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Metal Essentials

LEVEL 2 • Guitar Skills

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The Modes of Metal

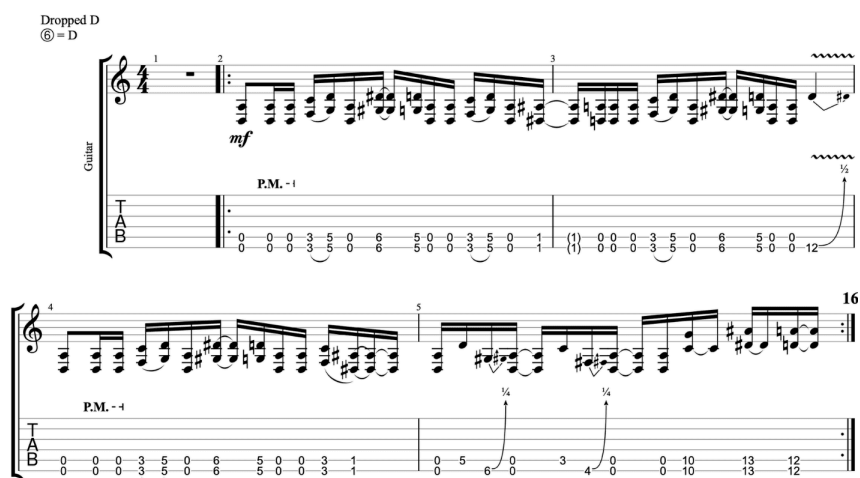
UNIT 1 • **LESSON 5** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab

First Modal Riff!

It's time to put all of this new knowledge into practice with a simple yet very powerful metal riff! Our first step then, and one I highly recommend you taking some time with, is to listen to the riff whilst looking at the interactive tab. Can you decipher what's going on before Claire gives you the answers? Here is the normal tab to check over too:

Dropped D
⑥ = D




“

One thing to think of when writing a

Course navigation

UNIT 1

The Modes of Metal

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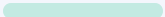
In this unit we are diving into the world of modes within metal. Claire teaches all the modes you'll need for metal riffs, both to learn and to create your own!

Lessons:

- 3 Minor Modes
- Dropping the D!
- Modes on the D String!
- Phrygian Dominant
- First Modal Riff!

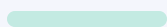
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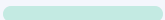
UNIT 3

Metal Toolbox

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UNIT 4

Savage

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metal riff,
is to try
and make
the key of
the song
the same
as the
open low
string.
That
really
helps as
you can
keep
bouncing
off of that
open
string in
your
riffing!

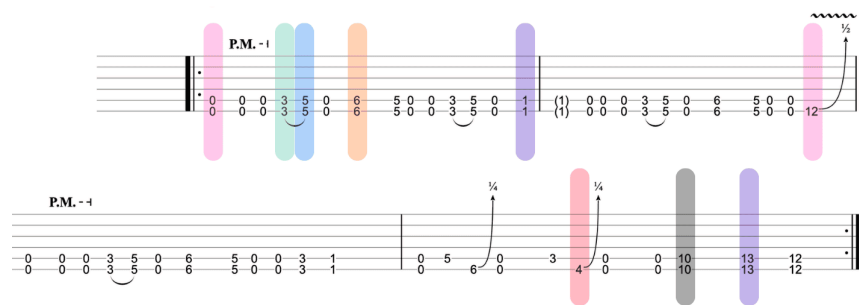
Claire



Riff breakdown...

We're kicking off with a powerchord, and when you're dealing with a drop D tuning, you can play powerchords with just one finger! If you've never come across this concept, then please do check out our [Metal Essentials Level 1](#) where we talk about this in great detail. For now we will assume you know this and look at the rest of the track. As this section is all about application of theory, let's take that tab in chunks and highlight the intervals we are using, and therefore which modal ideas we're using...

R b2 b3 3 4 b5 b7



So as you can see we are using a hybrid of a lot of modal ideas. In general you can definitely say the riff is in D Locrian, as the core notes repeated the most are from the Locrian scale of root, b2nd, b3rd, 4th, b5th, b6th & b7th, but we also have the major 3rd borrowed from the Phrygian Dominant right near the end of the riff! Pretty cool!



“

Your task now is to learn this riff, understand the theory and start to get it up to speed. Don't forget the heaviness of the groove does come from you too, so attack it

and make
it yours!
Enjoy, and
I'll see you
in the next
unit.

Claire

”



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