



More 12 Bar Blues in A: Lesson 8

By Christopher Schlegel

Let's expand once again upon our 12 Bar Blues in A!

This time let's combine all the little tricks we've learned so far into one blues pattern. We can use the fifth fret pinky stretch (or ring finger slide) & alternate it with the minor & major third lick. This adds a little "extra flavor" and variety to the line!

Once we have all of our positions in place for our 12 bar blues progression, we can play the entire thing. Again, the idea here is to have one basic pattern and type of motion to use for every single part of our song. All we need to do is move that same pattern to different sets of strings.

The reason this progression is called "12 bar blues" is because there are 12 "bars" or measures - or 12 counts of 1-2-3-4. The basic pattern is presented here:

A - I (one chord) 4 measures
D - IV (four chord) 2 measures
A - I (one chord) 2 measures
E - V (five chord) 1 measures
D - IV (four chord) 1 measures
A - I (one chord) 1 measures
E - V (five chord) 1 measures

All this adds up to 12 total measures. There are of course other ways to do it. You can make up your own or alter it to fit any blues song you want to imitate. The only important point is that all the people playing together have previously agreed upon what pattern or progression (or order and total measures of chords) to use in order to play together!

Here's the whole thing. Happy blues playing!

More 12 Bar Blues in A

Lesson 7 & 8

(♩-♩-♩)
A7

1 2 3

T
A
B

2 2 4 4 5 5 4 4	2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2	2 2 4 4 5 5 4 4
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 3 4 3 4 2	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

D7

4 5 6

2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2	2 2 4 4 5 5 4 4	2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2
0 0 0 0 3 4 3 4 2	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 3 4 3 4 2

A7

E7

7 8 9

2 2 4 4 5 5 4 4	2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2	2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 3 4 3 4 2	0 0 0 0 3 4 3 4 2

D7

A7

E7

10 11 12

2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2	2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2	2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2
0 0 0 0 3 4 3 4 2	0 0 0 0 3 4 3 4 2	0 0 0 0 3 4 3 4 2

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2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2 | 2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2 | 2 2 4 4 3 4 2 3 4 2