

## LICK OF THE WEEK

T-Bone Walker *Bye Bye Baby*

This week's lick is from T-Bone Walker's swingin' *Bye Bye Baby*, recorded way back in 1953 for Imperial Records. It can be found on the 1991 EMI USA release **T-Bone Walker The Complete Imperial Recordings** (EMI Records USA D 200451). It's a double CD set packed with 52 tunes recorded in his prime.

The lick is actually the second full chorus of T-Bone's solo, beginning on a 2-beat pickup before the I ( $B^b7$ ) chord. It begins with chord shapes bent up a quarter-tone. The chords are almost bent up to a  $B^b7$  from a half-step (one fret) below. If you move the whole chord shape up one fret, from frets 9, 8 and 9 on the top 3 strings, to frets 10, 9, 10, you'll hear the  $B^b7$ . (It's shaped like an open D7 chord, but up the neck.) It's almost painful to hear the notes struggle upward, but not quite making it. After 3 bars he moves on to a nice little lick that moves from the top string down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> in a bit of a winding way that is typical of his style. That lands you on the IV chord ( $E^b7$ ).

T-Bone then places a four-note sequence, a nice little bluesy lick. He extends the last repeat of the lick, building mostly from notes of the chord ( $B^b7$ ). They are marked in the score. He finishes the solo off with a nice, T-Bone style lick using scale and chord tones like he did above.

It's jazzier than most blues, but then, that's T-Bone.

Enjoy.  
JG