LICK 20 Johnny Winter/SRV-style Lick

Our final lick is a classic turnaround lick in E that dates back to the essential acoustic blues guitar playing of Robert Johnson and Lightnin' Hopkins but is also prevalent in the electric playing of Johnny Winter, Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

I begin with the open low E note, followed by a quick hammer-on from G to G[#] on the third string. Throughout bar 1, strive to allow the notes to ring into each other. A melodic pattern is established by alternating between the open top two strings and the fretted D note on the B string's third fret, played along with the open high E, after which I descend through the E blues scale (E G A B^J B D). On beat four, I use my index finger to perform the quick slide and pull-off on the G string.

In bar 2, I ascend the E blues scale to set up the change to the five chord, B7, incorporating hybrid picking, using the pick and my middle and ring fingers in order to allow all the notes of the chord to ring clearly.

The final E5 chord is sounded by using my fret-hand index finger only to fret the D string while simultaneously muting the A and G strings so that a single pick attack across all the strings will sound only the low E, D, B and high E strings.

Techniques used: hammer-ons, pull-offs, finger slides, bends.



