



Hello friends,

Welcome back to Swiftlessons for a beginner friendly slide guitar tutorial. In today's session I'll be breaking down rhythm and slide guitar techniques in Open E tuning. Together we'll discover how to perform the 1.4.5 progression in E, a basic shuffle riff, and how to embellish these techniques using the slide. Let's get started!

Section #1: Tuning Your Guitar

Placing your guitar in open E tuning means adjusting the pitches of your A, D, and G strings to match those present in your open E major chord. To achieve this, tune your A string up a whole-step to the note B natural, your D string up a whole-step to E natural and your G string a half step up to G#.

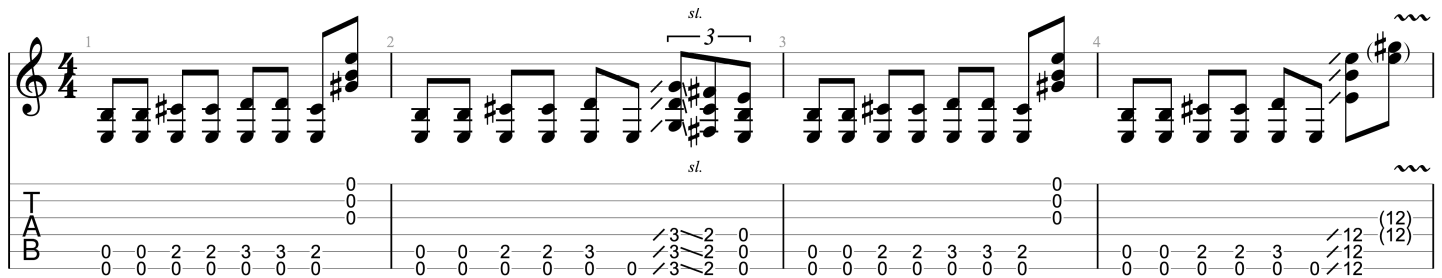
Open E
① = E ② = B ③ = G# ④ = E ⑤ = B ⑥ = E

Section #2: 1.4.5 Progression

Performing a basic 1.4.5 blues progression is easy in open E tuning. To perform our "1" chord, Emaj, simply strum the open strings. For the "4" chord, Amaj, barre or slide up to the 5th fret. Lastly, the "5" chord, Bmaj, can be performed by barring or sliding up to the 7th fret position.

Section #3: Riffing & Sliding Techniques

Now that our guitars are tuned up and we're able to perform our basic 1.4.5 progression. Let's learn to make our blues sound more authentic using a common shuffle pattern and classic slide techniques. For today's tutorial, let's focus our efforts on the 1 chord, E major.



T
A
B

0 0 0 2 2 3 3 2 | 0 0 0 2 2 3 0 3 2 0 | 0 0 0 2 2 3 0 3 2 0 | 0 0 0 2 2 3 0 3 2 0

Bonus tips: Slide Guitar Technique



- Keep your fingers together to maintain stability and control of your slide. Since I prefer to wear it on my ring finger, I form a pyramid shape with my 1st, 2nd, & 3rd fingers. My pinky tends to rest slightly above the slide to avoid interference, and for additional stability.
- Slide guitar playing requires far less pressure on the strings. Too much pressure will result in an unpleasant rattling sound. Developing a fine touch for this technique will require patience and meticulous practice.
- With slide, pitch is everything! I recommend sliding up to a desired note while measuring your pitch accuracy with a clip on tuner. A slight side-to-side motion can create a bluesy vibrato, which provides a much need opportunity to calibrate your pitch as you move through different positions.