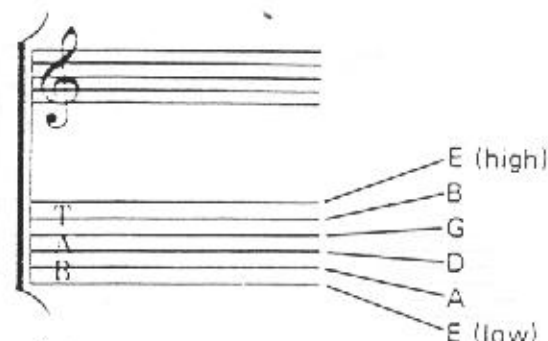


Reading Tablature and Symbols

Tablature

For those who cannot read music, *guitar tablature* is provided directly beneath all the standard music notation in this book. Tablature utilizes six horizontal lines which represent the six strings of the guitar, with the low E (or sixth) string at the bottom. On the right is an example of how it looks:

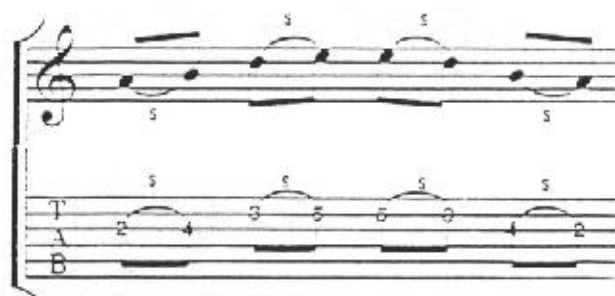


The numbers that appear on the lines of the tablature indicate the number of the fret at which your left hand holds down the string. This example shows how an open E chord would be represented:



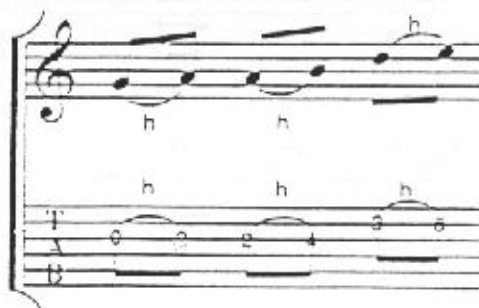
Symbols

An arched line with an *s* over or under it connecting two notes indicates that your left hand *slides* to the second note with the same finger used for the first. As with the three following techniques (*hammer-on*, *pull-off*, and *bend*), the slide is a way of playing two notes while picking only the first note with the right hand.



If the arch has an *h* with it, this illustrates a *hammer-on*.

Here again, the right hand picks only the first note. The second is sounded by "hammering" with a left-hand finger *higher up* on the same string.

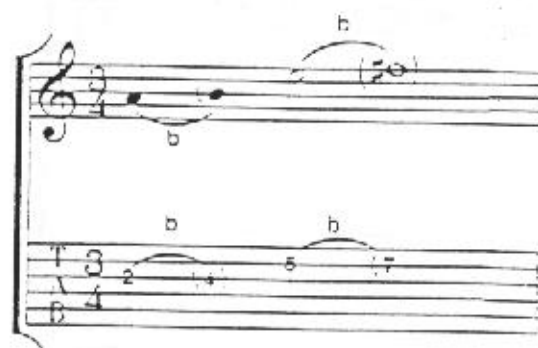


The same arch with a *p* represents a left-hand *pull-off*.

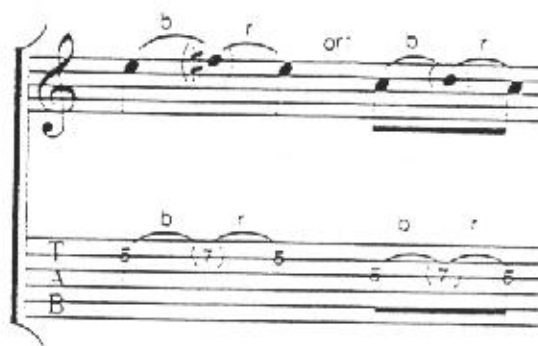
Here the second note, *lower down* on the string than the first, is "picked" with the left-hand finger which held the first note.



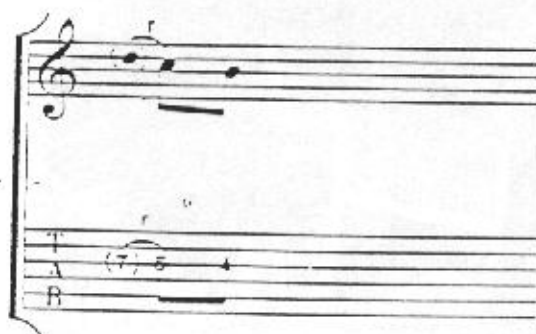
An arched line with a *b* means you *bend* the note. Here, you sound the second note by bending the string toward or away from you, bending with the left-hand finger which holds down the first note. In the example, the number or note in parentheses tied to the first note shows the note you will bend up to. You do not actually move to the fourth fret here, but, staying on the second fret, bend the string to sound a B. The first note is always quickly played, going immediately to the second, which is held the full time-value (♪ ♪ ♪ ♪).



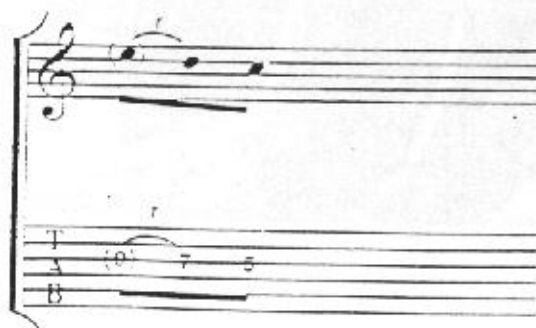
An *r* signals a *release* of a bend. This usually occurs right after a bend, returning to the original note.



Sometimes a release will occur alone. Here, you bend the string *before* picking it with the right hand, so only the return sounds.



Note that when the bent note in parentheses has a *stem* going to the beam like the others, it has a time value equal to the others. The example here is played as a normal triplet:



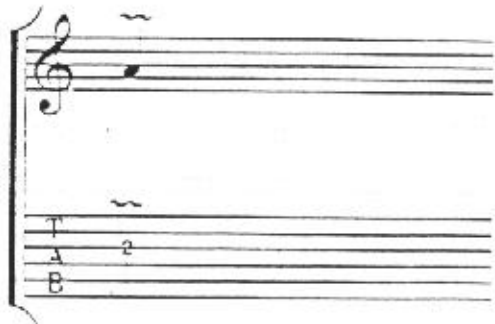
Bending notes will be further explained in the section *Bending Strings*, p. 34.

Blues Basics

A straight line pointing up or down toward a note means you slide *to* that note from an optional point below or above it. A straight line pointing up or down *away* from a note means you slide *from* the note without going to another specific note with the slide.



A note played with *vibrato* will have a wavy line over it. *Vibrato* simply means to rapidly vibrate the left-hand in order to give the note a richer sound.



Pick direction is indicated as follows:

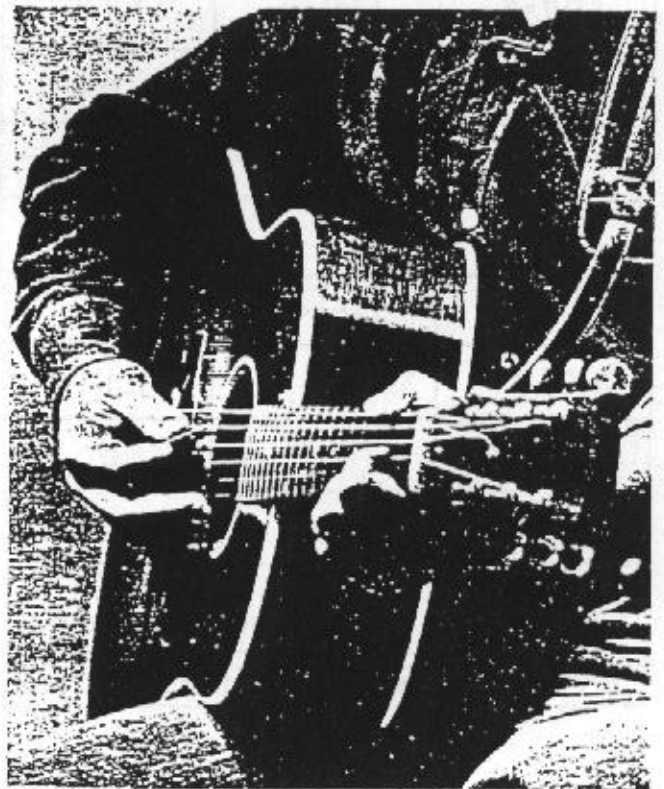
- ▭ = downstroke
- ▽ = upstroke

The Pick

Guitar picks come in countless shapes, sizes, and thicknesses. Most guitarists have their own personal preferences, but if you are just starting out, it would be advisable to use a pick that is neither too small nor too large. I recommend using a medium-width pick, since it adapts itself more easily to all of the different possibilities encountered on the guitar.

The pick should be held between thumb and forefinger, and not gripped too tightly. The rest of the fingers on your picking hand should be in a relaxed position, halfway between being opened and closed.

