

Blues in E Foundation Studies VI – Different Chord Voicings and The ‘Blues’ Scale

Hopefully you have been able to review all of the material looked at so far in the Blues in E Foundation Studies series and watched/listened to the video lessons from the links sent out last week to give you a better understanding of how it all should sound. If there are any parts you are not so sure of, review them again by using the video lessons and the accompanying lesson worksheet/notes until you feel comfortable. This is very important as each lesson builds in regards to technique and difficulty and so therefore you need to have a solid foundation on which to build from the earlier lessons. This week we are going to look at some different chord voicings for the three chords E7, A7 and B7 and learn another scale to use when improvising – the E ‘Blues’ Scale.

New Chord Voicings

The new chord voicings or shapes we are going to look at this week are just different ways of playing the original chords of the piece and just add a different ‘colour’ to the sound. Once you have learned the shapes, try and play through the chord progression on the sheet using the new shapes where written, then try them mix them around as long as you use them from the same chord type, i.e:

E7 – E7new

A7 – A7new

B7 – B7#9

The E Blues Scale

The E ‘Blues’ Scale is the same scale shape as the E Minor Pentatonic we have used in earlier lessons just with one extra note (Bb) added on the fifth string (1st Fret) and third string (3rd Fret). This means that it hopefully shouldn’t take you too long to learn this new shape and be able to start to use it in your solos. The extra note just makes the scale sound a bit more ‘bluesy’ in nature and it is used a lot in modern music particularly in riffs and solos.

As for the previous lessons, all of this material is covered in a video lesson which you can access with the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/426191162/451d981da7>

In the next lesson, we are going to look at using the ‘Blues’ scale in a solo in order to hear the sound of the scale in a blues context. Therefore it would be good to get some practise in to learn the E ‘Blues’ Scale and then practise playing a few solos/licks in it.