

LESSON ONE

The Minor Pentatonic Scale

In Lesson One you will learn the 'A' Minor Pentatonic Scale which every guitarist needs to know before he or she can begin improvising. I have suggested a metronome setting ♩=80 which indicates the speed of the exercise (how many beats occur per minute). If this is too fast you should just practice without the CD until you begin to feel comfortable with the scale and then play along with the CD track for each exercise.

'A' Minor Pentatonic Scale

(A five note scale which can be used to improvise on rock & blues tunes)

CD TRACK 2

♩ = 80

Pattern 1

Pick Motion = Down Picks

L.H. Fingering 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1

Practice Patterns for 'A' Minor Pentatonic Scale

These should be practiced as daily warm-up exercises.

CD TRACK 3

♩ = 50

Exercise 1 (Ascending)

Pick Motion = Down & Up Picks

Count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & etc.

(Descending)

LESSON NINE

Riffs Combining 'A' Major Pentatonic & 'A' Blues Scale

Now it is time to combine the Major Pentatonic and the Blues Scale, this will create much more variety in your solos. The following riffs can be applied to 'Your Blues', 'Blues For Two', and this new tune, 'David's Blues'. This tune is based on a very common blues accompaniment. Initially, learn the riffs separately and be able to play them proficiently along with the CD track. Now play them in order along with me over 'David's Blues'. When you can play the riffs well, try to make up your own solo. Don't forget to learn the accompaniment and memorize it. You'll find knowing this will be very useful when you want to jam (i.e. taking turns to improvise on a common chord progression) with friends. Remember you are working towards being able to invent a new and fresh solo on the spot time and time again.

Riffs

CD TRACK 28

♩ = 54

Swing Feel

1 **2**

TAB

5 / 6 5 5 8 5 || 7 7 5 4 5 7 5

S P S P

3 **4**

TAB

7 5 8 7 5 6 7 5 || 7 5 6 5 8

P H P H

LESSON TEN

The Bend

In this lesson you will learn The Bend technique and apply it to 'Jazz Me Blues'. This common technique will help you to develop your solos even more. You will learn two types of bend: the Half Tone Bend (B1/2) and the Full Tone Bend (B). The bend creates a very smooth movement between notes. You will need to listen to the CD track carefully to hear how the bend should sound. The tune for 'Jazz Me Blues' incorporates a number of half tone and full tone bends. Work out one bar at a time until you can play each bar well. Make sure that you are playing the bends in tune. Now play the whole tune along with me. The tune will be played once through followed by a sample solo. During the sample solo you should play the chords, and then you should improvise your own solo over the remaining two choruses. If you like, you can use some of the riffs so far studied as a foundation for your solo, or any variation of the 'Jazz Me Blues' tune.

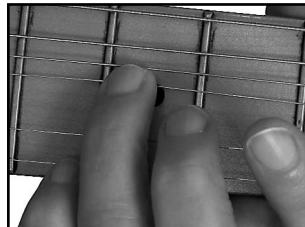
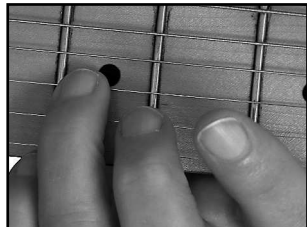
The Bend Technique explained

HALF TONE BEND (B1/2):

The note is struck & the string is bent up (pushed up) with the L.H. finger to a pitch equivalent to the note 1 fret higher (one half tone).

Preparation

Completion



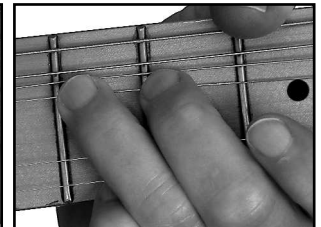
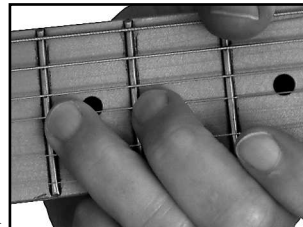
When bending: You will find it helpful to place 2 (or 3) fingers on the string to give more control and strength to the bend. This can be seen in the photos opposite.

FULL TONE BEND (B):

The note is struck & the string is bent up (pushed up) with the L.H. finger to a pitch equivalent to the note 2 frets higher (one full tone).

Preparation

Completion



CD TRACK 30

♩ = 72

Swing Feel

Stop the chord sound by releasing L.H. finger pressure. Don't take the fingers completely off the strings as the pressure will need to be reapplied for the next strum.

Jazz Me Blues (Chord Progression)

MARC ONGLEY

Repeat 4 times

LESSON THIRTEEN

A New Key

In this lesson you will be playing in another new key, 'G' Minor, and you will also be able to improvise using another Aeolian Mode as well as the blues scale. To improvise on this new tune, 'Daniel's Blues', you will need to move the notes (and all the riffs) of the 'A' Blues Scale down (to your left & towards the head of the guitar) two frets. By moving the notes down two frets you now have 'G' Blues Scale. You will also learn the 'G' Aeolian Mode which is built on the 6th note of 'Bb' Major Scale. Try to learn the note names in each scale. This will not only help you learn the notes on the guitar but will also prepare you for learning more complex styles of improvisation such as used in jazz. Remember to improvise playing the notes in any order you choose. Listen for the notes you play that sound good and try to remember them and which chord you played them over.

'G' Blues Scale

CD TRACK 36

♩ = 160

Pattern 1 (Ascending)

G B^b C D^b D F G B^b C D^b D F

T
A
B

3 6 3 4 5 3 5 3 5 6 3 6

(Descending)

G G F D D^b C B^b G F

T
A
B

3 3 6 3 6 5 3 5 3

D D^b C B^b G

T
A
B

5 4 3 6 3