

LICK 15

Elmore James-style Lick

This classic blues guitar lick is based on an E triad played on the top three strings in 12th position and emulates the type of licks blues slide guitar master Elmore James would often play. Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and other guitarists of the mid-Sixties "British blues" boom transferred the idea to standard fretting techniques, which is what I have done here.

On each of the first three downbeats in bar 1, I quickly slide into the E triad (G $\sharp$, B and E, ascending from the third to the first string). In bar 2, I drop down to a basic E5-E6, root-fifth/root-sixth rhythm part, after which the lick in bar 1 is repeated. In bar 4, I combine the notes of the E triad with a descending lick based on E minor pentatonic (E G A B D).

Techniques used: downstrokes, finger slides, vibrato.

Moderately Slow $\text{♩} = 90$

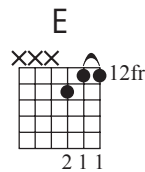


Diagram 1: Musical notation for the first system of the lick. The treble clef staff shows a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of eighth notes and triplets. The bass clef staff shows the fretting for the top three strings (T, A, B) with fingerings 11, 12, 13 and 12, 13, 12.

Diagram 2: Musical notation for the second system of the lick. The treble clef staff shows a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of eighth notes and triplets. The bass clef staff shows the fretting for the top three strings (T, A, B) with fingerings 11, 12, 13 and 12, 13, 12. The diagram is labeled with "N.C.(E5) E6 E5 E6" and "E".

Diagram 3: Musical notation for the third system of the lick. The treble clef staff shows a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of eighth notes and triplets. The bass clef staff shows the fretting for the top three strings (T, A, B) with fingerings 12, 15, 12 and 14, 12, 12. The diagram is labeled with "N.C.(E7)" and "(A7)".