

Swift Guitar Lessons

Top Secret Blues Guitar Tricks



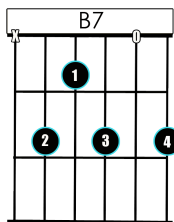
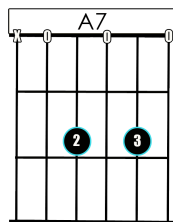
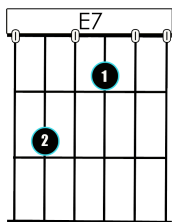
Hello friends,

And welcome to another blues guitar tutorial. In this lesson, I'll break down some of my favorite lead and rhythm techniques to enhance a 12 bar blues in the key of E. These are tricks that I've acquired through countless jam sessions, and endless hours of studying players like Robben Ford, SRV, Brownie McGhee, and Lightnin' Hopkins. Let's get started!

The 12 Bar Blues in Emaj

Let's begin by reviewing the prerequisite technique, our basic 12 bar blues progression. Over the course of this lesson, we will be adding shuffles, and a turn-around for a more professional version:

E7 //// | //// | //// | //// | A7 //// | //// E7 //// | //// | B7 //// | A7 //// | E7 //// | // B7 // | :



Technique #1 - The Basic, Three-Note Shuffle

The core technique of blues rhythm guitar, try using palm-muting (P.M) for a more authentic sound.

(P.M)

```

E |-----|
B |-----|
G |-----|
D |-----|
A |-2-2-4-4-5-5-4-4-|
E |-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-|
   1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
    
```



Technique #2 - The "Traveling Shuffle"

This is a chordal variation to the basic shuffle pattern. Measure one is performed with basic eighth note strums. The second measure includes an optional G-string hammer-on on the E7 chord. Apply this to the E7 chords in the 12 bar blues progression shown at the top of this page.

```

      D U D U D U D U      D   U D U D U D U
E |-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-| --0---0-0-0-0-0-0-0-|
B |-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-| --0---0-0-0-0-0-0-0-|
G |-1-1-2-2-4-4-2-2-| --0h1-1-2-2-4-4-2-2-|
D |-0---0---0---0---| --0-----0---0---0---|
A |-2---4---5---4---| --2-----4---5---4---|
E |-0--(0)-(0)-(0)--| --0-----(0)-(0)-(0)--|
   1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &      1   & 2 & 3 & 4 &
    
```

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Technique #3 - The Basic 2-Note Shuffle Over A7

Apply this technique to the two measures of A7 in your 12 bar blues progression.

(P.M)

```

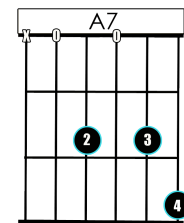
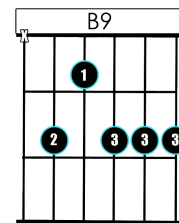
E |-----|-----|
B |-----|-----|
G |-----|-----|
D |-2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4-|-2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4-|
A |-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-|-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-|
E |-----|-----|
    1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &    1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
  
```

Technique #4 - SRV Style Percussive Strumming Over B9 and A7.

This trick utilizes muted down strokes (x), staccato upstrokes and a walk down transition. I've included a very stylish B9 chord, and a variation on the A7. Pay attention to the beats indicated below the tab.

```

B9              A7
D U D U D U U walk D U D U D U U D U
E |-2-2-x-2-x-2-2-----|-3-3-x-3-x-3-3-3-3-|
B |-2-2-x-2-x-2-2-----|-2-2-x-2-x-2-2-2-2-|
G |-2-2-x-2-x-2-2-----|-0-0-x-0-x-0-0-0-0-|
D |-1---x---x-----|-2---x---x-----2---|
A |-2---x---x-----2-1-|-0---x---x-----0---|
E |-----x---x-----|-----|
    1 & 2 & a 3 & 4 &    1 & 2 & a 3 & 4 &
  
```



Technique #5 - Walking Turnaround

A sophisticated turnaround technique featuring a walking bass-line, funky staccato upstrokes and the addition of the C9 chord shape. *(Demonstrated at 8:07 of the video lesson)*

```

Emaj          A7          B9          C9          B9          Emaj
D U          U U          U D U D U U          D
E |-0---0-----0---0-|-2-x-3-x-2-2-----|-----0-----|
B |-0---0-----2---2-|-2-x-3-x-2-2-----|-----0-----|
G |-0h1-1-----0---0-|-2-x-3-x-2-2-----|-----1-----|
D |-2-----2---2-|-1-x-2-x-1-1-----|-----2-----|
A |-2-----2-4-0---1-|-2---x---x-----0h1p0-|-2-----|
E |-0-----/4-----|-----3-|-0-----|
    1 & 2 & a 3 & 4 &    1 & 2 & a 3 & 4 &    &    1 & 2 & 3 & 4
  
```

