

LICK 1

Back to the (ZZ) Top

MUSICAL STYLE: Blues Rock

SOUNDS LIKE: Billy Gibbons

OVERVIEW: This lick sounds a lot like a Delta blues turnaround, but instead of moving from the I chord to the V chord at the midpoint of bar 2, this lick sticks with the I chord (in this case, A) throughout. Listen to ZZ Top's "La Grange" for a lick similar to the one shown here.

TIP: Keep your pinky planted on fret 5 of string 1 while you walk down string 4 with your ring, middle, and index fingers, respectively.



Key of A

♩ = 90 (♩ = ♪♯)

A



Key of C

♩ = 90 (♩ = ♪♯)

C



Key of D

♩ = 90 (♩ = ♪♯)

D



Key of G

♩ = 90 (♩ = ♪♯)

G

LICK 49

Winter Blues

MUSICAL STYLE: Blues Rock

SOUNDS LIKE: Johnny Winter

OVERVIEW: Similar to Gary Moore, Texas bluesman Johnny Winter was a shredder before shred was cool... well, at least mainstream. This lick is played in box 1 of the B minor pentatonic scale and features repetitive whole-step bends on string 2. The pitch of the bend matches the root of the scale, B, which is also voiced at fret 7 of string 1 immediately following the bend. This dizzying back-and-forth between bend and fretted pitch is one of Winter's signature moves.

TIP: Be sure not to overlook the quarter-step bend at the end of the lick, as it lends the phrase a bit more blues "grease." To execute this bend, pull string 3 downward, towards the floor, ever so slightly, rather than upward.



Key of B

♩ = 80

TAB 4/4



Key of E

♩ = 80

TAB 4/4



Key of F#

♩ = 80

TAB 4/4



Key of A

♩ = 80

TAB 4/4