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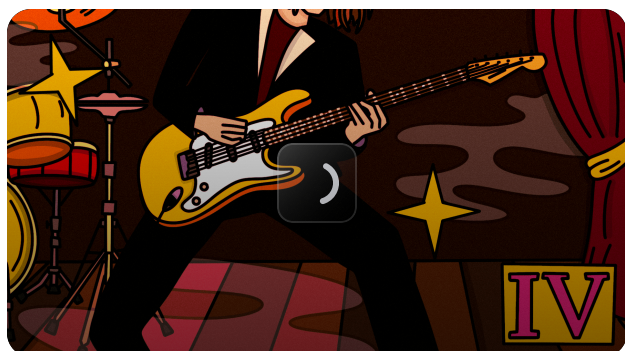
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# Lead Guitar

**LEVEL 4** • Guitar Skills



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## Mastering The Riff Part 1

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 1** NEXT >>

### What Makes A Riff?

A riff is a repetitive musical phrase. This is the simple definition but the best way to really understand what a riff is is to listen to, analyse and learn some riffs! We will be looking at rock, blues, funk and indie riffs to show you the difference between them. Here are some classic riffs and what defines them in each genre:

#### Rock Riff: Whole Lotta Love

This Led Zeppelin riff is one of the most instantly recognisable riffs ever... and it's so simple! As you can hear, it mainly consists of just two chords, a few pentatonic notes and a great rhythm! The use of palm muting and dynamics really brings the riff to life.

#### Blues Riff: Mannish Boy

This Muddy Waters riff is simple but incredibly powerful. The riff is made up of just 3 or 4 notes but is brought to life with the rhythm! Combine that with the amazing vocals of Muddy Waters, a solid drum beat and the occasional guitar fill and you have a truly classic track!

## UNIT 1

## Mastering The Riff Part 1

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Being able to play riffs is equally as challenging as soloing as your consistency and rhythm have to be perfect! We will be looking over typical rock and blues riff inspired by Muse and Howlin' Wolf, so have fun!

Lessons:

- What Makes A Riff?
- Rock Riff Part 1
- Rock Riff Part 2
- Rock Riff Part 3
- Blues Riff Part 1
- Blues Riff Part 2
- Blues Riff Part 3

## UNIT 2

## Mastering The Riff Part 2

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## UNIT 3

## Techniques For Building Speed

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## Funk Riff: Le Freak

Nile Rogers is the master of funk guitar riffs, and this particular song is probably the most famous of them all! Le Freak utilises the scale notes underneath a basic A minor chord and is played by strumming the notes rather than just picking. The strummed element adds to the groove and gives the song its character and sound.

## Indie Riff: The Sun Goes Down

Like this awesome Arctic Monkeys tune, a lot of indie riffs are written with a combination of chords and lead parts. As is often the case with indie, the attitude is as important as the technique! This riff oozes indie rhythm as it is straight, aggressive and edgy!



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