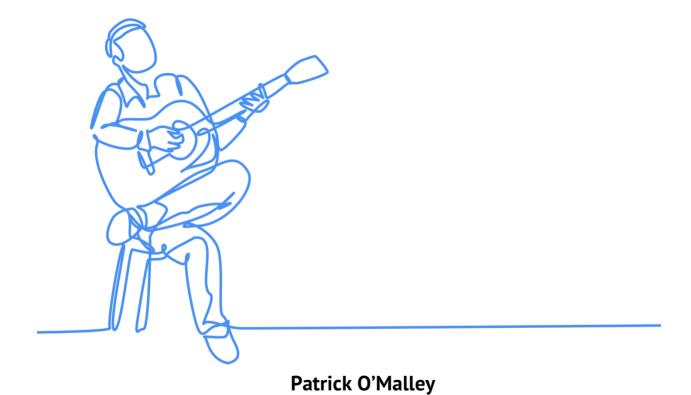
# LEARN BLUES FINGERPICKING

### **INTERMEDIATE COURSE**

# 2.1 8-Bar Blues in E



#### 8-Bar Blues

We have played 12-bar blues in this course so far – as it is the most popular blues format.

Other blues formats exist, including 8-bar blues, 16-bar blues and 32-bar blues.

In this chapter, we will focus on the 8-bar blues.

#### The 8-Bar Blues Format

The key characteristic for an 8-bar blues is that the form repeats every 8 bars (i.e. it is 8 bars long). Further study will show that there are many variations of the 8-bar blues so we will cover a few of those to introduce you to the topic.

Another common characteristic is that the first chord change is often a I-V chord change (e.g. E7 to B7 are often the first 2 bars of an 8-bar) and this creates a very different feeling – often one associated with a more country and folky sound, but can sound 'pure blues' as well.

This is a common 8-bar structure

I <sup>7</sup>	<b>V</b> <sup>7</sup>	IV <sup>7</sup>	IV <sup>7</sup>
I <sup>7</sup>	V <sup>7</sup>	I <sup>7</sup>	V <sup>7</sup>



#### The 8-Bar Blues in E

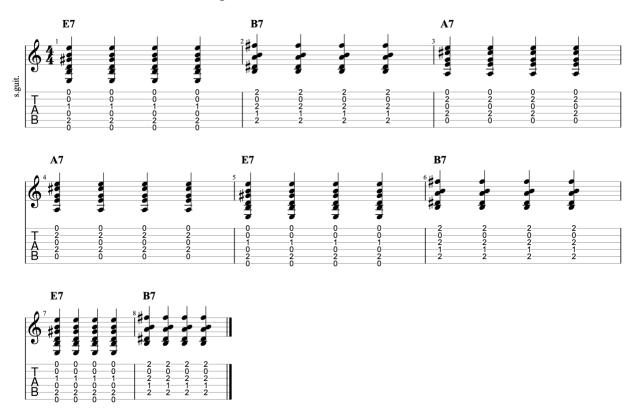
In the key of E, that would give us the following progression:

first 4 bars 
$$\longrightarrow$$
 E7 B7 A7 A7

last 4 bars  $\longrightarrow$  E7 B7 E7 B7

We can see that obviously this is 8 bars long and that we have the first two chords using the I-V progression of E7 to B7.

Try to play along to the tab strumming each chord 4 times per bar. This is a good way to become familiar with the changes.





## **Examples of 8-Bar Blues**

Derek & the Dominos (featuring Eric Clapton) – Keys to the Highway

Aretha Franklin – <u>Trouble in Mind</u>

Elmore James – <u>It Hurts Me Too</u>