All the pieces in this book should be played with the guitar pick ("flat-picking") unless otherwise indicated (there will be many fingerpicking pieces later on). It is important that you develop flexibility with the pick, and I recommend using alternating picking strokes (▭ ▽ ▭ ▽) as much as possible when practicing single-note playing. In some of the earlier exercises involving single-note work, I have indicated the picking strokes below the notes to give you a better idea of how the proper technique feels.



Blues Basics

It is important to become familiar with certain basics in blues guitar-playing before going on to more complicated material. A knowledge of blues chords and progressions, rhythm licks, and "turn-arounds" will give you the necessary tools to begin playing the blues.

The Blues Progression

The three main chords utilized in the blues are I, IV, and V. In the key of E these are: E, A, and B; in A: A, D, and E. The I chord (the *tonic*) takes its name from the first note of the scale in the key you are playing in. The IV, or *subdominant* chord, takes its name from the fourth note of the scale. The V, or *dominant* chord, takes its name from the fifth note of that scale.

I ————— IV ————— V		
root (tonic)	sub-dominant	dominant
A	D	E
B $\flat$ (A $\sharp$)	E $\flat$ (D $\sharp$)	F
B	E	F $\sharp$ (G $\flat$)
C	F	G
D $\flat$ (C $\sharp$)	G $\flat$ (F $\sharp$)	A $\flat$ (G $\sharp$)
D	G	A
E $\flat$ (D $\sharp$)	A $\flat$ (G $\sharp$)	B $\flat$ (A $\sharp$)
E	A	B
F	B $\flat$ (A $\sharp$)	C
F $\sharp$ (G $\flat$)	B	C $\sharp$ (D $\flat$)
G	C	D
A $\flat$ (G $\sharp$)	D $\flat$ (C $\sharp$)	E $\flat$ (D $\sharp$)

The Twelve-Bar Blues

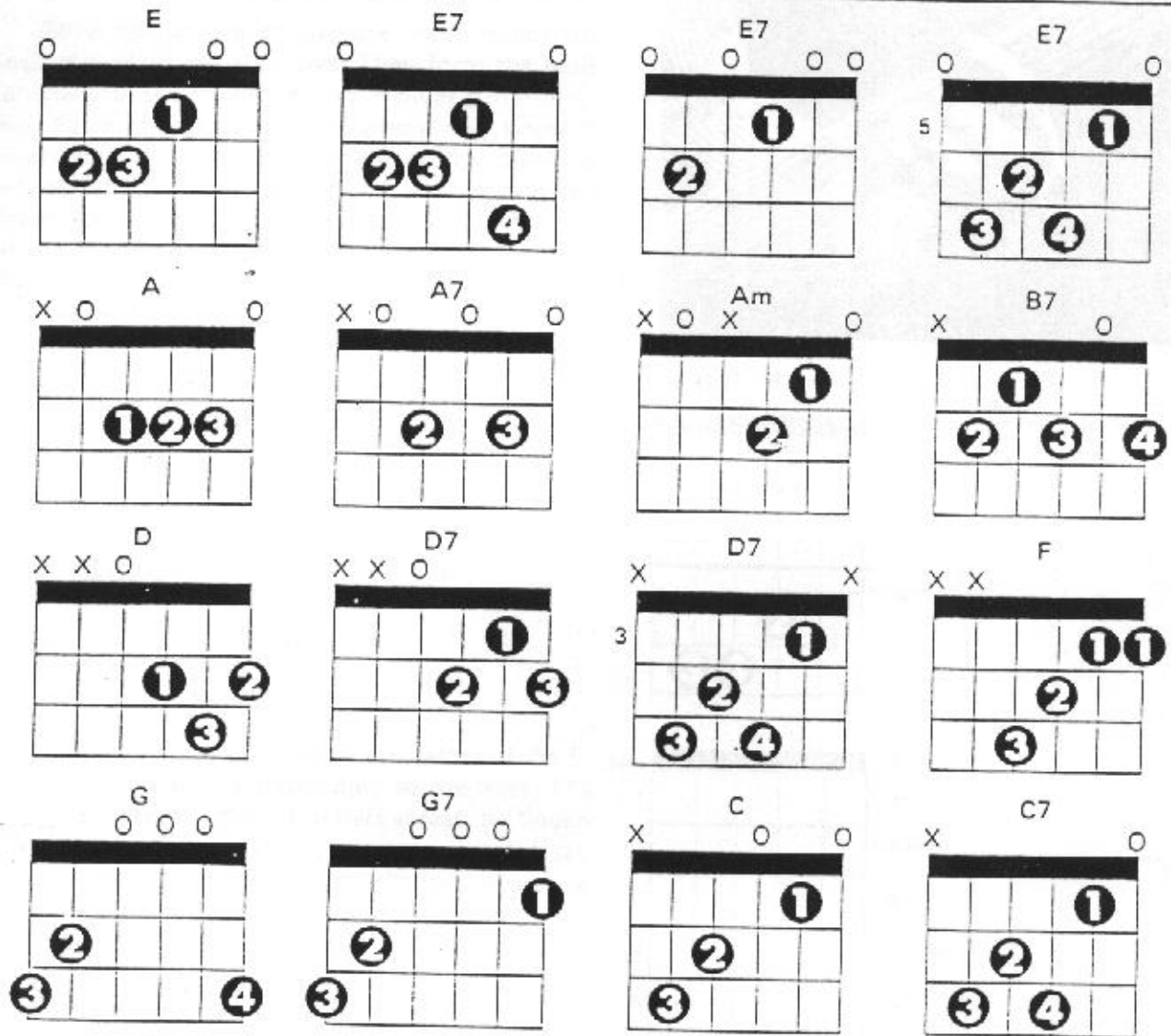
The *twelve-bar blues* is the most well-known form of blues music for all instruments. Here is a twelve-bar blues progression in the key of E:

12-bar blues progression in the key of E:

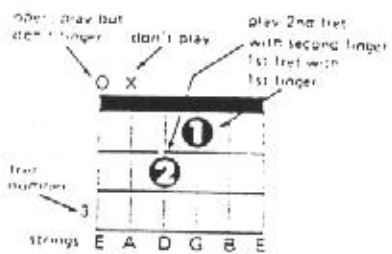
Staff 1: I (E) | I7 (E7) | IV (A)

Staff 2: I (E) | V7 (B7) | IV (A) | I (E) | V7 (B7)

We will work in several keys throughout the course of this book, chiefly E, A, D, and G. Here are the many chord positions that should be known:*

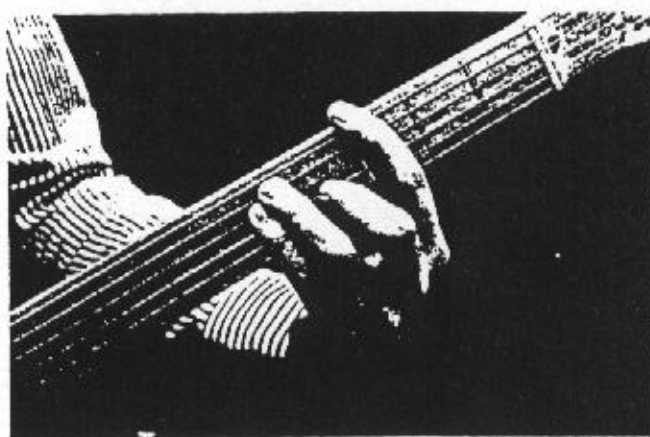


*Explanation of chord diagrams:

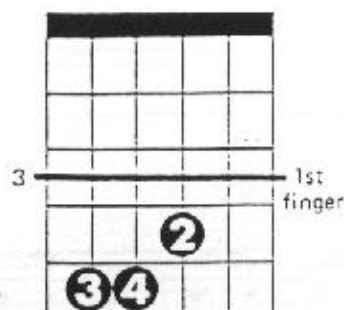


Barre Chords

Barre chords are among the most important tools the blues guitarist uses. They form the basis for many of the rhythmic licks in blues guitar-playing. Barre chords are chords where one finger is extended over a few or all of the strings, allowing the guitarist to move the chord up or down the fingerboard to any fret without changing the fingering. Here is an E-form barre chord:



G (E-form)



Here's the fingerboard with the names of the E-form barre chords corresponding to the frets. The "frets" are actually the metal bars across the fingerboard; but for our playing purposes when I say "fret" I mean the *space behind the bar*, where the fingers are held down.

Open					
1					E
					F
2					F#(Gb)
					G
3			◇		A $\flat$ (G#)
4					A
5			◇		B $\flat$ (A#)
6					B
7			◇		C
8					D $\flat$ (C#)
9			◇		D
10					E $\flat$ (D#)
11					E
12		◇		◇	F
13					

Rhythm Guitar

The Shuffle Rhythm

Before going on to learn the finer points of blues guitar-playing, it would be advisable to develop a good, solid foundation of rhythm techniques. The most familiar rhythm lick heard in blues rhythm guitar is called the *shuffle*. Everybody from Robert Johnson to Chuck Berry has used it, and here's what it looks like in the key of E*:

E
(left-hand fingering shown)

E7 A

E B

* Eighth notes () in this book should always be played in shuffle rhythm ( or ), unless otherwise indicated.

