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# Electric Guitar

LEVEL 5 • Guitar Skills



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## Rock & Roll

UNIT 1 • LESSON 2 << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Diagrams

### The 12 Bar Blues

A 12 bar blues is a standard structure that a huge number of blues songs adhere to. This structure can vary a little but generally stays the same. For rock & roll, we take a 12 bar blues structure and speed it up to add a sense of urgency. Take a look at the fretboard diagrams for the main elements in understanding a rock & roll structure

### The Chords To Use

Use the 1st, 4th and 5th chords of any key. We won't cover the theory behind this right now, all we need to do is work it out practically. Whatever the key (see the fretboard diagrams for an example in the key of A), you find the desired root note on the E string. This gives you the first chord. So, for example, we could make an A powerchord to start. Then, the 4th chord is always the note on the same fret on the A string. The 5th chord is then two frets up from the 4th. So, in the key of A, our three chords of the blues are A, D and E. This can be powerchords, major chords, minor chords or dominant chords.

## Course navigation

### UNIT 1

#### Rock & Roll

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In this course we will teach you the classic rock & roll shuffle, the quintessential sound of the 1950s! You'll also learn to play a 12 bar blues and finally go through an awesome Chuck Berry-style tune!

Lessons:

- The Shuffle
- 12 Bar Blues
- "Johnny Be Bad"
- "Johnny Be Bad" Part 1
- "Johnny Be Bad" Part 2

### UNIT 2

#### Hendrix Style Chords Part 1

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### UNIT 3

#### Hendrix Style Chords Part 2

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### UNIT 4

#### Hendrix Style Chords Part 3

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## The Order Of Chord Changes

The 12 bar is so-called because it has twelve bars, as you may have guessed! These 12 bars repeat over and over again. The basic order for rock & roll is shown below; try to get this sequence learnt. Notice also that we use Roman numerals in place of numbers. This means that 'I' is one, 'IV' is four and 'V' is five.

I | IV | I | V | IV | I |

...Which translates to (Using the key of Bb blues)

Bb | Eb | Bb | F | Eb | Bb |



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