

AC/DC Style Study: riffs and licks based on 'Back in Black' and 'Rock n'Roll Ain't Noise Pollution'

1(a). Back in Black - intro/verse riff

E D A N.C.

T
A
B

E D A N.C.

T
A
B

2(a). Back in Black - chorus riff

A⁵ E⁵ B⁵ A⁵ B⁵ A⁵ E⁵ B⁵ A⁵ B⁵ G⁵ D A⁵ G⁵ D A⁵

T
A
B

E⁵ B⁵ A⁵ B⁵ A⁵ E⁵ B⁵ A⁵ B⁵ G⁵ D

T
A
B

3(a). Back in Black - coda riffs

Riff over E (x4)

Musical notation for a riff over E in 4/4 time. The guitar part consists of a sequence of eighth notes: E2, G#2, A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C#4, D4, E4. The bass part consists of a sequence of eighth notes: E1, G#1, A1, B1, C#2, D2, E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3. The riff is repeated four times.

Riff over A (x2)

Riff over E (x2)

Musical notation for two riffs. The first riff is over A in 4/4 time, consisting of eighth notes: A2, C#3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C#4, D4, E4. The second riff is over E in 4/4 time, consisting of eighth notes: E2, G#2, A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C#4, D4, E4. Each riff is repeated twice.

4(a). Back in Black - licks based on first solo

Lick 1

Musical notation for Lick 1 in 4/4 time. The guitar part consists of eighth notes: E2, G#2, A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C#4, D4, E4. The bass part consists of eighth notes: E1, G#1, A1, B1, C#2, D2, E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3. The lick is repeated four times, with chords E, D/E, A/E, and E indicated above the notes.

Musical notation for the continuation of Lick 1 in 4/4 time. The guitar part consists of eighth notes: E2, G#2, A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C#4, D4, E4. The bass part consists of eighth notes: E1, G#1, A1, B1, C#2, D2, E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3. The lick is repeated four times, with chords E, D/E, A/E, and E indicated above the notes. A triplet of eighth notes (E3, F#3, G3) is shown in the guitar part, and a triplet of eighth notes (E3, F#3, G3) is shown in the bass part. A wavy line indicates a vibrato effect on the final note of the lick.

AC/DC style study (cont'd)

Lick 6

A/E

15 12 15 12 14 12 12 14

Lick 7

E D/E A/E E

0 0 3 5 0 3 2 3 0 2 0 2 12 12 12 15

E D/E

0 5 3 5 0 3 2 3 0 2 0 2 14 14 12 12 14 14

1(b). Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution - intro/chorus riff

A E

pick and fingers

0 1 2 3 2 2 3 4 0 0 0 3 0 2 2 3 4

1.2.3. A E | 4. A E

TAB: (3) 2 2 2 0 | 0 2 3 . | (3) 2 2 2 0 | 0 0 3 0

2(b). Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution - verse

E A rpt 3 times E A

TAB: 2 2 2 2 | 2 4 2 2 | 4 2 4 3 | 2 4 2 2 | 2 4 2 2 | 2 4 2 2 | 2 4 2 2 | 2 4 2 2

E⁵ D⁵ B E⁵ E⁵ D⁵

TAB: 9 7 0 | 7 5 | 4 4 2 | 7 5 | 9 7 0 | 7 5

A (to chorus riff) etc...

TAB: 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 | 0 2 3 | 2 2 3 | 4

3(b). Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution - licks based on solo

Lick 1

E A E

full

TAB

2 2 0 2/4 3 4 2 2 4/6 5 6/9 8 X X 9 9 9 X X 9 9 9 (9)

Lick 2

A E

full hold bend full release

TAB

14 12 12 12 14 12 12 14 15 (16) 14 12 14 12 14 12 12 12 12 X 15 12 X 14

Lick 3

A

hold bend + repluck sim. full full full

TAB

15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 14 12 14 12

E G A

full full

TAB

15 15 15 15 14 12 14 14 17 18 17 17 (17)

Lick 4

E D/A A B E

8^{va}

pre bend + release

hold bend full

release

full

T
A
B

D/A A E

(8)

full

hold bend

3 3 3

T
A
B

Engraving: Jerome Madulid