The next exercise is what I call the "harmony shuffle." It's the same lick as before, only this time you use four strings, with two of them moving in harmony with each other:

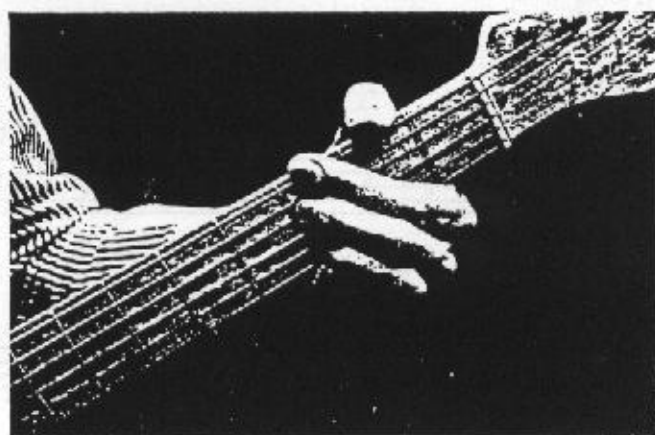
The Harmony Shuffle

The shuffle-rhythm lick can also be played in other keys on the low E and A strings, using a position somewhat similar to that for barre chords. Here is an example of this way of playing it in the key of G:

The Shuffle Rhythm in G

The harmony-shuffle lick illustrated two exercises ago can be played in many chord positions besides open E and A. The first new position is for D:

Below is the harmony shuffle for G. In this musical example the A (5th) string is left open but is not to be sounded. You can prevent it from sounding by damping it with the fingers of the left hand as they play the other notes. This is done by leaning the finger across the string so it does not vibrate, as shown here:



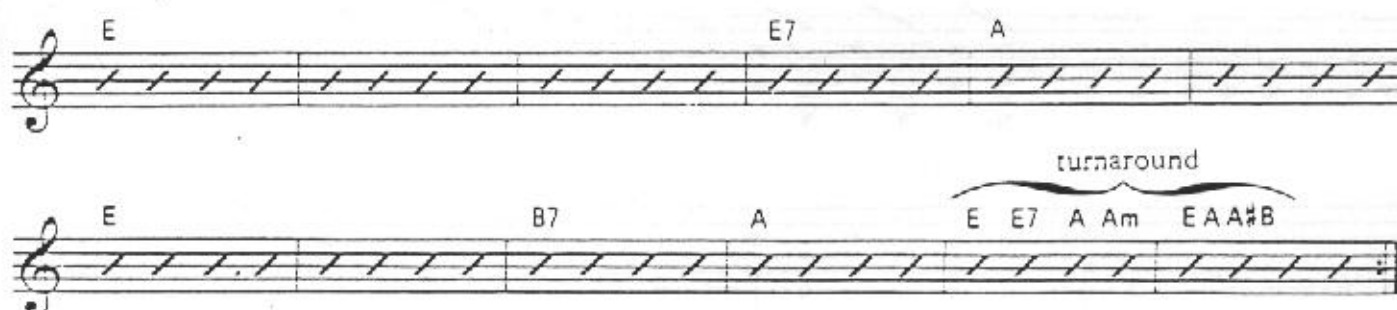
Note also that, for the third chord of the lick, the first finger of the left hand must come around to play the note G (third fret on the low E string), as in the photograph.

Here is the C chord position. In this exercise the D string must be damped.



The Turnaround

The *turnaround* is a chord progression which takes place in the final two measures of the blues progression. It is called the "turnaround" because it actually serves to "turn the progression around", getting it back to the V, or dominant, chord before beginning again. Here is a diagram showing where the turnaround occurs, and what chords it involves in E:



The next exercise is a harmony shuffle in the key of E; here the bass notes alternate with the rest of the chord. The last two bars use the turnaround as well. This rhythm lick is a good substitute sometimes for the straight shuffles you have been playing. In this exercise you will have to damp strings again: the D and G, at different times.

16/Rhythm Guitar

The Harmony Shuffle With Turnaround

The musical score is written for Rhythm Guitar in 12/8 time. It features a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature 'C'. The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a corresponding bass staff.

- System 1:** The treble staff begins with a melodic line marked with a chord symbol **E7**. The bass staff provides a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- System 2:** The treble staff continues the melodic line, marked with a chord symbol **A7**. The bass staff continues the eighth-note pattern.
- System 3:** The treble staff continues the melodic line, marked with chord symbols **E7** and **B**. The bass staff continues the eighth-note pattern.
- System 4:** This system is for a harmony guitar part, featuring two staves (treble and bass). The treble staff contains a series of chords marked with symbols **A**, **E**, **E7**, **A**, **Am**, **E**, **A**, **A#**, and **B**. The bass staff provides a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

A E E7 A Am E A A# B Fine

morn - in' how are you? (turnaround) (Good)

I've arranged this next song, Robert Johnson's classic, *Ramblin' On My Mind*, with a harmony shuffle accompaniment for the key of E. Note Johnson's use of an extra bar in E during the first measures, making a five-bar section in E and creating what is essentially a thirteen-bar progression.

Ramblin' On My Mind

Key of E

Robert Johnson

E7 A

I've got ram - blin' on my mind.

(extra measure) A E

I've got ram - blin' all on

my mind. Hate to leave my ba-by, —

but you treats me so un-kind. (I got)

Fine

Fingerpicking Rhythms

Fingerpicking styles of playing are as essential a part of blues guitar as the "flat-picking" style you have been doing. For all applications of fingerpicking I recommend an approach using the thumb and first three fingers. In this technique I employ the three fingers for the upper three strings: the ring finger for the high E, the middle finger for the B, and the index finger for the G string. The thumb should be used to sound the bass notes. If the particular lick you are playing covers other strings besides the highest three, your index, middle, and ring fingers should remain in the same relation to each other, only now covering those other strings. For example, if the lick used the B, G, and D strings, your ring finger would now cover the B, your middle finger the G, and your index finger would play the D string.

The Constant Bass

The *constant bass* is an important style of blues fingerpicking. Here is an exercise illustrating it for the key of E. Note that the rhythm the thumb plays is that of the shuffle lick which was covered earlier, this time using one note instead of two.

Son House



20/Rhythm Guitar

The Constant Bass

E (right-hand fingering shown)

The Alternating Bass

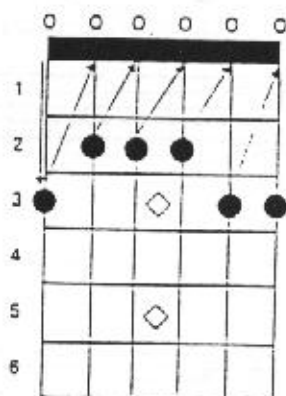
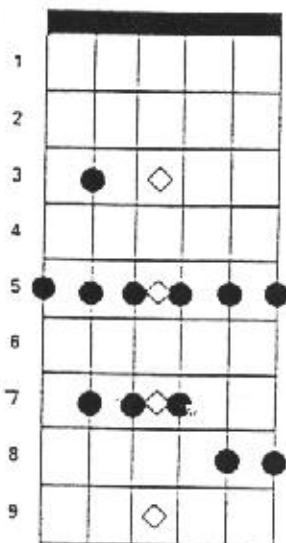
The other main fingerpicking rhythm pattern is the *alternating bass* style. In playing this, the

Lead Guitar: Scales, Licks, Solos

In this section I will discuss the three basic blues scale-patterns for lead playing. They are all based on the same scale, but each has a different range. They serve as a kind of foundation, since many runs and licks are based on them, and they apply to all keys.

Blues Pattern No. 1

The first blues pattern is the most widely used of all. Here it is in the key of A. To illustrate it in an open position, I've written it out for the key of E as well; in this position, of course, the fingering will be different.



Blues Pattern No. 1—Key of E

E—Open Position



A) 1 - 3 - 2 - 5

B) 3' - 3' - 1 - 5

Blues Licks—Pattern No. 1

The following is a list of many useful licks that are derived from the blues scale you've just practiced. Please pay close attention to all of the subtleties incorporated in these riffs (slides, hammer-ons, pull-offs, etc.), for these techniques will help you to better understand the phrasing that is involved. The rhythm marked here is only a guideline; play the licks freely, in whatever rhythm feels right at the moment.

The image displays three systems of musical notation for guitar, each consisting of a treble and bass staff. The notation includes various blues licks with handwritten annotations. The first system is labeled 'A' and 'X 1'. The second system is labeled '1 3'. The third system is labeled 'X 5'. The notation includes notes, rests, and slurs, with some notes marked with 'p' (piano) and 'h' (hammer-on). The bass staff shows a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

24/Lead Guitar: Scales, Licks, Solos

L1

Handwritten 'X' and 'L2' are visible above the first staff.

L3

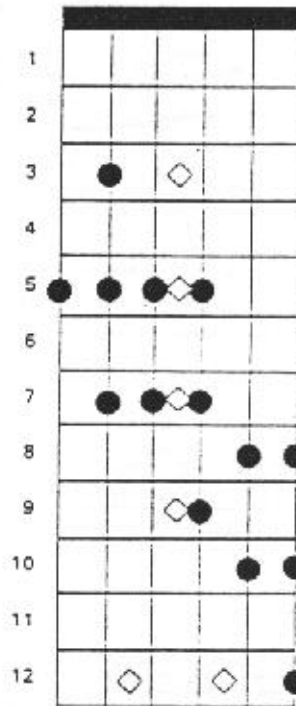
L5

L6

Handwritten 'X' is visible above the first staff.

