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Improvisation

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills

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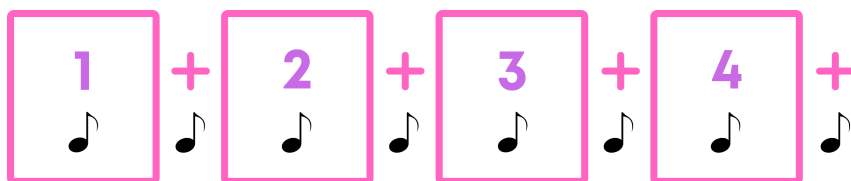
Single Note Rhythms

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 3** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab

Introducing 8th Notes

Next up we're working with 8th notes, and adding them to what we have already. The first thing to establish is the way we count the 8th notes. It looks like this:



So we now want to say "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and" to fit all eight 8th notes into the bar.

I'm sure you're familiar with this way of counting, especially from your rhythm guitar work, but now we're doing it with our lead guitar playing. 8th notes provide even more momentum to your lead playing, as it's the fastest grouping of notes up to this point.

Straight vs Swing

This particular track is a swung beat, and therefore our 8th notes will sound a little different. The idea of a "swung feel" is generally associated with more organic, acoustic style music. For example, folk is

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Single Note

0%



Rhythms

To ensure that we build upon strong foundations with our improvisation, we need to really start at the beginning.

Lessons:

- Notes On The Neck
- Whole, Half & 1/4 Notes!
- Introducing 8th Notes
- Introducing Syncopation
- Brain Melting 16ths

UNIT 2

Developing Intervals

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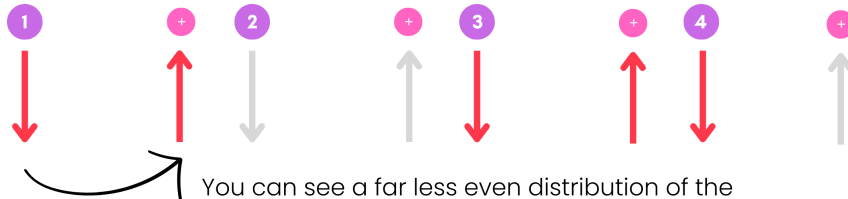


often swung, as is jazz, blues, funk and many more. However, a swung style can pop up anywhere, so we need to be able to hear it, and then achieve that result on the guitar.



"Swung or straight is a bit of an oversimplification, as you can have many degrees of swung, from extreme to subtle. However, learning the extremes is a great place to start this particular journey."

In terms of creating that swung vibe, the way we like to teach it is with the long downstroke. If you're doing 8th note strumming, as we are, we extend the downstroke and shorten the upstroke. Visually, it looks like this...



You can see a far less even distribution of the arrows now, representing the held downstroke and quickened up stroke. It's important to note that the beats haven't moved.

Example Grooves

Thomas uses a few base examples in this lesson, which we will write out for you here to ensure you are able to practice those and get even more creative when you do it for yourself!

example **one**



example **two**



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