

Lesson # 13 The "Stuff On Top" in E

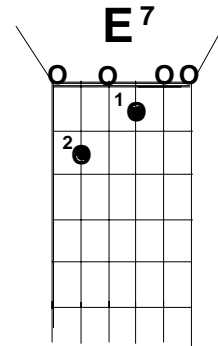
Let's mix some "licks" on top with the rhythms we covered in those first lessons. What we're gonna do here is play one measure (4 beats) of a rhythm (the "stuff on the bottom"), then one measure of "licks" ("stuff on top").

To get started lets look again at three of the rhythms we used in those first lessons. We are gonna start out just hangin' in E. Then plug into the 12-bar.

One Chord Shuffle in E. (Hold this E7 chord)

Keep that 1st and 2nd finger down there!

We've already viewed and reviewed these first three rhythms again and again. Here they are as a convenience.

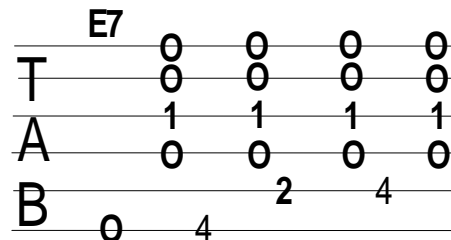
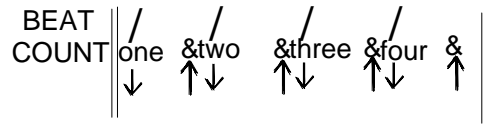
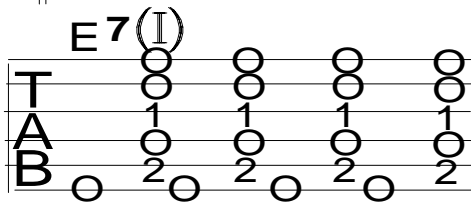
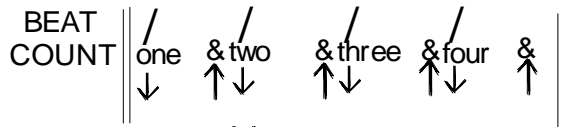


#1 Mono Bass With Chord Up.

Thumb down / finger(s) up (or pick)

#3 Walking Bass With Chord Up

Thumb down / finger(s) up (or pick)

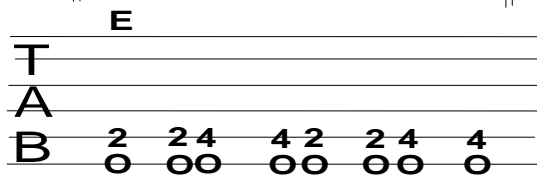
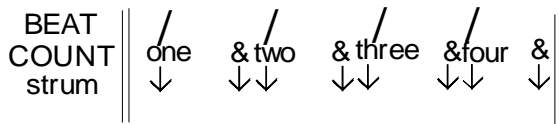


#2 Two String, Two Note Back & Forth

(All thumb or pick down)

but, still hold that E7 chord!

And use your "pinky" on that 4th fret!



Again, when walking-

And holding that E7 chord

--it's the pinky off and on.

***By now,**

you should have these down!

So work hard and concentrate on the groove! Accents, muting Etc...

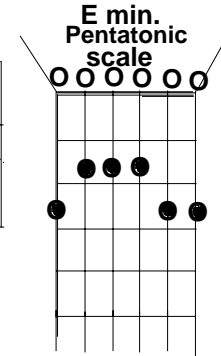
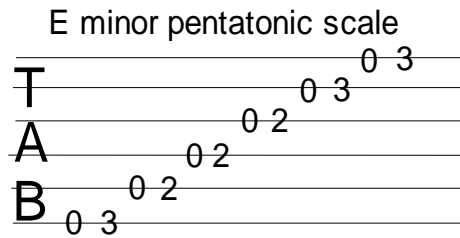
[Supplement #8]

Now, let's look at the notes for "The Stuff On Top!"

Now, let's plug the notes in.

The "high notes" we will use are from this E minor pentatonic (5 tone) scale.
 Note: The minor pentatonic may not be the definitive blues scale, but it is a great place to start! (Looks like more than five to me!) [Supplement #11]

I've shown you
 "the stuff on the bottom"
 Now let's find some
 more "stuff on top"



(Got that scale up there down?)
 Run up and down it a few million times.

