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Eric Clapton

Player Studies

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Practice summary

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Silly Beer

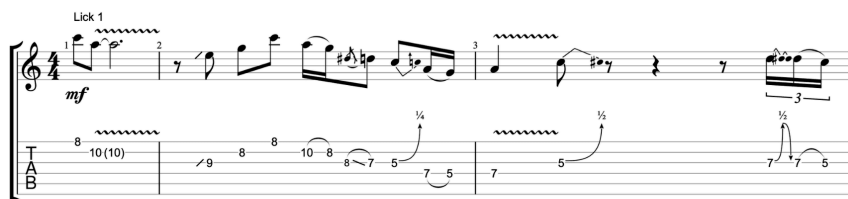
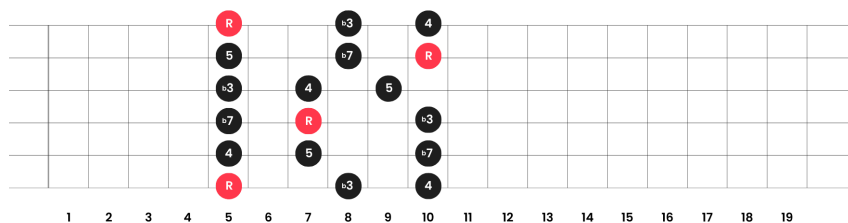
UNIT 1 • LESSON 2 << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab Diagrams

"Silly Beer" Lick 1

It's now time to tackle the first lick of the track! As with all the licks, we are using a combination of box 1 and 2 of the A minor pentatonic. The key things to note as we run through this lick are the phrasing (the deliberate space between lines), the vibrato and those "bluesy curl" bends. You'll notice the " $\frac{1}{4}$ " bend a lot on this tab. That is a microtonal bend, which is very common in the blues. First up, here are those two scales side by side, as well as the first lick:

A Minor Pentatonic Box 1 & 2



This is our first lick in the track, and one we want to focus on to get the more subtle layers right!

UNIT 1

Silly Beer

 0% ^

We kick off with a really cool solo, that really highlights Clapton's Albert King influence, as well as introduces us to Clapton's phrasing, vibrato, tone and movement between box 1 and box 2 pentatonic scales.

Lessons:

- Pentatonic Shape 1 & 2
- "Silly Beer" Lick 1
- "Silly Beer" Lick 2
- "Silly Beer" Lick 3
- "Silly Beer" Lick 4

UNIT 2

Minor

 0% v

Pentatonic

UNIT 3

Clapton's 12 Bars

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UNIT 4

A Deeper Dive

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UNIT 5

Zebra

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Crossing

The blues curl!

You'll notice the "¼" bend a lot on this tab. That is a microtonal bend, which is very common in the blues. Let's look at the key features of that style of bend.

Top tips

🔥 The bend is almost like a wide vibrato, barely lifting the string but just enough to hear the note change.

🔥 As soon as you hear the note change, you need to stop the sound dead!

🔥 Any lingering on that bend will make for a very out of tune guitar sound, so keep it controlled and nice and short.

🔥 The effect is something unfinished, the "call" of the "call and response".



“

Don't rush onto the next lick until you have this one sounding as good as you feel you can get it at this point.

Focus on
those
specific
sounds
with the $\frac{1}{4}$
bends
and cool
vibrato!

Dan

”



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