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# Blues Licks

Challenges



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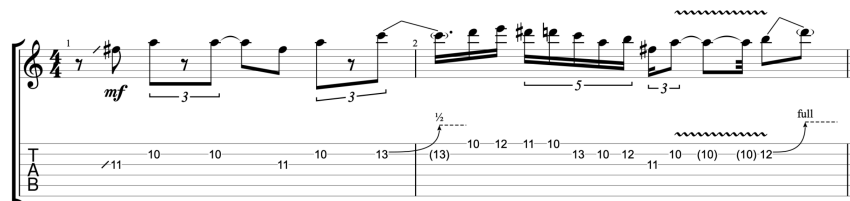
## The Blues Licks Challenge

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

Lesson notes Interactive tab Diagrams

### Lick Three

For our third lick we initially root into a much more major, very bouncy sound. However, it's not long before we shred a little bit of minor pentatonic, finishing back in the major. You might hear players like **Freddie King** or **Buddy Guy** play licks like this... Which can't be a bad thing! Let's get into it.



So we are in the key of A blues, and are using the box 3 shape as A minor Pentatonic, and the box 4 shape as A Major Pentatonic.

## UNIT 1

## The Blues Licks

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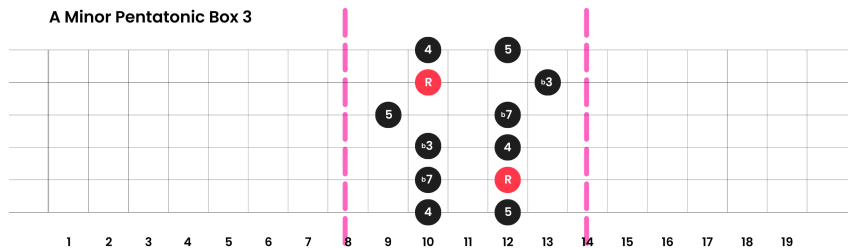
## Challenge

Our aim in this challenge is to guide you through the process of taking a single blues lick, and making it work over a variety of backing tracks, in any key.

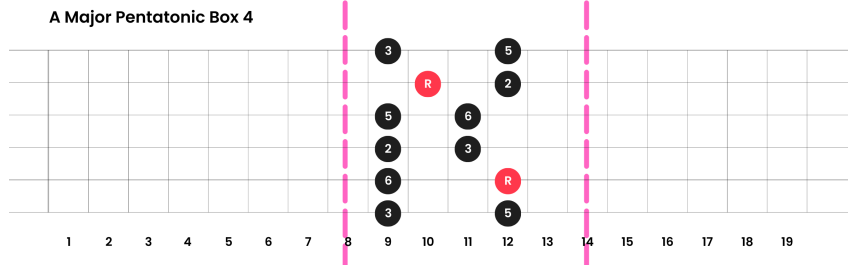
Lessons:

- Lick One
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- Lick Three
- Lick Four
- Lick Five

A Minor Pentatonic Box 3



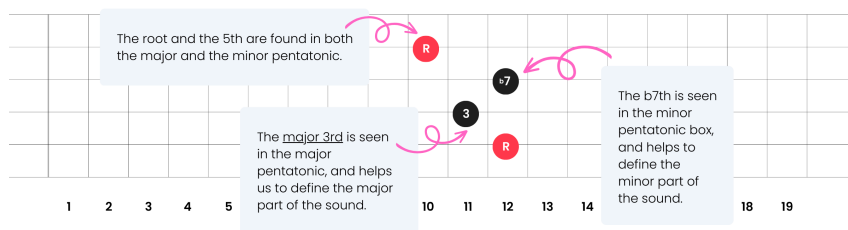
A Major Pentatonic Box 4



## Matching to a chord

The next piece of the puzzle is to match this lick to a chord, so that we can easily identify it in any key. With this particular lick, using Box 3 in minor and 4 in major, we would use our C shape CAGED chord.

A7 Chord (C Shape)



## The other jams...

Finally, let's take this lick and try and make it work over our other jam tracks. Remember, that the process for this is nice and simple...

1

### Identify the key and play your C shape chord.

Just take a moment to play the chord over the track, and get a feel for the general groove. Is it 6/8, 4/4, upbeat, has it got a swing?

2

### Identify the scale boxes with the chords.

Use your new knowledge to find the Major Pentatonic and the Minor Pentatonic boxes. This will be our grounding for the licks.

3

### Try to play the lick with the track.

Now it's time to jump in and try to play the lick. Do your best to get it in some kind of time with the new jam track.

Not quite done? Check the toolbox for more practice options.  
Don't forget that you should also apply the principles from the How To Learn Licks course to ensure that the lick is getting learnt properly!



“

And that's our third lick! Please take your time with each of these licks. Don't jump into the next one until you've spent at least 3-4 weeks on this one. Do the work with it, let it sink into your day to day playing, and make sure you've tried to play it over as many blues jams as you can!

DAN HOLTON

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# guitar club

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