

# AG 104

## Mixed Bag

Because guitar licks can be kept in a bag!

I haven't copped any flack that I know of for not including a lot typical contemporary blues ideas in my columns, but as a preventative measure I've decided to pull out some cool pentatonic blues licks that I've grown fond of over the years. Or I just made them up on the spot. Either way give them a go, as there's always something to be learned from someone else's ideas! All tracks are at 110 BPM

### Lick 1

This lick is reminiscent of early pentatonic blues by the likes of Buddy Guy. Note the cross string movement - this makes it a little tricky, but it will give you dozens of ideas when using the same old pentatonic shape. You'll noticed that the ideas centre around the most common shape one pentatonic. I thought I would keep this issue simple to allow for those players who are still getting their heads around improvising with pentatonic shapes.

## Lick 2

Ok, so I just totally made this one up. I guess you could say it's inspired by that Ram Jam, funky pentatonic riffing. I've only ever heard one Ram Jam song and I think it was called Black Billy or something like that. It's also got a little bit of a 'Superstition' feel. Neat phrasing and sliding up and back with the third finger to transport into shape two will make this a smooth lick. For all of these licks, listening to the tracks is essential to really nail them.

## Lick 3

This lick is a very common blues lick, and it's common because it's damn cool. Slide into the first two notes with the third and second finger on the 3rd and 2nd string respectively. Checkout Johnny Shines 'Dyna Flow' blues for a great example of this lick. This lick works in and out of shape one and two of the minor pentatonic scale.

## Lick 4

This lick is totally Joe Bonamassa. Pay attention to the alternate picking to get the speed and fluidity. The coolest thing about this lick is the use of the seventh fret on the first string, sounding the 'ninth'

tone in amongst the pentatonic scale as opposed to the minor third as is most common. It adds colour and a certain cool factor. Nice one Joe. Although I might add guys like Charlie Christian and Django Reinhardt did this stuff years ago!

## **Lick 5**

For cool pentatonic ideas you can't go past Billy Gibbons. Well you can, but you'll miss some cool pentatonic ideas. Nothing theoretically challenging about this lick— it's just straight pentatonic. Bouncing from a position behind shape one, we quickly slide up into the original shape we all know and love. The challenge here is getting the speed and fluidity happening with the triplets. This lick can be heard in ZZ tops most famous track. You know the one. I don't even need to tell you what I'm talking about. But I will!  
La Grange.

## **Summary**

It always pays to run your fingers over new ideas even just a few times. This will open up many possibilities and show you fresh perspectives on some shapes that can become otherwise boring and repetitive. I like to take these ideas and then mix them with my own or experiment using other notes

within the relevant scales, creating my own sounds and style. If you're just beginning though, you'll have real fun getting into these ideas. Now go into the woodshed and get to work— and then practice guitar!

# MIXED BAG

BECAUSE GUITAR LICKS CAN BE KEPT IN A BAG

BY ADRIAN WHYTE

STANDARD TUNING

♩ = 110

E-GT

mf

Ex 1

Ex 2

Ex 3

Ex 4

Ex 5

TAB

5 5 8 8 5 5-8 5

5 7 5-9 8 7-5

5 7 5-9 8 5

5

5

5 5 8 8 7-5 7-7

5 7 5-8 5-7-5 8 5-8-5 8-5 7-5 7

5-7 7

5-7 7

5 5 3 5 3-5-3-5 7-5-7

5 7 5-7-5-7 5 7-5-7