Hendrix Rhythm Style

Riff# - 100

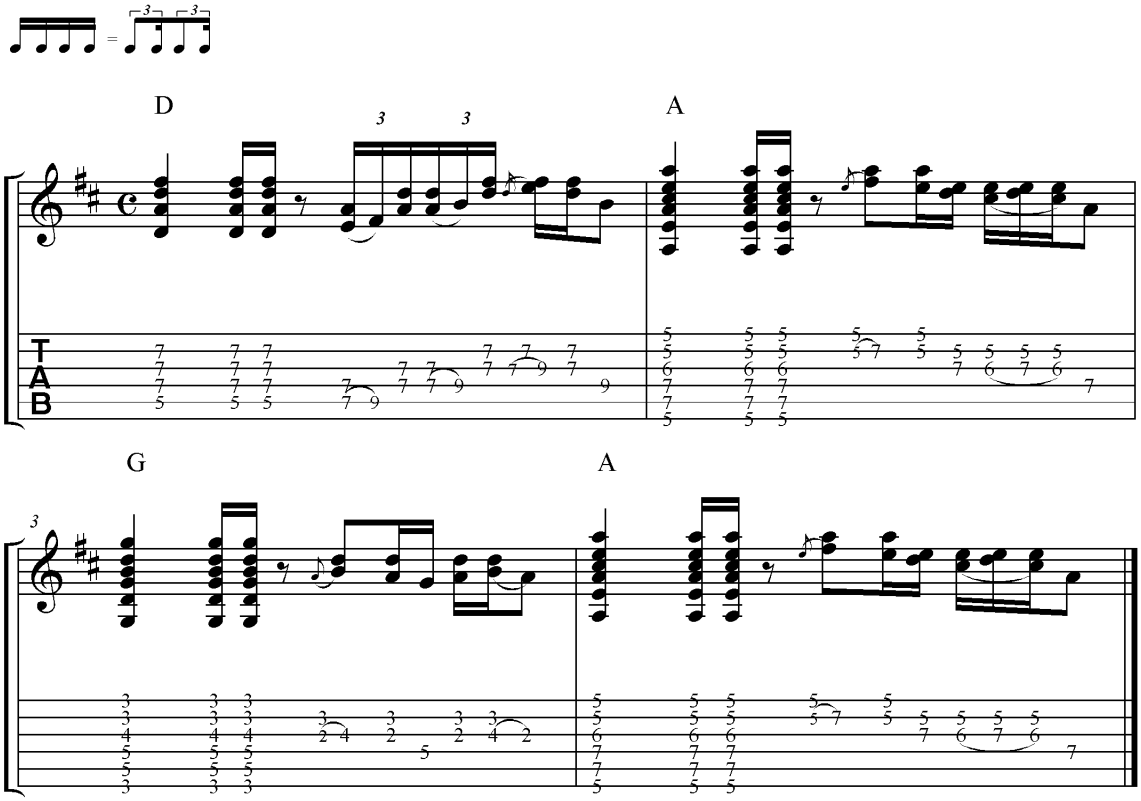
Dyad Embellishments

Date – 04/09

Another signature element in Jimi Hendrix's rhythm style is the use of dyad embellishments. Dyads are two note chords which can be viewed as partials (or pieces) of larger chords. Any common four, five or six string chord shape can be broken up into these two note chord partials. An embellishment is simply the adding of a note either above or below one of the two notes in the dyad chord partial which provides melodic movement instead of a static chord. This is typically (though not always) done with a hammer-on and/or pull-off. All of this adds up to what might be termed a "melodic rhythm" style.

Our example uses a simple I-V-IV-V chord progression in the key of D major. We will start out each measure by strumming the full barre chord and then playing dyads taken from within each of these chords. Over our first chord, D major, we will barre across the 7th fret note dyads on the fifth and fourth strings and hammer-on with our third finger to the 9th fret. It is best to pick up the first finger and move it to the next two strings of the next dyad rather just lay the finger down across the fifth through second strings.

For the A major chord next, all the dyads and embellishment notes land directly within the fingering of the barre chord itself, with the index finger remaining at the fifth fret. For the G major chord dyads, finger the third string second fret with your index finger and the second string third fret with your middle finger. You will then hammer-on with you r ring/third finger to the fourth fret. The fourth string fifth fret note should be fingered with your left hand pinky.



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On This Day:

1932 – Carl Perkins (Rockabilly artist: wrote "Blues Suede Shoes")

Born On This Day In:

1944 – Gene Parsons (drummer, The Byrds; co-inventor of the B-Bender)

US Patent
#6,822,151

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