Some of the stuff I'll take from just this scale pattern.
 Other stuff, like the "two note things", we will start off with, are the same notes, but maybe in different places on the neck.

For these two note things on top here, I'm gonna start you off using triplets.
 I showed you this in Lesson #11, and I'm showin' it to you again!

This triplet rhythm fits right in with the shuffle rhythm. [Supp.#4 The Rhythms]
 (Remember, the shuffle is just the middle triplet left out.)

ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR
...Beat /	/	/	/ ("clock")

The shuffle

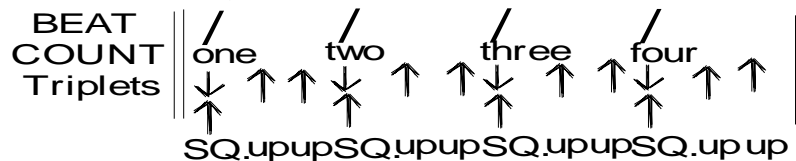
One (rest) & two (rest) & three (rest) & four (rest) &

Now, triplets

1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
-------	-------	-------	-------

One---trip---let Two---trip---let three---trip - let four---trip---let

Let me show you how to play these-----



Thumb / finger is squeeze (SQ)--then finger(s) up up
 Or "hybrid flatpicking" [Supplement #5]

First practice these rhythms as a right hand percussion exercise with muted strings. (Just deaden them by laying your left hand lightly across the strings.)

We want to train the right hand!

Again, some of the stuff I'll take from just the scale pattern, from that last page. Other stuff, like the "two note things" (intervals), we will start off with, are the same notes, but maybe in different places on the neck.

Two notes from E min. Pent.

This is a great one, and I've got two or three others almost just like it. I call this a "two note thing on top", it's two notes played at the same time, it's an interval, a part of a scale. But the main thing...it sounds good.

So, like I told you at the beginning of this lesson---
 You play one measure of "bottom", (any one works).
 We will start off with this two-string / two note "back and forth".
 Then play one measure "stuff on top", startin' off with this two note thing.
 (Same drill as page 39.) (All the single note "licks" will work the same way.)

Bottom

Top

E

-Then-

Two notes from E min. Pent.

BEAT COUNT strum

/	/	/	/	/
one	& two	& three	& four	&
↓	↓ ↓	↓ ↓	↓ ↓	↓

BEAT COUNT Triplets

/	/	/	/
one	two	three	four
↓	↑ ↑	↑ ↓	↑ ↓
↑	↑	↑	↑
↑	↑	↑	↑

SQ.upupSQ.upupSQ.upupSQ.upup

T TT TT TT T
 All thumb or pick down
 (Both strings at the same time.)

Thumb and finger(s) is squeeze
 then finger(s) up up
 Or "hybrid flatpicking" [Supplement #5]

Now let's look at a bunch of these "licks to put on top"!

For now we will keep this same rhythm on the bottom!

BOTTOM #2) Two String Back and Forth

All thumb down

BEAT COUNT strum || / one & two & three & four & ||



TOP (triplets)

Thumb and finger(s) is squeeze then finger(s) up up

BEAT COUNT Triplets || / one two three four ||

SQ.upupSQ.upupSQ.upupSQ.upup

E

T

A

B 2 24 42 24 4

0 00 00 00 0

Bottom
THEN
Top #1

Two notes from E min. Pent.

T 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

A 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

B 0 0 0 0

E

T

A

B 2 24 42 24 4

0 00 00 00 0

Bottom
THEN
Top #2

T 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7

A 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

B 0 0 0 0

E

T

A

B 2 24 42 24 4

0 00 00 00 0

Bottom
THEN
Top #3

Two notes from E min. Pent.

T 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

A 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12

B 0 0 0 0

E

T

A

B 2 24 42 24 4

0 00 00 00 0

Bottom
THEN
Top #4

T 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0

A

B 0 0 0 0

E

T

A

B 2 24 42 24 4

0 00 00 00 0

Bottom
THEN
Top #5

T 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3

A

B 0 0 0 0

E

T

A

B 2 24 42 24 4

0 00 00 00 0

Bottom
THEN
Top #6

T 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3

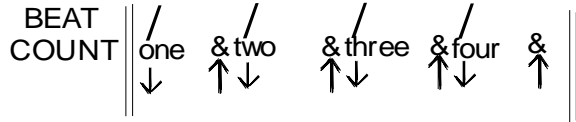
A 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0

B 0 0 0 0

To drill the idea in--let's do the same thing using the other two rhythms!

