

How To Play Songs At A Blues Jam – Roadmap (Part 3)

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On this, our last stop of the tour, we'll tie it all together and stretch out just a little bit...

First, we're simply going to mash the rhythm part and the solo together into a full song.

In this example, it's "from the V, key of A in a shuffle."

We've left 2 choruses for singing (there isn't any vocal... yet, but hang on for that) then we'll pretend that we get the nod for our solo, then it's back to the final vocal chorus and our "Basie" ending (or Ellington... depends on who you ask.)

There should not be anything new here... just play what you played from the last 2 videos and you're good to go.

But just in case, I've notated the whole thing here...

E⁷ D⁷ A⁷ E⁷

T 9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 9 9 9 9
 A 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 7 7 7 7
 B 9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 9 9 9 9

A⁷

T 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 A 6 6 6 6 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 B 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

D⁷ A⁷

T 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 A 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
 B 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

E⁷ D⁷ A⁷ E⁷

T 9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 9 9 9 9
 A 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 7 7 7 7
 B 9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 9 9 9 9

A⁷

T 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 A 6 6 6 6 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 B 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

D⁷ A⁷

T 7 7 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

A 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

B 7 7 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

E⁷ D⁷ A⁷ E⁷

T 9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 9 9 9 9

A 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 7 7 7 7

B 9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 9 9 9 9

A⁷ D⁷

T 5 8 5 5 8 8 5 8 10 10 8 10 8 10 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8

A 7

B full full full

A⁷ E⁷ D⁷

T 5 5 8 5 5 7 8 5 7 5 7 5 10 10 8 10 10 8 10 9

A 7 7 7 7 7 7

B full full

A⁷ E⁷ A⁷

T 8 10 8 10 8 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

A 6

B 5

D⁷ A⁷

T 5 5 5 5 | 7 7 7 7 | 7 7 7 7 | 5 5 5 5

A 6 6 6 6 | 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 | 6 6 6 6

B 5 5 5 5 | 7 7 7 7 | 7 7 7 7 | 5 5 5 5

E⁷ D⁷ A⁷

T 5 5 5 5 | 9 9 9 9 | 7 7 7 7 | 5 5 5 5

A 6 6 6 6 | 7 7 7 7 | 5 5 5 5 | 6 6 6 6

B 5 5 5 5 | 9 9 9 9 | 7 7 7 7 | 5 5 5 5

5 4 5 6 | 7 4 6 7

Now as fun as that is... it doesn't quite have the feel of a "real" blues song.

Because there are no words or melody. You don't have to have words, but you do have to have a melody.

And unless you're doing something instrumental, someone's going to be singing in all likelihood.

So I took it upon myself to write some simple lyrics and add a vocal track in.

But that still doesn't quite fill in all the blanks... because blues is based around call and response.

That means that the vocal line is really the "call," and usually some instrument has to be the response. And since it's just you playing, you get to do that.

So you'll notice that I took simple phrases out of the licks you learned in the last videos and made quick little fills for you.

Every single one of them is from the box 2/house/4note solo pattern so just anchor your 3rd finger to that 10th fret on the 2nd string and they will all play very easily.

If you look at the TAB, you'll see a bar number at the beginning of each line... I put those there so you can find some things I want to bring to your attention:

1. The lick I used for the intro is exactly the same as the last lick of the solo. There doesn't have to be a fill or solo at the top, but if there's an opportunity to play I'm inclined to take it!
2. Bar 8: The BB King sting... if you want to make it a little more authentic BB, move it up to the higher A at the 17th fret of the 1st string but use the same timing.
3. Bars 12 and 16: notice these fills start on the "and of 1" and not on beat 2. That's perfectly fine and I particularly like the sound of starting mid beat like that.
4. Bar 24: the little rest towards the end of that phrase gives it a nice syncopation which means it accents the "ands" and not always the down beats.
5. Bar 28: yes... you see that right, I started a lick on beat 1. This particular measure is one of the few places that works because it's the last measure of the form and there's a space after it for the solo to start.
6. Bar 40: notice I started the rhythm a little early coming back in. You could leave bar 40 completely empty if you prefer.
7. Bar 44: another BB King sting, and again you can move it up an octave if you want.
8. Bar 48: that lick is lick 4 from the last video, but I started it on the "and of 1" instead of beat 2. It is the exact same finger movement just starting a little earlier.

I suggest you print out or scroll to the TAB below and "read" it as you listen to the example. I would go through it a few times reading while listening until you've really got it in your mind. Then try to play along as best as you can... should be fun!

21 **D⁷** **A⁷**

T 7 7 7 7 10 10 (10) 8 10 8
 A 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 B 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7

25 **E⁷** **D⁷** **A⁷** **E⁷**

T 9 9 9 9 5 5 10 8 10 10
 A 7 7 7 7 5 5 6 6
 B 9 9 9 9 7 7 5 5

29 **A⁷** **D⁷**

T 5 8 5 5 8 8 5 10 10 8 10 8 10 10 8 10 8 10 8
 A 7
 B

34 **A⁷** **E⁷** **D⁷**

T 5 5 8 5 5 10 10 8 10 10 10 8 10 9
 A 7 8 7 5 7 5 7 5
 B 7 7 5 7 5

39 **A⁷** **E⁷** **A⁷**

T 8 10 10 8 9 9 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 A 7 7 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
 B 9 9 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

