

Lesson #1 The 12-Bar (Mono Bass)

In this first lesson we will play through the 12-bar progression "in A". I will show you the guitar neck graphs and the TAB for each position.

Before starting the lessons, make sure you know these!

- [Supplement #1- Guitar Neck Graphs]
- [Supplement #2- Reading Tablature]
- [Supplement #3-The 12- Bar Progression]
- [Supplement #4- The Rhythms]

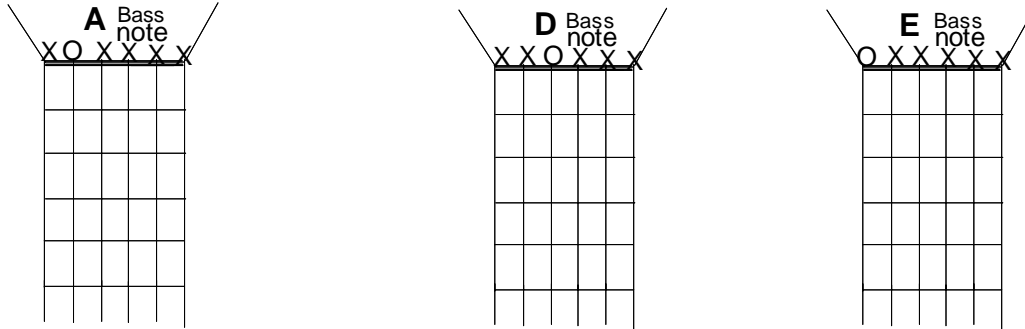
***TO match CD tracks, you need to get into "Standard Tuning".**

To start with, we will be using just the root bass notes. This is the most basic element we will work with. **Everything else will be built upon these**, all the chords, partial chords ("power chords"), "licks", "runs", etc...

Playing just these root bass notes will be referred to as mono bass.

Here are the root bass notes for the 12-Bar in A.

First using neck graphs



Now, in TAB

A bass note	D bass note	E bass note
T	T	T
A	A ○	A
B ○	B	B ○

A word about the root bass note...

All chords and scales have a note they call the root. The root of an A chord is the A note--The root of an A7 chord is the A note--The root of the A7#9-5 chord is the A note--The root of an A minor (Am) chord is the A note.

Ok, The root of an A# chord or A#7 or A#m, is the A# note.

Ok, The root of an Bb chord or Bb7 or Bbm, is the Bb note.

That said- Let's play through a 12-bar in A.

The 12-Bar in A (One note at a time!)

The 12-bar? Again, refer to [Supplement #3- The 12- Bar progression]

We are going to play this **mono bass**, using **thumb** (T) or pick **down**.

(I also tap my right foot on these beats)

The rhythm here will be all quarter notes right on the beat ("the clock").

If needed, refer to [Supplement #4 The Rhythms]

BEAT	/	/	/	/
COUNT	one	two	three	four

NOTE: To really add tightness to the rhythm! Try to mute that open string right where it passes over the bridge saddle. I use the bottom pad of my palm (opposite the thumb).[supp. #8]



"I'd jam with you all night long baby, if you can keep this tight blues."

A (I)	A (I)	A (I)	A (I)
T			
A			
B	○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○
D (IV)	D (IV)	A (I)	A (I)
T			
A			
B	○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○
E (V)	D (IV)	A (I)	E (V)
T			
A			
B	○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○

*End on the (I) chord

I know this looks extremely easy! But it is the true foundation for so much.

Please...be sure you really understand this. Here are some questions I might

ask, or you may be asking yourself. What are those Roman numerals?

Why use these three chords (here just root notes) for blues in A?

Why are these chords in this order? Where are those 12-bars? (I'm thirsty)

Why is this simple stuff so important? Where's that bar again?

If you do not have great answers to these questions, then again, refer to [Supplement #3- The 12- Bar progression].

Is this a shuffle, a straight eight or neither? Hint: we can't tell using just these down beats, (quarter notes). Gotta have some up beats for that!

[Supplement #4 The Rhythms]

What are all those zero's on those different lines, and those big letters?

[Supplement #2- Reading Tablature]

Mono Bass 12-Bar Shuffle in A

Just using those quarter notes on the last page won't tell us if we are playing in straight-eight or shuffle. We need eighth notes for that!

[Supplement #4-Rhythms] Here is that same 12-bar in A again with a shuffle beat.

T TT TT TT T



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

All thumb (T) down. (or pick down)
Remember those "loping"-
"swinging-eighths"

A (I) A (I) A (I) A (I)

D(IV) D(IV) A (I) A (I)

E(V) D(IV) A (I) E (V)

*End on the (I) chord

Ok, now here is the 12-Bar in E

Mono-Bass Shuffle

(Also I've given you the B root note.)

Notice I put that quick four variation in the 2nd measure here. [Supplement #3]

B bass note

T
A
B 2



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

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

B (V) A (IV) E (I) B (V)

*End on the (I) chord

To create a more powerful tight sound, you need to mute! (page 124)

LEVEL II (page 153) Finding those root notes in different places.