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Electric Blues Essentials

LEVEL 3 • Guitar Skills



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Soul Blues

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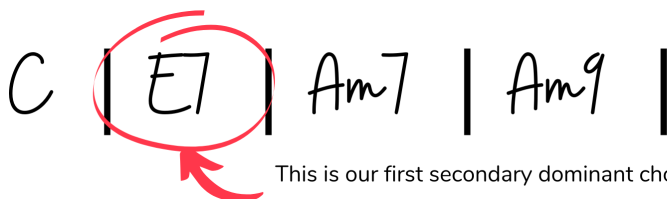
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The Theory

This is a fantastic opportunity to dive into a concept called "secondary dominants". If you've taken our Tom Misch course then you would have seen it mentioned, but otherwise this may be a fairly new concept to you. Let's explain it nice and clear.

What is a secondary dominant?

The basic concept is that we can use a dominant 7th chord to move from one tonal centre to another, without sounding jarring. We're changing the "home" chord, essentially! The best way to learn this is through the example of this track, so let's dive in.



This is our first secondary dominant chord.

Why is this a secondary dominant... Well, if we stuck strictly to the key of C major, we'd be using an E minor chord here (the third degree of the scale is

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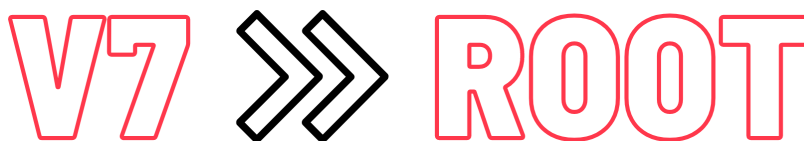
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We've saved the best for last... Soul blues! We bring back the 6/8 groove from Essentials 2, and combining it with a much wider range of chords and bring in the most advanced piece of theory we have covered yet, namely the idea of "secondary dominants"

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harmonised as a minor). By making this a dominant 7th, we alter the chord deliberately to create more "pull" to the Am7.



We know that the dominant 7th chord will always resolve perfectly to the root chord. So whenever you play the dominant 7th chord, if the next chord is a 5th below (Like E to A in the example above) it sounds like the next chord is the home chord. This is how you force a new "home" sound and how we can easily stretch and mould a basic key signature into something more interesting. **IMPORTANT: As we work through the rest of the progression we still stay roughly within the key of C, just editing chords slightly to create this secondary dominant effect. That means we can still solo in C (hallelujah!!).**

It's a surprisingly simple concept, and this track is a perfect tool to learn it inside out. Watch the video to see me work through every single part of the track, explaining the secondary dominants as they pop up. Once you've learnt it for this track, you'll be away and ready to use it in your own playing!



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