

LICK OF THE WEEK

Albert Collins *Cash Talkin' (The Workingman's Blues)*

This week's lick is from Albert Collins intro to his own tune, *Cash Talkin' (The Workingman's Blues)*. You can find it on his 1986 album, **Cold Snap** (Alligator Records, ALCD4752).

Albert's crisp style, along with his searing Telecaster tone, make his licks instantly identifiable. To imitate his sound, you should try using the bridge pickup on your guitar, for the brighter tone.

He often employs a more staccato-like, 16th note rhythm, where the beat is divided into 4 sub-beats (see p. 39, *Blues You Can Use*), rather than the smoother, more laid back triplet rhythm. This gives his music a lot of its drive. Of course, Albert played plenty of tunes with the triplet feel, as well.

This lick is played in the key of A, with notes from the A pentatonic minor and major scales, combined, starting with the minor, before mixing in the major. You can try playing this in other positions. Try playing the first notes on the 2nd string, at the 10th and 8th frets, for example. He used a different tuning, so playing his licks in standard tuning can be a bit tricky.

Enjoy.
JG