Blues Pattern No. 2

This pattern is quite similar to the first, since it begins with the same hand position. But it has a greater range and utilizes more of the fingerboard, therefore lending itself to more improvisational possibilities.



Blues Licks—Pattern No. 2

This next group of riffs is taken from our second blues scale-pattern. However, they are in the key of G, two frets down from A. You should be able to play all these licks in any key; this merely means starting on a different fret, of course. Note that the first lick in this exercise uses a note from Blues Pattern No. 1 (D on the second string). You eventually should be able to mix the patterns up freely.

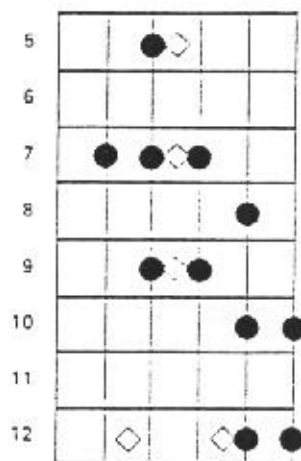
Blues Licks—Pattern No. 2

Handwritten annotations: 1', 2', 3', 4', 5', 6' and various 'X' marks are present above the staff lines.

The page displays four systems of guitar music, each consisting of a treble clef staff and a three-line bass staff (labeled T, A, B). The music is written in 12/8 time and features various blues licks with fingerings, bends, and slurs. Handwritten annotations include '1'', '2'', '3'', '4'', '5'', and '6'' above the first six measures, and 'X' marks above measures 2, 4, 5, and 7. The tablature includes fret numbers, accidentals, and dynamic markings like 'p' (piano).

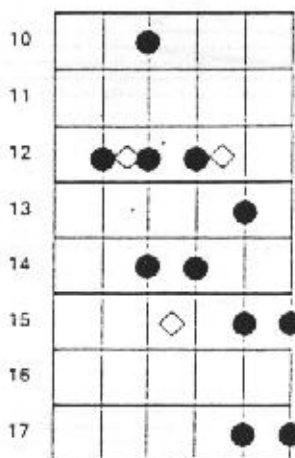
Blues Pattern No. 3

Our third pattern begins with its root note (E) on the A string, as opposed to starting on the low E string as in the two previous ones. I have it written out here in E and also in A, much higher up on the fingerboard.



Key: E major (F#)

Pattern: E (A string, 5th fret) - F# (A string, 7th fret) - G (A string, 8th fret) - A (A string, 9th fret) - B (A string, 10th fret) - C# (A string, 12th fret) - D (G string, 10th fret) - E (G string, 8th fret) - F# (G string, 7th fret) - G (G string, 5th fret) - A (D string, 5th fret) - B (D string, 7th fret) - C# (D string, 9th fret) - D (D string, 10th fret) - E (D string, 12th fret) - F# (G string, 12th fret) - G (G string, 10th fret) - A (G string, 8th fret) - B (G string, 7th fret) - C# (G string, 5th fret) - D (A string, 5th fret) - E (A string, 5th fret).



Blues Pattern No. 3—Key of A

Key: A major (F#, C#)

Pattern: A (A string, 10th fret) - B (A string, 12th fret) - C# (A string, 13th fret) - D (A string, 14th fret) - E (A string, 15th fret) - F# (A string, 17th fret) - G (G string, 15th fret) - A (G string, 13th fret) - B (G string, 12th fret) - C# (G string, 10th fret) - D (D string, 10th fret) - E (D string, 12th fret) - F# (D string, 14th fret) - G (D string, 15th fret) - A (D string, 17th fret) - B (G string, 17th fret) - C# (G string, 15th fret) - D (G string, 13th fret) - E (G string, 12th fret) - F# (G string, 10th fret) - G (A string, 10th fret) - A (A string, 10th fret).

Blues Licks—Pattern No. 3

These licks utilize the positions available within the third blues pattern. These are in the key of E:

The image displays six blues licks, labeled L1' through L6', arranged in three systems. Each lick is written for guitar in the key of E, using a treble clef staff and a bass staff (labeled T, A, B). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Dynamics like p (piano) and h (harmonic) are marked. Some licks have an 'X' over the treble staff, indicating a specific fret position (e.g., L1' at fret 1, L2' at fret 2, L5' at fret 5, L6' at fret 6).

Lick 1 (L1'): Treble staff starts with an 'X' and 'E' above it. Bass staff starts with a 5. Treble staff notes: E4 (3), F#4 (1), G#4 (3), A4 (5), B4 (3), A4 (1), G#4 (3), F#4 (1), E4 (3). Bass staff notes: E3 (7), F#3 (5), G#3 (7), A3 (9), B3 (7), A3 (9), G#3 (8), F#3 (9), E3 (9).

Lick 2 (L2'): Treble staff starts with an 'X' and 'L2'' above it. Bass staff starts with a 12. Treble staff notes: E4 (3), F#4 (3), G#4 (1), A4 (2), B4 (3). Bass staff notes: E3 (12), F#3 (10), G#3 (8), A3 (9).

Lick 3 (L3'): Treble staff starts with a p and 'L3'' above it. Bass staff starts with a 10. Treble staff notes: E4 (3), F#4 (3), G#4 (1), A4 (2), B4 (3). Bass staff notes: E3 (10), F#3 (10), G#3 (6), A3 (9), B3 (12), A3 (10), G#3 (12), F#3 (10), E3 (9).

Lick 4 (L4'): Treble staff starts with a p and 'L4'' above it. Bass staff starts with a 12. Treble staff notes: E4 (3), F#4 (3), G#4 (1), A4 (2), B4 (3). Bass staff notes: E3 (12), F#3 (10), G#3 (12), A3 (10), B3 (8), A3 (9).

Lick 5 (L5'): Treble staff starts with a 3 and 'L5'' above it. Bass staff starts with a 3. Treble staff notes: E4 (3), F#4 (3), G#4 (2), A4 (p), B4 (p), A4 (2), G#4 (p), F#4 (1), E4 (3). Bass staff notes: E3 (3), F#3 (3), G#3 (3), A3 (3), B3 (3), A3 (3), G#3 (3), F#3 (3), E3 (3).

Lick 6 (L6'): Treble staff starts with a 3 and 'L6'' above it. Bass staff starts with a 3. Treble staff notes: E4 (3), F#4 (3), G#4 (1), A4 (3), B4 (3), A4 (1), G#4 (3), F#4 (1), E4 (3). Bass staff notes: E3 (3), F#3 (3), G#3 (3), A3 (3), B3 (3), A3 (3), G#3 (3), F#3 (3), E3 (3).

Lick 7 (L7'): Treble staff starts with a 3 and 'L7'' above it. Bass staff starts with a 3. Treble staff notes: E4 (3), F#4 (3), G#4 (1), A4 (h), B4 (h), A4 (p), G#4 (1), F#4 (3), E4 (3). Bass staff notes: E3 (3), F#3 (3), G#3 (3), A3 (h), B3 (h), A3 (p), G#3 (3), F#3 (3), E3 (3).

Lick 8 (L8'): Treble staff starts with a 3 and 'L8'' above it. Bass staff starts with a 3. Treble staff notes: E4 (3), F#4 (3), G#4 (1), A4 (h), B4 (h), A4 (p), G#4 (1), F#4 (2), E4 (3). Bass staff notes: E3 (3), F#3 (3), G#3 (3), A3 (h), B3 (h), A3 (p), G#3 (3), F#3 (3), E3 (3).

Turnaround Licks

Whether you're playing lead guitar in a group or fingerpicking a solo blues piece, it's always nice to play an interesting lick during the turnaround. Of course, with the proper phrasing, almost any riff can be employed during these two bars. There are, however, some traditionally popular turnaround licks you should know first, and I've written them out here in both E and A to illustrate their open and closed positions:

First system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It features a melodic line with three triplet eighth notes, each marked with an 'A' above it. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a common time signature (C) and shows the corresponding fret positions for the triplet notes, with fret numbers 3, 3, and 3 indicated below the staff. The system concludes with a chord progression labeled 'D', 'D#', and 'E7' above the staff.

Second system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It features a melodic line with three triplet eighth notes, each marked with an 'E' above it. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a common time signature (C) and shows the corresponding fret positions for the triplet notes, with fret numbers 3, 3, and 3 indicated below the staff. The system concludes with a chord progression labeled 'A', 'A#', and 'B7' above the staff.

Third system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It features a melodic line with three triplet eighth notes, each marked with an 'A' above it. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a common time signature (C) and shows the corresponding fret positions for the triplet notes, with fret numbers 3, 3, and 3 indicated below the staff. The system concludes with a chord progression labeled 'D', 'D#', and 'E' above the staff.

Fourth system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It features a melodic line with three triplet eighth notes, each marked with an 'E' above it. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a common time signature (C) and shows the corresponding fret positions for the triplet notes, with fret numbers 3, 3, and 3 indicated below the staff. The system concludes with a chord progression labeled 'D', 'D#', and 'E' above the staff.

Lead guitar scale and lick in E major. The scale is A-B-C-D-E-F#-G-A, with triplets on A-B-C, B-C-D, and C-D-E. The lick is D-D#-E, with a triplet on E. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Now that some blues licks and turnaround licks are a part of the student's vocabulary, it would be good to try this famous Robert Johnson song. I've arranged it so you can use some of the licks as "fills" in the short instrumental passages between vocal lines. This is also the first song in this book to use a turnaround lick.

