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Electric Blues Essentials

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills

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Keys & Turnarounds

UNIT 4 • **LESSON 1** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Turnarounds

The turnaround is most notorious in the blues but also features in plenty of other genres, most notably jazz music. However, the blues turnaround is quite unique, in that there is a clear sound that we tend to look for and identify as a blues turnaround. This sound is based on the idea that you chromatically walk down from the root chord and then resolve to the root chord, before moving to the fifth chord of the key. So first up, let's identify where the turnaround is in the 12 bar:



This section is our turnaround section, and most of it takes place on the root chord!

It's also important to note that the notes that descend chromatically are the notes from the 7th

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Keys & Turnarounds

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In unit 4 we will be tackling the infamous “turnaround” as well as bringing together all your knowledge so far to be comfortable in any key. We also take a look at the “quick change” blues.

Lessons:

- Turnarounds
- Quick Change In B
- Quick Change In E
- Blues Scale Airports
- Mixed Scale Airports

UNIT 5

"Motivational Blues"

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chord. So, for example, in a dominant 7 chord you have the following notes:

R

3

5

b7

You can take any of these notes (except the root note), and descend chromatically for 3 beats, before hitting the root chord again. In A, the 3rd is C#, so you can take C# and descend it 3 notes (C# to C to B) and then hit the A7 chord again. Voilà! You can do that with any of those notes, or a combination of any of them, as Dan demos in the video.



“

During this unit, we will be walking you through two fantastic turnarounds that you can use with the recorded tracks. For now, try to focus on the theory behind the turnarounds before we get to the

practical
application
in the next
lesson.

Dan

”



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