

Bend Into Your Best Solo

Melodic Blues Soloing with Bends



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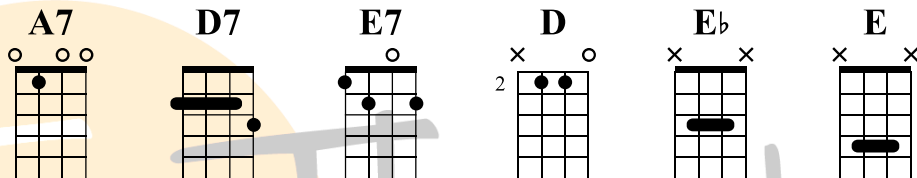
Key: A

Harmony: A, A7, D, D7, E, E7

BPM of Backing Track: 70 BPM

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1XaaPIGvO4>

Chord Shapes:



12 Bar Blues in A -

- Harmony for the solo. Note there is a very sparse strum pattern and that is because we have the bass and the drums supporting us in the rhythm section. The more the rhythm section does, the more it takes care of us, the less the you need to do with the strum pattern
- Feel free to modify the 12 bar as well in terms of rhythm, as long as the general harmony stays the same the solo will sound great.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	
A7	A7	A7	A7	
D D D	D D D	D D D	D D D	
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	
D7	D7	A7	A7	
D D D	D D D	D D D	D D D	
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	
E7	D7	A7	A7 D7 Eb7 E7	
D D D	D D D	D D D	D D D D	

Scales used and intervals used

- Throughout the entire solo we are using the A blues scale

- The B box in A is also introduced, specifically making use of the B note, the 2nd interval, and the F# note, the 6th interval
- The B over the
 - o A is the 2nd
 - o D is the 6th
 - o E is the 5th
- So feel free to use the B note over all three chords if you like the way it sounds
- The F# over the
 - o A is the 6th
 - o D is the 3rd
 - o E is the 2nd
- So feel free to use the F# note over all three chords as well

Bends - General tips

- To bend in pitch play the note that you are bending to so that way you can hear the pitch in your ears. Once you have it in your ears it will be much easier to bend in pitch.
- Certain bends you will repeat a lot, and in doing so you will create a level of muscle memory as well.
- Don't use just one finger, if you are bending with your ring finger put your middle and your index on the string as well. This extra bit of strength will give you the force you need to bend with confidence and accuracy.
- A ½ tone bend is 1 fret, a full tone bend is 2 frets, bends can be bigger too! Listen to Pink Floyd to hear David Gilmore bend a tone and a half and even two tones! (4 frets)
- The longer the fretboard the easier it is to bend, so a tenor will be easier than a soprano.
- The further away from the nut the easier the bend. For example the first fret of the E string is an F note and the 5th fret of the C string is the same note. It will be MUCH easier to bend the F note on the 5th fret than it would be the 1st fret because there is less tension.
- Tuning the Ukulele down a half step is another great way to free up tension and makes bend easier.

Full Solo

The solo notation consists of three systems of music. The first system covers measures 1-4 with an A7 chord. The second system covers measures 5-8 with D7 and A7 chords. The third system covers measures 9-12 with E7, D7, and D chords. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a bass clef. The solo features various techniques such as triplets, slurs, bends (full and 1/2), and vibrato. The bass line is shown with fret numbers and string indicators (A, B).

Bend 1

- Second measure on the first beat

- You don't need to strick the 5th fret again, let it carry over from the triplet and start your full step bend on the 1st beat

Bend 2

- Pre Bend and release on the 3rd measure 3rd beat

- Bend the 7th fret B note up to a C# before playing, then you will strike it and release, or unbend, back to the 7th fret of the E string

Bend 3

- Full bend on the 5th measure

- This bend is a whole measure so once you bend the C note up to a D note make sure you give it some vibrate up there. Mixing vibrate with bends sounds amazing

Bend 4

- Pre bend and release

- This bend is the same as bend 2 but you will follow it up with a quarter bend, a quarter bend is also known as a blues curl because you aren't bending up a whole fret, you are bending to a note that is between that is actually impossible to fret. That is interesting because the notes we play with these blues curls can't be played on the piano.

Bend 5 & 6

- Here we have two blues curls that bend up from the minor 3rd interval of their respective chords to just shy of the major 3rd

Bend 7

- The turnaround around bend!
 - o Here we are doing almost the entire turnaround with bends. Bending the F up to a G, down to an F# then down to an F followed by a double stop playing the A and the E note right after.