Crossroad Blues

Key of E

Robert Johnson

First system of "Crossroad Blues" showing the vocal line and guitar accompaniment. The vocal line is "I went to the cross - road, fell down on my knee." The guitar accompaniment features a triplet on the first measure and a turnaround lick on the second measure.

Second system of "Crossroad Blues" showing the vocal line and guitar accompaniment. The vocal line is "I went to the cross - road, fell down on my knee." The guitar accompaniment features a triplet on the first measure and a turnaround lick on the second measure.

32/Lead Guitar: Scales, Licks, Solos

Sheet music for Lead Guitar, Scales, Licks, Solos. The music is written for guitar and includes lyrics.

First System:

- Chord: E
- Lyrics: I asked the Lord to have mer-cy, _____
- Chord: B

Second System:

- Chord: A
- Lyrics: "Save poor Bob if you please."
- Chord: E
- Chord: A A#B
- Lyrics: (Stand-in' at the)
- Chord: Fine

Dust My Broom is another great Robert Johnson song that was made quite famous in the 1950s by the important Chicago bluesman, Elmore James. The arrangement I've written out is a bit more complicated than the previous song, with more complex lead fills:

Buddy Guy



Dust My Broom

Key of E

Robert Johnson

First system of musical notation for "Dust My Broom". The treble clef staff shows the melody with lyrics: "I'm goin' to get up in the morn-ing, I be-lieve I'll _dust my broom." The bass clef staff shows the guitar accompaniment with chords E, A, and B. Fingering numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4) are indicated for the left hand.

Second system of musical notation. The treble clef staff continues the melody with lyrics: "I'm goin' to get up in the morn-ing, I be-lieve I'll _dust my broom." The bass clef staff shows the guitar accompaniment with chords A and B. Fingering numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) are indicated for the left hand.

Third system of musical notation. The treble clef staff continues the melody with lyrics: "Girl friend, the black man you been lov - in'". The bass clef staff shows the guitar accompaniment with chords E and B7. Fingering numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) are indicated for the left hand.

Fourth system of musical notation. The treble clef staff continues the melody with lyrics: "girl friend, can _get my _room." and "(I'm gon - na)". The bass clef staff shows the guitar accompaniment with chords A, E, and A#B7. Fingering numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) are indicated for the left hand. The system ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

Bending Strings

Another very important tool for the blues guitarist is the technique of *bending strings*. This is a way of changing pitch by pushing or pulling the string toward or away from you, rather than by moving to another fret.* The effect is somewhat like a slide. This technique adds to the subtle emotional qualities of the blues, because it utilizes something truly exclusive to string instruments: the ability to sound unwritten notes that actually are there *between half-steps* (guitar frets are a half-step apart).

How To Bend

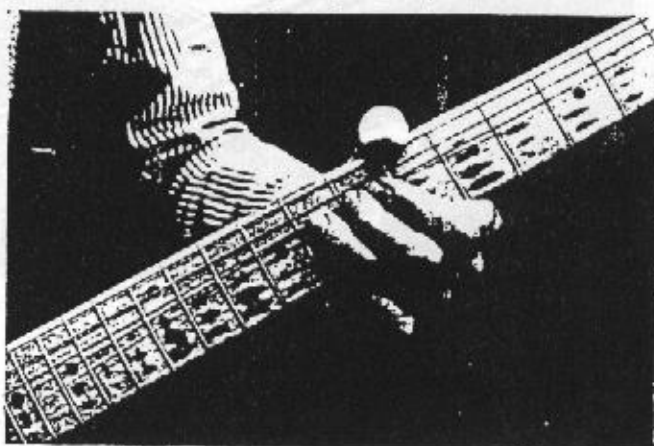
Generally, the outer strings should be bent toward the middle of the fingerboard; that is, the highest two strings (E and B) *pushed* toward you, and the lowest two *pulled* away from you. Occasionally, however, the way a lick is fingered will make this so awkward that you will have to ignore this rule.

Before actually playing bending licks, I think one should be technically adept at the physical act of bending strings. A frequent mistake is bending a string with only one finger, thereby getting a weak attack to the bend and not having the strength to maintain the note once the string is stretched. Therefore, when bending a string, always help your finger along with as many of the other fingers as are available behind it. In the photographs of strings being bent by the ring and middle fingers, note the positioning of the other fingers helping to bend the string:

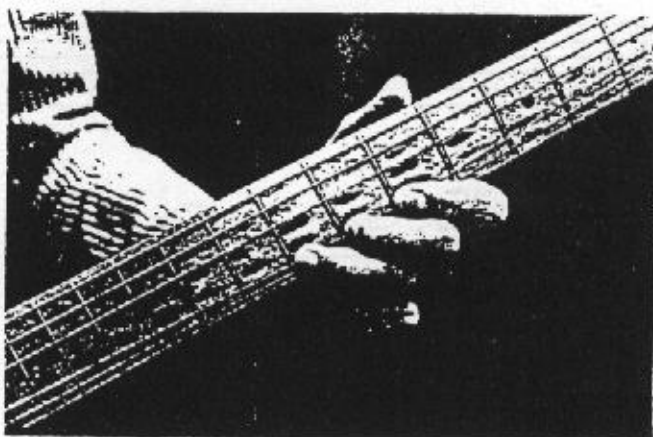
Note: I should also mention that if you are playing a steel-string acoustic guitar, you should only attempt bending with light-gauge strings at the heaviest. But whether playing acoustic guitar or electric (which can handle much lighter strings), don't try to bend the G string too far, unless it is of the unwound variety. If one of the riffs given here indicates a two-fret bend on the G string and you're practicing with a wound G, a one-fret bend will suffice.

*This was discussed in the first section of this book, *Reading Tablature and Symbols*.

Bending with the ring finger



B string—Push



G string—Pull

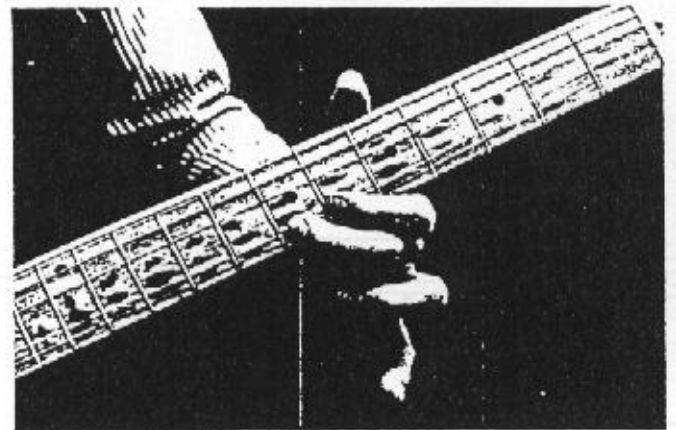
Bending with the middle finger



G string—Push

Almost all of the bends that follow involve either the *sevenths* or *fourths* of the keys you are playing in. For example, in the key of E you can bend on all the D notes (7th) or the A notes (4th). The sevenths are bent up to the root note, and the fourths are bent up to the fifth. Here are the three blues patterns illustrated earlier, with circles around the possible notes to be bent.

Bending with the middle finger



G string—Pull

Blues Pattern No. 1

Blues Pattern No. 1 is shown in the key of A. The treble clef staff displays the melodic line with notes A, B, C, D, E, F#, G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G, A. The notes A, D, and G are circled, indicating they are the notes to be bent. The bass clef staff shows the fret positions for the strings: T (Treble), A (A), and B (B). The fret numbers are 5, 8, 6, 7, 5, 7, 5, 6, 7, 5, 8, 5, 8.

Blues Pattern No. 2

Blues Pattern No. 2 is shown in the key of A. The treble clef staff displays the melodic line with notes A, B, C, D, E, F#, G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G, A. The notes A, D, and G are circled, indicating they are the notes to be bent. The bass clef staff shows the fret positions for the strings: T (Treble), A (A), and B (B). The fret numbers are 5, 8, 6, 7, 5, 7, 5, 6, 7, 5, 8, 5, 8.

Blues Pattern No. 3

Blues Pattern No. 3 is shown in the key of E. The treble clef staff displays the melodic line with notes E, F#, G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G, A, B, C, D, E. The notes E, A, and B are circled, indicating they are the notes to be bent. The bass clef staff shows the fret positions for the strings: T (Treble), A (A), and B (B). The fret numbers are 7, 5, 7, 9, 7, 9, 5, 10, 12, 10, 12.

Here, now, are some bending licks that should be well-practiced:

Bending Licks

In A
Blues Pattern No. 1:

B.P. No. 2:

B.P. No. 1&2:

In A
B.P. No. 2:

B.P. No. 1&2:

B.P. No. 2:

In E
B.P. No. 3:

B.P. No. 2 or 3:

The first system shows a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bass staff shows a sequence of notes: 7, 5, 7, (8), 7, 5, 7, (9). The second system shows a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bass staff shows a sequence of notes: 10, (12), 10, 8, 9. The third system shows a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bass staff shows a sequence of notes: 10, (12), 12, (12), 10, 8, 9.

