

LICK OF THE WEEK

Jump Blues in A^b – part 1

Here's this week's tune, *Jump Blues in A^b*. "Jump blues style" is one where the 12-bar progression is played with a heavy, triplet swing rhythm, and the accents are all on the upbeats. To make the accents as strong as possible, the rhythm guitar part has a strum on each upbeat and no strums on the downbeats. This gives the tune a strong sense of forward motion. The strums, in bold, are all played with an upstroke:

(1) **&** (2) **&** (3) **&** (4) **&**

The lead part in this tune is made mostly made up of double-stops (two strings played simultaneously). Most of them are played on the same fret, using one finger. Naturally, wherever they fall on two different frets, you have to use two fingers.

Notice in the 3rd bar after the count-in, there is a bend and release fretted with the 3rd finger only. This may take a little practice, in order to make the ½ step bend without having the strings slip out from under your fingers. It will come with practice.

The notes are mostly found in pattern 1 of the A^b minor pentatonic scale, with some from the A^b major pentatonic for color. The combination of the two gives you a stronger sense of the chords you are playing over.

Take your time with this. It's not fast, but you want to be sure to get the rhythm right, so that it will fit with next week's installment.

Enjoy.

JG