

Open String Usage

Riff# - 147

E Minor Pentatonic

Date - 05/26

Using open strings in lead work can add an element of speed by using hammer-ons and pull-offs to notes which do not need to be fingered. In addition, open string usage can produce more unique phrasing and lines than just using standard scale forms because the open string notes tend to come out of nowhere in relationship to the normal linear nature of a standard scale form.

This lick uses the E minor pentatonic scale for its notes. This scale contains the notes E G A B D. The open 2nd and 1st strings of the guitar are "B" and "E", respectively. This allows us to use these open strings with our E minor pentatonic scale because they are found in the scale itself.

The lick starts off with some fast hammer-ons and pull-offs on the third and fifth frets. After this we simply move up the E minor pentatonic scale on the 1st string in pairs of two notes, always preceding these two notes with the open first string. This allows us to easily change hand position as we move up the neck, with the playing of the open "E" string giving us a split second to shift our hand position higher each time.

Em

Lh. fingers: 3 3 1 3 3 1 3 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 3

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Gear Box of the Day: The Jackson Soloist, created by Grover Jackson of Jackson Guitars, is considered the first true "Superstrat" guitar. Originally produced in 1984, the Soloist featured the best of both Fender and Gibson guitars, and then some, all rolled into one. By using the comfortable body contours of a Fender, paired with the fast and easy playing neck and frets plus the humbucker pickups of a Gibson, the Soloist became the perfect match in looks, sound and playability for the metal and shred genres of the 1980's. Extra special touches that made the Soloist even more desirable was that of a neck-through construction, premium woods, ebony fretboard, pearl "Sharkfin" inlays, binding around the entire neck and headstock, eye-catching graphic paint jobs and all topped off with a double locking tremolo. In 2002 Jackson/Charvel Guitars was purchased by the Fender Musical Instruments Corporation.