Blues Solos

The next six exercises are twelve-bar blues progressions combining both the rhythm and lead techniques that have been discussed in the previous pages. They can be practiced alone, but the accompaniment of a teacher, friend, or prerecorded rhythm-guitar part might help you to achieve a smoother, more even rhythm in your playing.

Blues Solos

①

The musical score is divided into four systems, each representing a measure of the solo. The first system shows a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bass staff shows fingerings for the left hand. Chord symbols (E, E7) are placed above the treble staff. The second system shows a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bass staff shows fingerings for the left hand. Chord symbols (A) are placed above the treble staff. The third system shows a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bass staff shows fingerings for the left hand. Chord symbols (E, B) are placed above the treble staff. The fourth system shows a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bass staff shows fingerings for the left hand. Chord symbols (A, E, A, A7 B7) are placed above the treble staff.

Chord symbols: E, E7, A, B, A, E, A, A7 B7

Performance instructions: V h, b r

40/Lead Guitar: Scales, Licks, Solos

2

First system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), common time (C). The staff contains a sequence of chords and a melodic line. The bass staff shows a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Chords are labeled E and C. Fingering numbers 1, 2, 3 are indicated above the treble staff.

Second system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of two sharps. The staff contains a sequence of chords and a melodic line. The bass staff shows a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Chords are labeled A and A'. Fingering numbers 1, 2, 3 are indicated above the treble staff. Dynamic markings p and r are present.

Third system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of two sharps. The staff contains a sequence of chords and a melodic line. The bass staff shows a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Chords are labeled E and B7. Fingering numbers 1, 2, 3 are indicated above the treble staff. Dynamic markings p and r are present.

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of two sharps. The staff contains a sequence of chords and a melodic line. The bass staff shows a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Chords are labeled A, E, A, A#, and B7. Fingering numbers 1, 2, 3 are indicated above the treble staff. Dynamic markings p and r are present.

3

Exercise 3 is a lead guitar solo in A major, consisting of four measures. The notation includes treble and bass staves with various chords and techniques.

Measure 1: Treble staff starts with a whole note chord A (5 fret, 2nd string). Bass staff has a whole note chord C (open strings). Both staves feature a triplet of eighth notes (3, 3, 3) in the 5th fret of the 2nd string.

Measure 2: Treble staff has a whole note chord A7 (5 fret, 2nd string). Bass staff has a whole note chord D (5 fret, 4th string). Both staves feature a triplet of eighth notes (3, 3, 3) in the 5th fret of the 2nd string.

Measure 3: Treble staff has a whole note chord A (5 fret, 2nd string). Bass staff has a whole note chord E (open strings). Both staves feature a triplet of eighth notes (3, 3, 3) in the 5th fret of the 2nd string.

Measure 4: Treble staff has a whole note chord D (5 fret, 4th string). Bass staff has a whole note chord D# (5 fret, 4th string) and E (open strings). Both staves feature a triplet of eighth notes (3, 3, 3) in the 5th fret of the 2nd string.

Additional notation includes: Treble staff: A (5 fret, 2nd string), A7 (5 fret, 2nd string), D (5 fret, 4th string), A (5 fret, 2nd string), D (5 fret, 4th string), D# (5 fret, 4th string), E (open strings). Bass staff: C (open strings), D (5 fret, 4th string), E (open strings), D# (5 fret, 4th string), E (open strings).

4

First system of musical notation (Staff 1 and Staff 2). Staff 1 (Treble Clef) shows a melodic line with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The line is marked with an 'A' above the first measure. Staff 2 (Bass Clef) shows a bass line with a common time signature (C). The system includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests.

Second system of musical notation (Staff 1 and Staff 2). Staff 1 (Treble Clef) shows a melodic line with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The line is marked with a 'D' above the first measure. Staff 2 (Bass Clef) shows a bass line with a common time signature (C). The system includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests.

Third system of musical notation (Staff 1 and Staff 2). Staff 1 (Treble Clef) shows a melodic line with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The line is marked with an 'A' above the first measure. Staff 2 (Bass Clef) shows a bass line with a common time signature (C). The system includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests.

Fourth system of musical notation (Staff 1 and Staff 2). Staff 1 (Treble Clef) shows a melodic line with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The line is marked with a 'D' above the first measure. Staff 2 (Bass Clef) shows a bass line with a common time signature (C). The system includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests.

$\downarrow = \downarrow \frac{1}{2} + 0$

$\uparrow = \uparrow \frac{1}{2} - 0$

5

G

C

G



44/Lead Guitar: Scales, Licks, Solos

The image displays a handwritten musical score for guitar and bass, organized into four systems. Each system consists of a treble staff (top) and a bass staff (bottom). The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The notation includes various musical elements:

- System 1:** The treble staff begins with a G chord and features several triplet patterns. A circled 'V' is written above the staff. The bass staff includes fingerings such as 3, 2, 1, 2, and 3.
- System 2:** The treble staff includes a G7 chord and a C chord. The bass staff has a 'h' marking above the first measure and continues with a series of notes.
- System 3:** The treble staff starts with a G chord and includes a triplet. The bass staff has a 'h' marking above the first measure and continues with a series of notes.
- System 4:** The treble staff includes chords C, G, C, C#, and D7. The bass staff has a 'h' marking above the first measure and continues with a series of notes.

The score is written in a clear, legible hand, with various musical notations and markings throughout.

This arrangement of Robert Johnson's *When You Got a Good Friend* will be using some licks that involve bending strings. The act of playing complex fills and coming out of them cleanly and on the right beat is a difficult one, so it might take some time and practice before it really begins to happen.

When You Got A Good Friend

Key of E

Robert Johnson

When you got a good friend that will stay right by your side.

When you got a good friend that will stay right by your side.

Give her all your spare time,

try to love and treat her right.

(When you)

E **3** **E7** **A 3** **E** **B** **A** **E** **A# B7** **Fine**

Here's a song that was written and recorded by Bo Weevil Jackson. It's the first song in this book in the key of A:

You Can't Keep No Brown

Key of A

Bo Weevil Jackson

A

I woke up this morn - in' ma-ma, blues all a-round my bed.

b b r s

D

Soon this morn - in' ma-ma, blues all a-round my bed.

A **E**

Think - in' 'bout the kind

b r p

D **A** **D D# E** *Fine*

word that my ma-ma had said. (I woke)

Here's another arrangement in the key of A,
Future Blues by Willie Brown.

Future Blues

Key of A

Willie Brown

The musical score for "Future Blues" is written in the key of A major (two sharps: F# and C#). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a guitar line (bass clef). The guitar line includes fret numbers and chord symbols (A, D, E) above it.

System 1: The vocal line begins with the lyrics "The min-utes seem like hours_ an' hours seems like days." The guitar line features a series of chords and a triplet of eighth notes (7, 6, 5) in the final measure.

System 2: The vocal line continues with "An' the min-utes seems like hours_ an' hours seems like days." The guitar line includes a triplet of eighth notes (5, 4, 3) in the first measure.

System 3: The vocal line has the lyrics "An' it seems like my wom-an ought - a". The guitar line features a triplet of eighth notes (7, 5, 3) in the first measure.

System 4: The vocal line concludes with "stoo her low-down way." followed by "(The)". The guitar line includes a triplet of eighth notes (5, 4, 3) in the first measure and ends with a "Fine" marking over a whole note chord.

This song by Marshall Owens is arranged for the key of D.

Texas Blues

Key of D

Marshall Owens

First system of music for "Texas Blues". The key signature is D major (two sharps). The melody is in the treble clef, and the guitar accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "I'm goin' back to Tex - as, hear the wild ox moan." The guitar part features a D major chord at the start, followed by a series of eighth notes and a triplet of eighth notes at the end.

Second system of music. The melody continues with the lyrics: "I'm goin' back to Tex - as, hear the wild ox moan." The guitar part features a G major chord at the start, followed by a series of eighth notes and a triplet of eighth notes at the end.

Third system of music. The melody continues with the lyrics: "Lord, that's why you hear". The guitar part features a D major chord at the start, followed by a series of eighth notes and a triplet of eighth notes at the end.

Fourth system of music. The melody continues with the lyrics: "me 'til ear - ly morn." and "(I'm goin')". The guitar part features a G major chord at the start, followed by a series of eighth notes and a triplet of eighth notes at the end. The system concludes with a "Fine" marking and a final chord of G major.

This moving Robert Johnson song utilizes an unusual fourteen-bar format. It is written here in the key of G.

