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# Eric Clapton

Player Studies

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## Clapton's 12 Bars

UNIT 3 • **LESSON 13** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

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### The Riff

Let's now tackle the riff section of the track. This is used anytime we play over the A7 (I chord) in the track, and uses the minor pentatonic very heavily. We start with a cool little back and forth on the A7 chord, using the minor and major 3rd crossover (We will establish this more in the coming units), followed by a cool riff using the A minor pentatonic. Here is that riff:



It's very much the same lick played the same in each bar, so you only really need look at bar 1!



“ Clapton loves to use the minor

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### UNIT 3

#### Clapton's 12 Bars

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In this section we take a break from the lead to look at a classic 12 bar style rhythm, up beat and hard! We look at the 12 bar structure, especially with quick blues tracks and build it up from the basic shuffle.

Lessons:

- The 12 Bar
- The Riff
- The IV Chord
- The Final Parts!
- Variations

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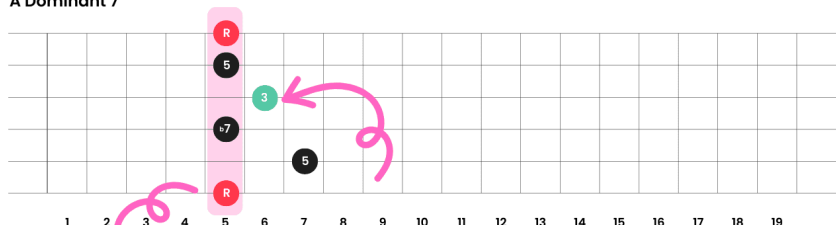
#### Crossing

pentatonic  
over  
Dominant  
7 chords,  
especially  
in Cream!  
That's the  
main  
element of  
our riff in  
this track!

Dan

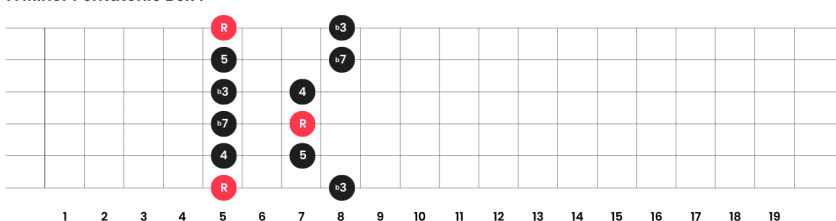


A Dominant 7



The major 3<sup>rd</sup> is the only note that "clashes" with the minor pentatonic notes... But more on that in the next unit.

A Minor Pentatonic Box 1



So, your first task is to master and loop this riff. The rhythm of it is absolutely crucial, so get it on loop with a drum beat and have some fun!



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