BOTTOM #1)

Thumb down / finger(s) up



E7

E7

E7

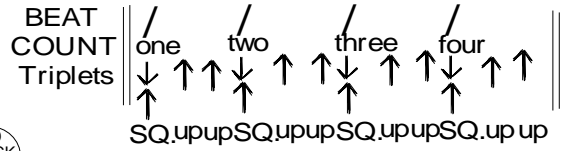
E7

E7

E7

TOP (triplets)

Thumb and finger(s) is squeeze then finger(s) up up



Bottom
THEN
Top #1

Bottom
THEN
Top #2

Bottom
THEN
Top #3

Bottom
THEN
Top #4

Bottom
THEN
Top #5

Bottom
THEN
Top #6

Now, let's play that third bottom rhythm with the same "stuff on top"!

BOTTOM #3)

Thumb down / finger(s) up
You don't need to come up on
all those chord notes!

BEAT COUNT || / one & two & three & four & ||
COUNT || ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ||

E7

E7

E7

E7

E7

E7



Bottom
THEN
Top #1

Bottom
THEN
Top #2

Bottom
THEN
Top #3

Bottom
THEN
Top #4

Bottom
THEN
Top #5

Bottom
THEN
Top #6

TOP (triplets)

Thumb and finger(s) is squeeze
then finger(s) up up

BEAT COUNT || / one two three four ||
Triplets || ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ||
SQ.upupSQ.upupSQ.upupSQ.upup

Top #1

Top #2

Top #3

Top #4

Top #5

Top #6

Now, let's plug some of this into a 12-bar in E!

Ok, here I've included all six of those things on top.

The "bottom" rhythm I chose to put here is that two string "back and forth" thing, although I slipped in that B5 "power chord" [Lesson #3] [Supp.# 10] (cause the "back and forth" on the B is a bit hard.) I also slipped in an E "lick" over that A bass in the sixth measure. (Don't sweat it, it sounds good there.)



E (I) **E** **E** **E**

A (IV) **A** **E (I)** **E**

B5 (V) "Power chord" **A (IV)** **E (I)** **E**

*End on the (I) chord

Now you might want to do these same "licks" pluggin' in one of the other rhythms from this lesson or maybe that Walkin' With Octave Up thing from [Lesson #8], or any of the others.

You gotta learn to mix it up like you would any language!

I'm going to take you through some other ways of mixin' up these triplet figures. As these "licks" on the neck start to feel familiar under your fingers, really listen to their sound and get them into your ear, your head, and your memory. **Repetition is the key to owning these "licks" !!!**

The idea here is to not only teach you the "licks", but to make them a part of your musical vocabulary. This will allow you to pull them out and lay them down as easily as you pull up words to fit into a conversation.

Next I'll show you some of the unlimited possibilities for mixin' these up!

These Mixed Up Triplets On Top

What I've got here is some examples of the "stuff on top" (from the previous pages) divided up into two beats each instead of the full four beat measure.

This is just a few examples, you can figure out others.

I'm not gonna' show those three "bottom" rhythms again, but you might want to alternate these (like on the previous pages) with a measure of rhythm.

BEAT
COUNT
Triplets

|| / one / two / three / four / ||
 ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑
 SQ.upupSQ.upupSQ.upupSQ.upup

T 3 0 3 0 3 3 3 3 3 3
 A (3) 0 (3) 0 4 4 4 4 4 4
 B 0 0 0 0

T (3) (3) 7 7 7 7 7 7
 A 3 3 3 3 3 3 8 8 8 8 8 8
 B 0 0 0 0

T (3) 0 (3) 0 10 10 10 10 10 10
 A 0 3 0 3 12 12 12 12 12 12
 B 0 0 0 0

What about one beat each? (Make up some of your own!)

T 3 0 0 3 3 3 7 7 7
 A (3) 0 (3) 0 4 4 4 8 8 8
 B 0 0 0 0

Remember---repetition is the key!!!