

Blues in E Foundation Studies V – The Shuffle Rhythm

Hopefully, from the material looked at over the last few weeks, you will have a better understanding of the 12 Bar Blues in E chord progression and be able to play the chords through it and a solo over the top of it using licks. As mentioned in the lesson notes from a couple of weeks ago, I have recorded a video for each of the lessons covered so far in order to help you with the sound and rhythm of the material presented. Now would be a good time to review all of the material from the last few weeks, whilst watching the video lessons using the following links:

Blues in E Foundation Studies I – <https://vimeo.com/415140192/d8e9da3266>

Blues in E Foundation Studies II – <https://vimeo.com/410646310/56ad464d38>

Blues in E Foundation Studies III – <https://vimeo.com/415141588/d029a7e6b0>

Blues in E Foundation Studies IV – <https://vimeo.com/415144433/c8819f2534>

Blues in E Foundation Studies V – <https://vimeo.com/415147046/3cf7aa6586>

The Shuffle Rhythm

The Shuffle Rhythm is used as a substitute for the normal chords in a 12 Bar Blues at certain places in the chord progression. In this lesson we are going to look at using it in place of the E7 and A7 chords in the first 8 bars of the progression and then again in bar 11 over the E7. As can be seen on the accompanying music sheet, only two strings are played at a time when using the shuffle rhythm. Make sure that you can do this accurately when you are practising it as this really adds to the effect of the sound of the shuffle. The rhythm and technique used is demonstrated on the video Blues in E Foundation Studies V – use the link above to access it.

Once you can play through the shuffle rhythm comfortably, link it up with the other chords on the last line of the sheet and then practise playing through the whole progression. The next step is to be able to repeat the whole 12 Bar Blues Progression through 2 or 3 times.

In the next lesson, we are going to look at some different chord voicings to use in the 12 Bar Blues and also another scale to make your solos and playing in general sound more 'bluesy'.