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Rock Essentials

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Riffing

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

Lesson notes Interactive tab Diagrams

Downstrokes

The next part of the challenge is to learn how to use aggressive downstrokes when riffing. This is a massive challenge for most players, which is why we'll be devoting most of this lesson to it. Here is the section highlighted:



P.M. is short for "Palm Muting", which is the technique that goes hand in hand with the downstroke riffing vibe!



"We're looking for a balance between a relaxed wrist and aggressive feel. Let the amp do a lot of the work here!"

CLAIRE GENOUD

So, let's break this rhythm down into a 16th note strumming pattern. Note that you are actually

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Revolving Rock

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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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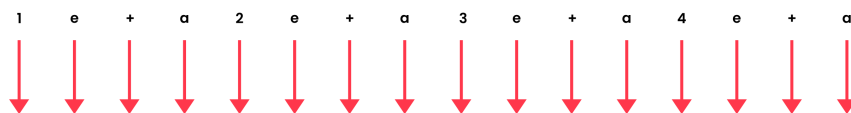
UNIT 4

Slow Jam

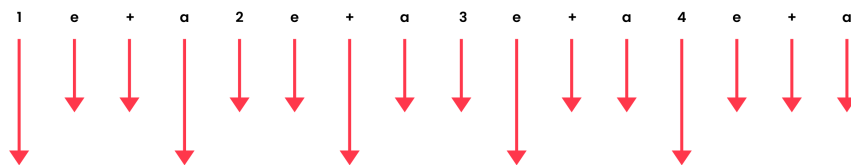
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doubling the speed on your right-hand movement, as rather than doing "down-up", you're doing "down down" in the same space of time. To do "down down" you have to come up in between, making the speed feel much harder.



Normally you'd see down up arrows here, but not with this style of strumming. So, we are doing all downstrokes in 16th notes for the whole bar, as shown above. The other thing to consider is accenting.



The longer arrows are the accents. We hit these bits harder than the rest, and in this track, we literally play more strings on the accents. You will see from the tab, the accented notes are the two strings, and normal notes just one string.

The Chords

The chords themselves are relatively simple and are drawn out in the **Chord Boxes** section. This is a classic rock move that you will see everywhere and is essentially going from a D to A! Your main focus, however, is that rhythm groove!



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