

Lesson 6 – The Tore Down Rhythm

In This Lesson: By the end of this lesson you will be able to play a common blues rhythm that is commonly known from the song *I'm Tore Down* as recorded by Freddie King and Eric Clapton

I don't really know what else to call this rhythm. It's a standard pattern but I know it from the tune "I'm Tore Down" as recorded by Freddie King and later by Eric Clapton.

It's based around a blues in C, but obviously could be done in any key easily.

Instead of actually playing a C7 chord, the rhythm part plays the individual notes of the chord. Musically speaking this would be called an arpeggio, which is simply playing the notes of a chord one at a time instead of all together.

This riff plays the root, flatted 7th, and 5th of the chord. Technically, without the 3rd it's not major or minor, but I've only seen this done over a 7th chord, which has a major 3rd.

Here's the rhythm written out. I've also added a break section similar to many recordings of the song.

System 1: C7, F7

System 2: C7, G7

System 3: F7, C7

Musical notation for Example 6-1, featuring a guitar staff with a treble clef and a bass staff with tablature. The piece is in 12/8 time and consists of four measures. The first measure is marked G7 and contains a triplet of eighth notes on the G string (3 3 3) and a triplet of eighth notes on the D string (5 5 3 3 5 5). The second measure is marked F7 and contains a whole note G2. The third measure is marked C7 and contains a triplet of eighth notes on the G string (7 8 9) and a triplet of eighth notes on the D string (10 7 9 10). The fourth measure is marked C7 and contains a triplet of eighth notes on the G string (10 7 9 10) and a triplet of eighth notes on the D string (3 3 3). A C7 chord diagram is shown in the upper right corner with the fingering 3241.

EXAMPLE 6-1