If I Had Possession Over Judgment Day

Key of G

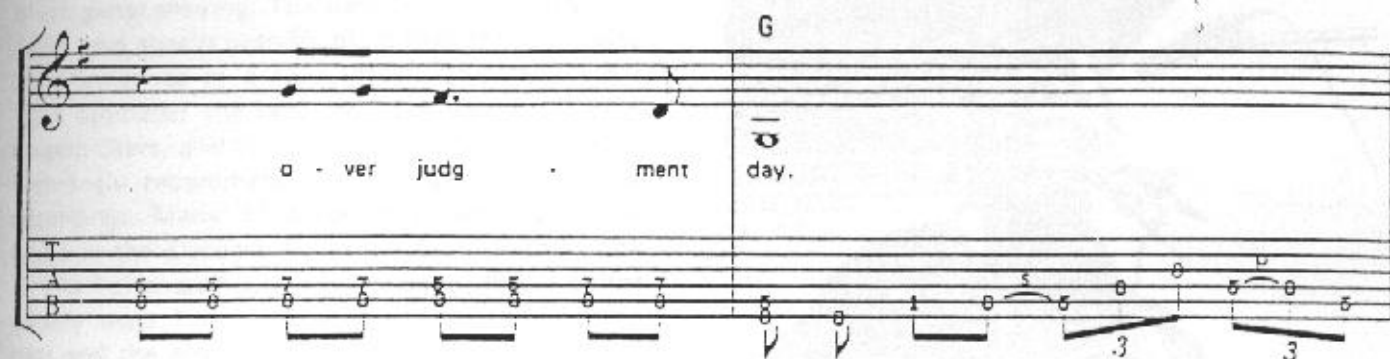
Robert Johnson

Three systems of musical notation for a hymn tune. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef, G-clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef, C-clef). The first system is marked 'G' and contains the lyrics 'If I had pos-ses-sion o-ver judg-ment'. The second system is marked 'day.' and contains the lyrics 'day.'. The third system is marked 'C' and contains the lyrics 'If I had pos-ses-sion'. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic pattern of eighth notes.

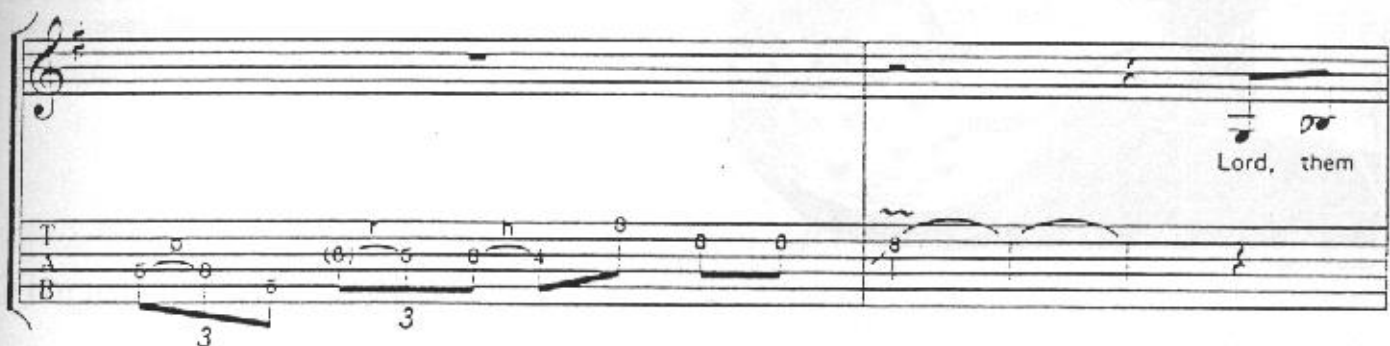
Fingerpicking the Blue.

50/Lead Guitar: Scales, Licks, Solos

G

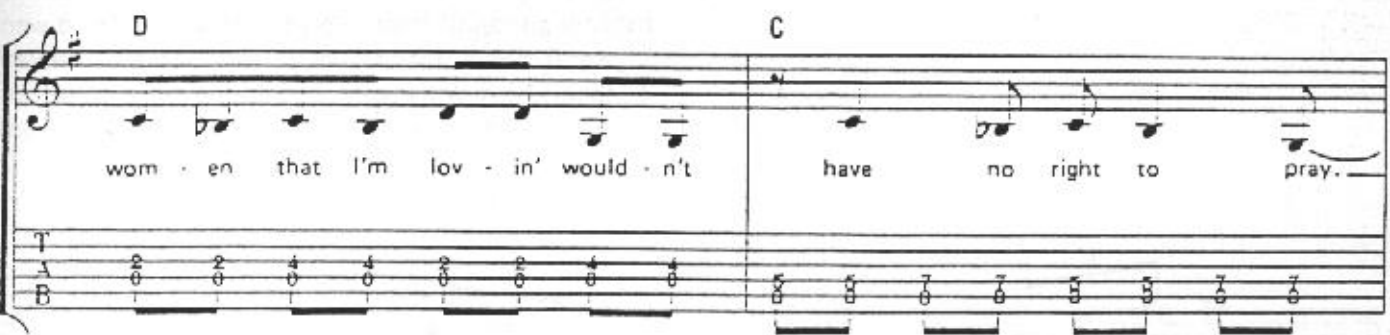


a - ver judg - ment day.



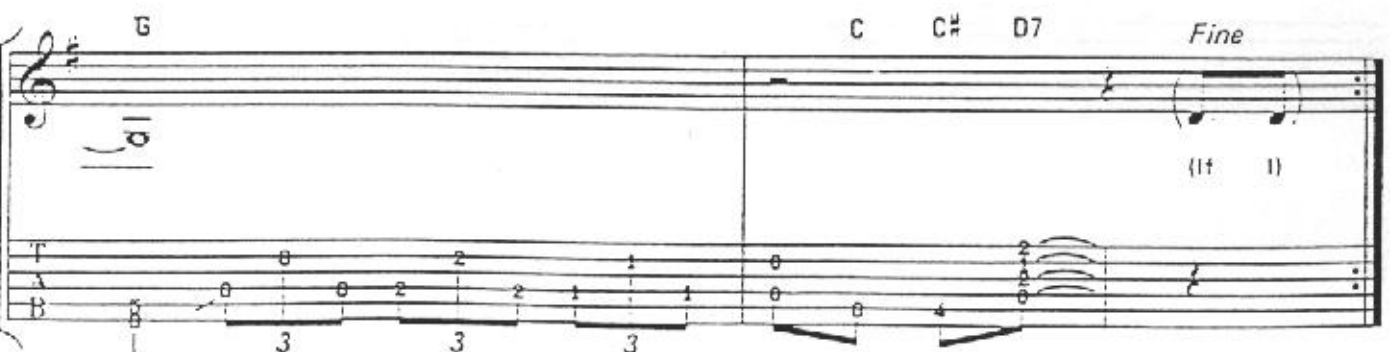
Lord, them

D C



wom - en that I'm lov - in' would - n't have no right to pray.

G C C# D7 Fine



(if 1)

Fingerpicking the Blues

Fingerpicking is probably the oldest form of blues guitar-playing. The best examples of this art-form have always been by blues singers accompanying themselves in a solo effort. The 1920's and '30's produced the best recorded works by blues fingerpickers, and if you are interested in this style I strongly recommend picking up some of these recordings. Many of these important records are listed in the discography in the back of this book.

As I discussed earlier in the book, the two most widely used fingerpicking styles are the *constant bass* and the *alternating bass*. All of the songs and exercises in this chapter will utilize these two techniques; throughout all the pieces you should concentrate on maintaining the three-fingered approach I mentioned earlier.*



Jess Fuller

Fingerpicking Licks

Before getting into playing actual fingerpicking tunes, the student should first become fairly accustomed to playing in the style. Here, then, are some new blues licks with the right-hand fingering written below the tablature. 1 signifies the index finger, 2 the middle finger, and 3 means the ring finger. T means the note is played with the thumb.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system shows the right hand playing a melody in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of two measures, each containing a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand plays a bass line in bass clef, also in common time, with notes corresponding to the lyrics 'The Rose Tree'. The second system continues the melody and bass line. The right hand melody includes a half note and a quarter note, while the left hand bass line continues with eighth notes. The lyrics 'The Rose Tree' are written below the bass line.

*Described in detail on p. 19.

52/Fingerpicking the Blues

First system of fingerpicking blues notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains two measures of music. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#). The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G, A, B) marked with a 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C#, D, E) marked with an 'r'. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains two measures. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#). The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G, A, B) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C#, D, E) marked with an 'r'. Fingering numbers (1-3) are written below the notes.

Second system of fingerpicking blues notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains two measures of music. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) marked with a 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#). The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G, A, B) marked with a 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C#, D, E) marked with an 'r'. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains two measures. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#). The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G, A, B) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C#, D, E) marked with an 'r'. Fingering numbers (1-3) are written below the notes.

Third system of fingerpicking blues notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains two measures of music. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) marked with a 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#). The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G, A, B) marked with a 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C#, D, E) marked with an 'r'. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains two measures. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#). The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G, A, B) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C#, D, E) marked with an 'r'. Fingering numbers (1-3) are written below the notes.

Fourth system of fingerpicking blues notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains two measures of music. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) marked with a 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#). The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G, A, B) marked with a 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C#, D, E) marked with an 'r'. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains two measures. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#). The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G, A, B) marked with a 'b' and a circled 'b', followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C#, D, E) marked with an 'r'. Fingering numbers (1-3) are written below the notes.

Turnaround Licks Fingerpicking Style

Here are some turnaround licks, both familiar and new, in fingerpicking style, coupled with a constant shuffle bass played by the thumb:

The first musical example consists of two staves. The top staff is a guitar melody in E major, starting with a whole note E, followed by three eighth-note triplets (F#, G, A), and then a quarter note A, a quarter note A#, and a quarter note B7. The bottom staff is a thumb bass line in C major, starting with a whole note C, followed by three eighth-note triplets (D, E, F), and then a quarter note G, a quarter note A, and a quarter note B7. The bass line is marked with a '3' under each triplet.

