

Blues Riff #5

This one is of a 12 – bar blues form and features the most holy “E Minor Pentatonic” scale, some “hammers” and “pulls” and muting technique. It’s also a tune you could play either with a pick or as a fingerstyle effort. Kind of a bouncy groove, it’s worth the effort. Those disembodied numbers above the tablature staff are left hand fingering suggestions. The right hand probably will be mostly downstrokes, if using a pick.

In bar 2, we find the “E Minor Pentatonic” in the first position with a flatted 5th – a “blue” tone - at the lower end. Initially here, the scale is performed high to low and then another 4 times almost note for note. So, this piece is a good exercise for working on this *greatest* of scales in conjunction with using “pulls” or “pull - offs” for the left hand. Quick string changes – for both hands - can be an obstacle too.

The other element is use prominently is the “Major or Minor 6th” interval. Clearly shown in bar 1, we’re to play two notes *simultaneously* on two non-adjacent strings. If you’re playing with a pick, you’ll need to “mute” the interior string – the one we don’t want to hear - with the finger playing the lower-pitched string. So, in bar 1 your 3rd finger – depressing the 4th fret of the 5th string will slightly nudge against the open 4th string thereby muting it. The 4th string may still make some sound but it’s at worst, just a “thud” or a barely discernable percussive effect. This is a common technique and so, basically, you just get sloppy with your fretting on the lower string.

I can’t recall the original source for “Blues Riff #5. It could have been just that initial 2 – bar phase that I heard or found somewhere and then just overlaid into a 12 – bar format. Likely, there are many variations residing out *there*. Anyway, just have some fun with it!

Medium/Slow Swing
BPM = c.a. 112

"BLUES RIFF #5"

E7

1 1 1
3 2 3

1 1 1
3 2 3

T
A
B

2 4 2
4 5 4 0

2 3 0 3 2 1 3
2 2 1 0 3

0 0 0 0 0 0

A7

1 3 1
2 2 2

1 3 1
2 2 2

3 4 3 2 1 3
2 3 0 3 0 2 1 3

1 3 1
2 2 2

3 5 3
4 5 4 0

2 2 1 0 3
0 0 0 0 0 0

2 2 1 0 3
0 0 0 0 0 0

E7 **B7#9**

1 1 1
3 2 3

1 3 2 1 3
2 3 0 3 0 2 1 3

2 1 3 2 1
3 3 0 2 2

2 4 2
4 5 4 0

2 2 1 0 3
2 1 2 2 1

0 0 0 0 0 0

A7 **E7** **B7#9** **E13**

4 3 2 1 3
3 0 3 0 2 1 3

2 3 2 3 2 3
7 7 6 6 5 5

3 4 1 2 3 1
4 2 3 2 2

3 1
0 2 1 0

0 2 1 0 3
0 2 5 6 4 0

0 0 0 0 0 0