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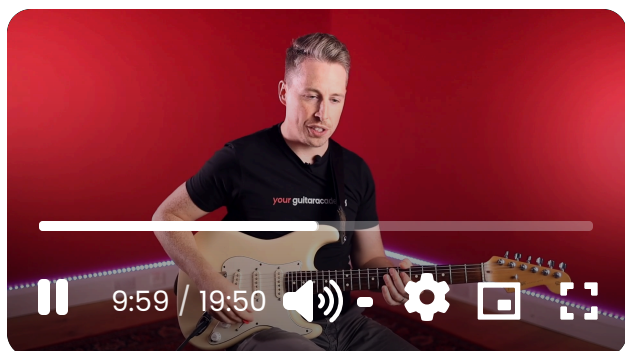
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Funk Essentials

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills



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16th Note Gym

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 1** NEXT >>

Lesson notes

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The Basics

Let's lay down the ground rules before we get too deep! The focus of this lesson is to be able to count in 16th notes, and match that count up to your right-hand movement.

*"The right hand should never stop moving... **it is your metronome and groove machine!**"*

To work through this part we will use the E9 chord. We would fully expect you to know this chord in detail when taking the funk course, and if you don't we recommend you tackle the Blues Essentials Level 2 course where we do cover it in detail. However, as a recap, **this is one of the most common chords in funk**, and a lot of the same rules that are present in blues apply to funk music, especially the idea of using dominant chords. We'll get more into that later in the course, but for now, here is the E9 chord we'll be using.

Course navigation

UNIT 1

16th Note Gym

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In unit 1, our focus is to get your right and left-hand synced up and hyper funky! It's important to build it up gradually, mastering each element at a time. So, we kick off with the focus on the 16th note strumming.

Lessons:

- The Basics
- Adding Stops
- Ghost Notes
- Full Funky - Part 1
- Full Funky - Part 2

UNIT 2

Going Down Town

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UNIT 3

Minor 7th Mastery

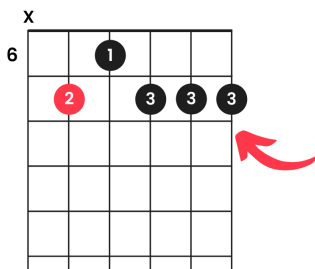
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UNIT 4

Disco Funky Town

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E9



a bit of theory...

The dominant 9th chord is made up of a **root, 3rd, 5th, b7th and 9th** (which is the 2nd degree up an octave). As funk music is deeply rooted in blues, **you will definitely see a lot of blues chords**, especially dominant 9th chords. This is a great place to start!

The Exercises

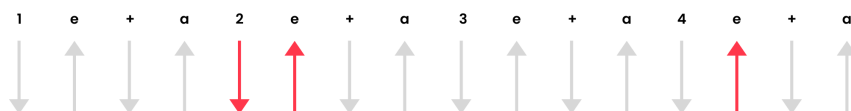
Let's get down to it then! Here are the three exercises we will be practising in this lesson, in order to start to understand how to read and work with 16th note strumming patterns. We have provided the tab and rhythm patterns, but our main focus is the rhythm pattern as we need to learn to read them clearly!

Exercise One



Make sure you are counting "one e and a two e and a three e and a four e and a" as you play through the above part. Keep it slow and make sure that the count matches up with the rhythm pattern.

Exercise Two



Exercise Three



Practice each of these exercises separately, making sure you can count through them. There is no rush at all to get it up to 80BPM at this point; that is just the target speed in the long run. **For now, starting around 50BPM is a better idea!** 🙌😊



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