

LICK OF THE WEEK

Magic Sam *Sweet Home Chicago*

This week's lick is one by Magic Sam, a Chicago bluesman who is a little less well known, because he died early, at 32, and didn't have time to really make his mark and enjoy the blues explosion that was just happening around the time of his death. But make no mistake, he was a great blues musician and created an energetic style of his own that still stands up to today's standards. I got this lick from his Delmark recording, **West Side Soul** (Delmark Records DD-615). Great album.

The lick itself begins on the I (E7) chord in measures 3 and 4 of the 12-bar progression. The first bar consists of triplet 3^{rds} (see **Blues You Can Use**, pp.70, 71). The notes are the 5th and ^b7th of the E7 chord. In the next bar you play a little run-like figure in patterns 2 and 1 of the E minor pentatonic scale.

From there you move to the IV (A7) chord and play a repeated figure which is derived from an A6 chord (see lesson 9, **More Blues You Can Use**). The notes, from the A chord, are, in the order you play them, the 9th (from add9 chord), root, 6th (which bends ½ step up to the ^b7th and back to the 6th), 5th and end the pattern on the 3rd. This figure repeats 4 times before moving back to and E7 chord and the opening triplet 3^{rds} played at the beginning of the lick.

These can be very easily incorporated in your playing.

Enjoy.
JG