation

UNIT 1

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For this unit, we will leave the world of lead guitar and pull our attention to the world of rock rhythm guitar! The great thing about rock rhythm is that we are always on the edge of breaking into lead guitar.

Lessons:

- The Core Riff
- Downstrokes
- E7#9
- B Section
- All Together

UNIT 3

Rock Technique Builder

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UNIT 4

Slow Jam

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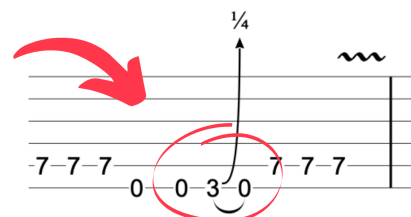
We would call this part of the riff "the main theme", or "core"! It acts as the root of the piece, and is therefore something we come back to over and over!

The riff is very much in the key of E minor, and therefore we are using the E minor pentatonic shapes to put this together. **We are working in the lower register** as it's a riff, rather than a lead part. This is a great opportunity to make sure you know your pentatonic scales on the lower strings too! Check out the shapes in the **Fretboard diagrams** to see which ones we are using here!

Micro Bends...

The final thing to look out for as we work through this first section is the micro bending. Notice that there is a 1/4 tone bend on every 3rd fret E string note (G note). This is an absolute MUST in rock and blues music! You slightly take the note out of tune but never reach the next note along (G#). It adds to the character and feel of the track!

Look out for those subtle bends on the 3rd fret. These micro tonal bends will normally say "1/4" bend.



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