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Rock Essentials

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills



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Revolving Rock

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 1** NEXT >>

Lesson notes

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Diagrams

B "Rock"

Let's start by laying down the groundwork for this track, by establishing the chords, scales and the key of the solo. This is a great introduction to rock playing as we are instantly confronted with a slightly awkward key signature. To explain this, let's take a look at the chords...

| Bm D5 E | C5 A5 |

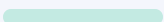
You have a few options if you're wondering how to play these chords, but Claire played them using the following shapes which can be found in the **Chord Boxes** section. These are common ways you'd play these in rock.

So when we now look at this chord chart, we need to establish a key. Well, it's of course rooted around the B minor, so the B minor key seems the obvious one. However, the E major stands out as notably not within that key. The rest of the chords fit very neatly, so we're faced with a very typical rock situation. The

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Revolving Rock

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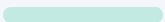
We're jumping straight in this first unit, head first, with your first solo. The solo has a Slash vibe and is all about taking your pentatonic shapes, adding a few extra notes, and working on the feel and energy behind rock playing.

Lessons:

- B "Rock"
- First 4 Bars
- Bars 5 to 8
- Bars 9 to 12
- Bars 13 to 16

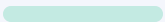
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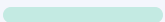
UNIT 3

Rock Technique Builder

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UNIT 4

Slow Jam

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progression doesn't fit perfectly into a single key, much like when we play blues.

powerchord options...

Powerchords use only the first and 5th notes and therefore do not have a clear major or minor pull (without the major or minor 3rd). So we have a lot more wiggle room when it comes to assigning a key. We simply think about minor pentatonic scales when we see so many powerchords in a rock track. The pentatonic gives us wiggle room as they only have 5 notes from the full 7, and the powerchords give us wiggle room, as they have only 2 notes from the 7. **Therefore, with plenty of wiggle room to go around, we can say this is in the key of B "Rock".**



"I always start with the minor pentatonic, then add colour notes here and there. The core is always pentatonic."

CLAIRE GENOUD

As we walk through each lick, we will talk about those colour notes in detail, so you also know how and when to add them. For now though, let's make sure you know all 5 B minor pentatonic shapes. They can be found in the **Fretboard Diagrams**



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