

Blues in E Foundation Studies III – Eight Licks in the E Minor Pentatonic Scale

Hopefully, you will have learned the material from the last worksheet: The chords associated with the 12 Bar Blues in E chord progression, practised the five different moves from chord to chord and then played through the progression in order and in time.

This week we are going to further enhance your ability of playing a solo, which we looked at a little bit last term, over the blues progression. We are going to do this by looking at eight specific 'licks' or phrases in the E Minor Pentatonic Scale and then you need to write six more licks on the sheet from the scale.

Eight Licks in the E Minor Pentatonic Scale

Play through all eight 'licks' on the sheet and then practise each one individually. Hopefully by next week I will be able to give you a link to a video where I demonstrate each lick, but for now practise playing the lick with your own rhythmic interpretation. You will probably have some favourite ones, so practise these first and then move on to the others later on in the week.

The next stage is for you to write out six licks of your own in the space provided on the sheet (9 – 14). Choose some notes that you like the sound of and then link them up with some more from the scale. You will notice that a few of the licks on the sheet set off at different starting notes in the scale. When you are writing your own licks try and do this yourself so that you are not always starting on the same note. Once you feel good about the notes you have chosen for a lick, write out the fret numbers on the correct string on the TAB lines on your sheet.

When you have 14 licks written out, go over them until they feel comfortable to play. Remember to play through slowly when you first attempt them, speed will come naturally after accuracy.

As a break from writing out your licks, practise playing through the 12 Bar Blues Chord Progression from last week. This will get the sound of it into your head and you will be able to play better solos.