The second musical example is identical to the first. It features a guitar melody in E major and a thumb bass line in C major, both with eighth-note triplets and a final quarter note chord.

The third musical example is identical to the first two. It features a guitar melody in E major and a thumb bass line in C major, both with eighth-note triplets and a final quarter note chord.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for fingerpicking exercises. Each system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The treble staff contains a melody with triplets and chords labeled E, A, A#, and B7. The bass staff contains a constant bass line with triplets and other rhythmic patterns.

Fingerpicking Solos

This next group of constant-bass exercises begins fairly simply and becomes more complex as it goes along. You will need to use much concentration and practice in order to develop a *clean separation between the bass and lead notes*, essential to this style of playing.



Oris Rush

Fingerpicking Solos

①

The musical score is written for guitar in a key with two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four systems of notation, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system is marked with a circled '1'. The chords indicated are E, E7, and A. The bass staff features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes. The treble staff features a melody with various intervals and a final cadence.

2

The first system of music features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody begins with a half rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and A4, then eighth notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4, ending with a half note D4. The bass staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings 1 through 6 labeled. It shows a sequence of chords: E4 (open), A4 (2nd fret), B4 (2nd fret), and A4 (2nd fret), each sustained for a full measure.

The second system continues the piece. The treble staff has a half rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and A4, then eighth notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4, ending with a half note D4. The bass staff shows a sequence of chords: E4 (open), A4 (2nd fret), B4 (2nd fret), and A4 (2nd fret), each sustained for a full measure.

The third system continues the piece. The treble staff has a half rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and A4, then eighth notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4, ending with a half note D4. The bass staff shows a sequence of chords: E4 (open), A4 (2nd fret), B4 (2nd fret), and A4 (2nd fret), each sustained for a full measure.

The fourth system continues the piece. The treble staff has a half rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and A4, then eighth notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4, ending with a half note D4. The bass staff shows a sequence of chords: E4 (open), A4 (2nd fret), B4 (2nd fret), and A4 (2nd fret), each sustained for a full measure.

3

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains a melodic line with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes). The bass staff begins with a bass clef and contains a bass line with many eighth and sixteenth notes, some marked with 'h' for harmonics. The system concludes with a measure containing a whole note chord labeled 'E'.

The second system continues the piece. The treble staff features a melodic line with triplet markings and a whole note chord labeled 'E7'. The bass staff continues with a complex bass line, including triplet markings and a measure with a whole note chord labeled 'A'.

The third system shows the progression of the blues piece. The treble staff includes a melodic line with triplet markings and a whole note chord labeled 'B7'. The bass staff continues with a complex bass line, including triplet markings and a measure with a whole note chord labeled 'E'.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The treble staff features a melodic line with triplet markings and a whole note chord labeled 'A A# B7'. The bass staff continues with a complex bass line, including triplet markings and a measure with a whole note chord labeled 'A'.

58/Fingerpicking the Blues

4



This musical score is for a piece titled "Fingerpicking the Blues," marked with a circled "4" in the top left corner. It is written for guitar in E major, indicated by four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#) on the treble clef. The score is organized into four systems, each consisting of a treble staff and a three-part bass staff labeled T (thumb), A (index), and B (middle). The music is in 4/4 time and features a consistent fingerpicking pattern of eighth notes. Chord changes are indicated by letters above the staff: E, A, B7, and E7. Triplet markings (a "3" over a group of notes) are used throughout to indicate groups of three eighth notes. The bass staff includes fret numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4) and specific fingering instructions for the thumb (T), index (A), and middle (B) fingers. The piece concludes with a final E7 chord and a double bar line.

Fingerpicking Tunes

The next three songs are arranged for blues fingerpicking, and they utilize just about every technique that has been discussed in this book. You should always remember that if you really feel confident, you shouldn't hesitate to begin to improvise. This *art of improvisation* is what will really begin to open up a whole new world for the blues guitarist.

This song in the key of E was written by Blind Joe Reynolds. *Cream* recorded a popular version of it on their first album.



B. B. King

Outside Woman Blues

Key of E

Blind Joe Reynolds

Sheet music for "Outside Woman Blues" in the key of E. The music is arranged for guitar, showing the melody line and the bass line (T, A, B strings).

The first system of music is in the key of E (one sharp) and features the following lyrics: "When you lose your mon-ey, great God, don't lose your".

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line, featuring the lyrics: "mind." and "When you".

The music includes various fingerpicking techniques, such as triplets (indicated by a '3' over the notes) and a key signature change to E7 (indicated by a '7' over the key signature).

60/Fingerpicking the Blues

A

lose your mon-ey, great God, don't lose your

E

mind. And when you

B7 **A**

lose your wom-an, please don't

E **A A# B7** *Fine*

fool — with mine. (When)

Walkin' Blues was written and first recorded by Robert Johnson. As is the case with so many of his songs, other artists have since recorded countless versions of it. Here it is in the key of A.

Walkin' Blues

Key of A

Robert Johnson

The musical score for "Walkin' Blues" is presented in four systems, each with a guitar melody line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating the key of A. The score includes lyrics and chord markings above the guitar line.

System 1: Chord A. Lyrics: "I woke up this morn - in', Feel a-round for my shoes."

System 2: Chords A7 and D. Lyrics: "Know by that I got these old walk - in' blues. I woke up this morn - in',"

System 3: Chord A. Lyrics: "Feel - in' a-round for my shoes. But you"

System 4: Chords E7, D, A, and D D#E7. Lyrics: "know by that I've got these...old walk-in' blues."

The bass line features extensive fingerpicking notation, with numbers 1-5 indicating the fingers used to pluck the strings. The guitar line includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and accidentals.

Another great Johnson song, *Travelin' Riverside Blues*, is written here with a constant-bass accompaniment that consists simply of four straight quarter-notes per bar, rather than eighth notes (as in the constant shuffle bass).

Travelin' Riverside Blues

Key of E

Robert Johnson

The musical score for "Travelin' Riverside Blues" by Robert Johnson is presented in four systems. Each system consists of a treble staff with a melody line and a bass staff with a constant bass line of four quarter notes per bar. The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating the key of E major. The time signature is 4/4.

System 1: The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The lyrics are "If your man get per-son-al, won't you have your fun?". The bass line consists of four quarter notes: E2, G2, B1, and E2.

System 2: The melody continues with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The lyrics are "If your man get per-son-al, won't you have your fun?". The bass line consists of four quarter notes: E2, G2, B1, and E2.

System 3: The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The lyrics are "Says come (on) back to Friar's Point ma-ma,". The bass line consists of four quarter notes: E2, G2, B1, and E2.

System 4: The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The lyrics are "an' bar-rel-house all night long. (If your)". The bass line consists of four quarter notes: E2, G2, B1, and E2.

The score includes various musical notations such as rests, quarter notes, eighth notes, and triplets. The lyrics are written below the melody line, and the bass line is written below the treble staff.

In Conclusion

Playing blues guitar can be a very rewarding experience—each note that you learn as you progress can be a thrill in itself. I hope that the music you've been playing in this book has helped you to begin speaking the special language of the blues. I would advise continuing your development by improvising more with the licks and progressions you know, playing with other musicians, and listening to as many blues recordings as you can.

I sincerely hope that this book is just a beginning for you in your development into a fine blues guitarist.

Discography

Here are some blues recordings that I would recommend a new student of blues guitar pick up on:

Traditional Folk Blues

Robert Johnson/*King of the Delta Blues Singers* (volumes 1 and 2), Columbia CL1654, C30045
 Son House/*Father of Folk Blues*, Columbia CS9217
 Charley Patton/*Founder of the Delta Blues*, Yazoo L1020
 Blind Willie McTell/1927-1933, *The Early Years*, Yazoo, L1005
 Blind Blake/*Search Warrant Blues* (vols. 1 and 2), Biograph 12003, 12023
Guitar Wizards, 1926-1935, Yazoo L1016
Mississippi Moaners, 1927-1942, Yazoo L1009
Bo Carter, Greatest Hits 1930-1940, Yazoo L1014
Mississippi John Hurt, Vanguard 19/20

Lead Guitar—Electric Blues

B.B. King/*Completely Well*, Bluesway BLS 6037
 Elmore James, John Brim/*Whose Muddy Shoes*, Chess 1537
 Albert King, Otis Rush/*Door to Door*, Chess 1538
 T-Bone Walker/*Stormy Monday Blues*, Bluesway BLS 6008.
 Buddy Guy/*A Man and the Blues*, Vanguard VSD 79272
 Chicago/*The Blues Today* (vols. 1, 2 and 3), Vanguard VSD 79216, 79217, 79218

About the author

Arlen Roth was born in New York City in 1952. He began playing the guitar at the age of eleven, and started to play blues guitar soon after. Since then, Arlen has become one of the most sought-after guitarists around, performing and recording with many well-known artists, including Janis Ian, John Prine, Happy & Artie Traum, Rachel Faro, Dusty Springfield, Steve Goodman, John Herald, Art Garfunkel, Loudon Wainwright III, Dan Hill, Doris Abrahams, Michael Wendroff, Gladston & Thom, Eric Andersen, and Jim Dawson. Arlen also plays dobro, pedal steel, and Hawaiian guitar. He is also the author of *Nashville Guitar*, and *Slide Guitar*, published by Oak Publications.