

LEARN BLUES FINGERPICKING

INTERMEDIATE COURSE

5.2 Targeting Chord Tones



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The E7 Arpeggio

Let's look at our E7 chord now in Position 5. This arpeggio has all the chord tones of E7.

E7 - P5 - Chord Shape



1 *mf* 2

TAB: 12 11 9 12 9 9 12 10 12

1 *mf* 2

TAB: 12 10 12 9 9 12 9 11 12

Riff A

We are playing the classic blues shape of the 2nd string at 12th fret and the 1st string at the 10th fret. Playing triplets here is about as bluesy as things can get!

Note that when you play 3 riff notes per bass note, you need as always to keep that bass playing steady! Take your time to master the feel for this if it is new to you.

We use the Em pentatonic shape all the way through this.

Musical notation for Riff A, measures 1 and 2. The notation is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The first measure (labeled '1') contains a triplet of eighth notes on the 2nd string at the 12th fret, followed by a quarter note on the 1st string at the 10th fret. The second measure (labeled '2') contains a quarter note on the 2nd string at the 12th fret, followed by a quarter note on the 1st string at the 9th fret, and a quarter note on the 1st string at the 9th fret. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the first measure. Below the staff is a guitar tablature (TAB) with three lines: the top line for the 2nd string, the middle line for the 1st string, and the bottom line for the bass string. The first measure of TAB shows fret numbers 12, 10, 12, 12, 10, 12, 12, 10, 12, 10 on the 2nd string line, and 0, 0, 0, 0 on the 1st and bass string lines. The second measure shows 12, 9, 12, 9, 9 on the 2nd string line, and 0, 0, 0, 0 on the 1st and bass string lines.

The second half of this riff is similar but ends with the 5th string at the 11th fret. This is a G# note which is in the arpeggio but not in our scale. This is a very strong note in the E7 chord (it is the major third). See how strong it sounds and almost breaks us out of the hypnotism of our riff.

Musical notation for Riff A, measures 4 and 5. The notation is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The fourth measure (labeled '4') contains a triplet of eighth notes on the 2nd string at the 12th fret, followed by a quarter note on the 1st string at the 10th fret. The fifth measure (labeled '5') contains a quarter note on the 2nd string at the 12th fret, followed by a quarter note on the 1st string at the 9th fret, and a quarter note on the 5th string at the 11th fret. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the first measure. Below the staff is a guitar tablature (TAB) with three lines: the top line for the 2nd string, the middle line for the 1st string, and the bottom line for the bass string. The fourth measure of TAB shows fret numbers 12, 10, 12, 12, 10, 12, 12, 10, 12, 10 on the 2nd string line, and 0, 0, 0, (0) on the 1st and bass string lines. The fifth measure shows 12, 9, 12, 9, 11 on the 2nd string line, and 0, 0, 0, 0 on the 1st and bass string lines.

Riff B

The first half of this riff

1 *mf*

TAB

12 10 12 12 10 12 12 10 12 12 | 9 9 9 9 7 8

0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0

The second half of this riff

4 5

TAB

12 10 12 12 10 12 12 10 12 12 | 9 9 9 9 7 8 9

0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0

Riff C

The first half of this riff uses the Em blues scale – look at that blues note at the 11th fret.

Then we have some triplet pull-offs. They might take a little bit of getting used to!

The first half of Riff C is shown in two systems. The first system starts with a treble clef, a common time signature (C), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The first measure contains notes on the 10th, 11th, and 12th frets. The second measure contains notes on the 10th and 12th frets. The third system starts with a measure containing notes on the 12th and 10th frets, followed by a triplet pull-off on the 12th fret, and another triplet pull-off on the 10th fret. The guitar TAB staff below shows the fret numbers: 10 11 12 10 12 for the first two measures, and 12 10 12 12 10 12 12 for the third system. The bass string is consistently at the 0th fret.

The second half of this riff is in position 3. We have a micro-bend on the 2nd string at the 8th fret. The timing of those notes is interesting too.

The second half of Riff C is shown in two systems. The first system starts with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The first measure contains notes on the 10th, 11th, and 12th frets. The second measure contains notes on the 10th and 12th frets. The second system starts with a measure containing notes on the 10th, 11th, and 12th frets, followed by a measure with notes on the 8th fret. The guitar TAB staff below shows the fret numbers: 10 11 12 10 12 for the first two measures, and 10 11 12 (0) for the third system. The bass string is consistently at the 0th fret. The second system also includes micro-bend markings of 1/4 on the 8th fret notes.

End of Course Thank You

In this course we have learned:

- The scales in every part of the fretboard
- Dozens of riffs
- Advanced articulations (hammer-ons, pull-offs, slides)
- The Rhythms of the Blues (eighth notes, shuffle feel, tied triplets)
- Minor Blues
- Shuffle Blues
- The CAGED System
- Arpeggios
- How to target chord tones

This is a gargantuan amount of material to learn and yet you have made it. I'm thrilled that you have made it all the way. In particular, I'm hoping that you now don't feel like fingerpicking is something we just do over a C and G chord!

If you have start to sound a bit bluesy and enjoy really working on your craft and developing your rhythm, your feel and your knowledge of blues forms, then that's a fantastic place to be!

Do check out my Advanced Blues Course now that you have completed the Intermediate course and make sure to subscribe to my mailing list at learnfingerpicking.com to stay in touch.