

Today's riff involves a common move in blues using a neighboring chord. The neighboring chord being used is the IV chord of each chord in our blues progression. With our first chord being F⁷ we will count up four letters in the F major scale (F G A B^b C D E) and use the B^b chord as our neighbor a fourth interval higher. If we do the same for the B^b⁷ and C⁷ chords we get an E^b and F chord for our neighbors, respectively. These act as nice alternating pivot chords to provide some movement in our otherwise static blues rhythm.

Start each measure out by barring your first finger on the 4th, 3rd and 2nd strings. Pick these three strings then quickly hammer your second finger onto the third string. The hammer-on is a grace note meaning it does not receive a time value but "borrows" a little bit of time from the note after it (notice that the tab number is smaller for the grace note that you are hammering from). In other words, the grace note should not really be heard but only the sound of the hammer-on should be heard. The neighbor chord should then be barred with your third finger.

The musical notation for Riff 034 is presented in two systems. The first system covers measures 1 through 4. Measure 1 is F7, measure 2 is F7, measure 3 is Bb7, and measure 4 is Bb7. The second system covers measures 5 through 8. Measure 5 is C7, measure 6 is C7, measure 7 is F7, and measure 8 is F7. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The first system shows the F7 and Bb7 chords, and the second system shows the C7 and F7 chords. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The first system shows the F7 and Bb7 chords, and the second system shows the C7 and F7 chords.

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Practice Tip of the Day: Strive to balance your practicing time between the technical/mechanical and the musical/expressive. Without physical technique we are not able to execute or we execute poorly or too slowly the music we would like to create or recreate. Without the expressive and subtler aspects of music in our playing our music may become stiff and mechanical and lack all the finer elements that truly make music worth playing and listening to.