

# LICK 16

## Eight-bar Progression in A

Though the most prevalent blues form is the 12-bar progression, there are many essential blues songs built on an eight-bar structure. Two classic examples are “Key to the Highway” and “It Hurts Me Too.”

Like the standard 12-bar blues, an eight-bar blues usually includes the one, four and five chords. In the key of A, the one chord is A, the four chord is D and the five chord is E. The clearest way to look at the eight-bar form presented here is in two four-bar sections: in bars 1-4, one bar of

A is followed by a bar of E and then two bars of D; in bars 5-8, one bar of A is again followed by one bar of E, but we then return to A for a standard two-bar turnaround, where we return to E for the last two beats of bar 8.

Throughout this lick, I use root-fifth/root-sixth movement on each of the three chords in the progression, utilizing a simple single-note descending line on the D string for the turnaround.

Techniques used: downstrokes, hammer-ons, vibrato.

**Moderately Slow** ♩ = 90

*All downstrokes*

1

A5 A6 A5 A6 E5 E6 E5 E6

P.M. ....

T																												
A																												
B	2	0	2	0	4	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	0	4

3

D5 D6 D5 D6 D5 D6 D5 D6

P.M. ....

2	0	2	0	4	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	0	4

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5

A5 A6 A5 A6 E5 E6 E5 E6

P.M. -----

2 2 4 4 2 2 4 0

2 2 4 4 2 2 4 4

7

N.C.(A7) (E7) (A)

P.M. ----- | P.M. ---- | *let ring -* |

0 0 5 5 4 4 3 3

2 2 0 1 2 0 0 0 2 2 0