Playing with the Changes

Professional Sounding Blues Solos

Tenthumbspro.com
For educational purposes only

Key: A
Harmony: A7, D7, Eb7, E7
BPM: 75
Video Tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRDpA3tMHys
Harmony and Backing track strum pattern:

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1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
A7              |A7               |A7               |A7             |
D   X U         |D   X U          | D   X U         |D   X U        |

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
D7              |D7               |A7               |A7             |
D   X U         |D   X U          | D   X U         |D   X U        |

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   X U          |D   D   D D   D     |
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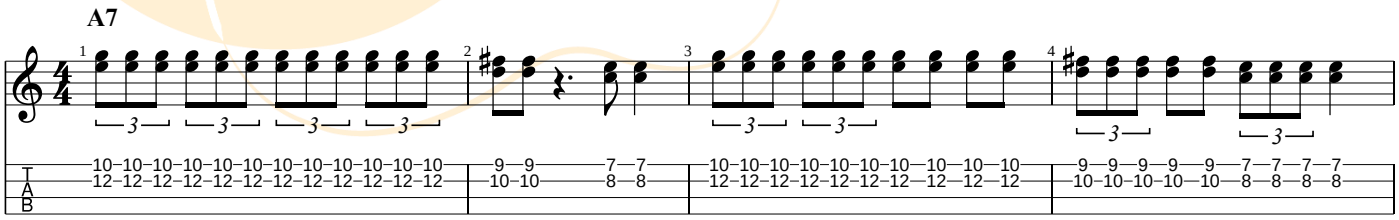
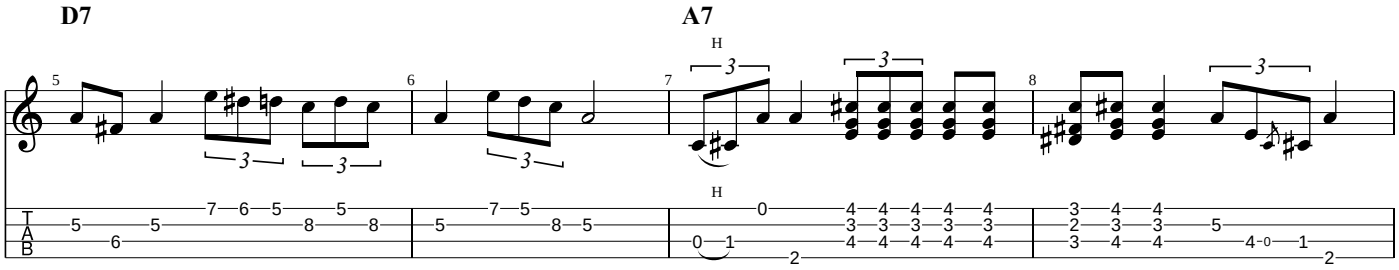
First Four Measures



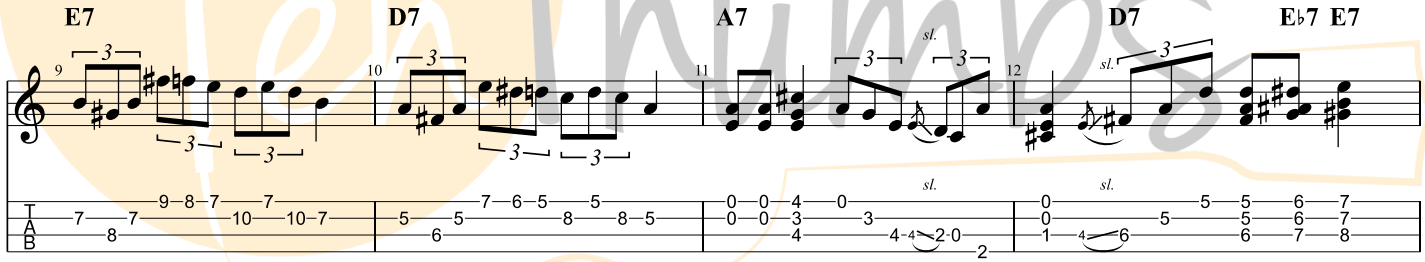
- These double stops are built with the A Dorian mode. What is cool about the Dorian mode is that it is a minor scale with a major 6th, so it is almost a happy sounding minor scale, very cool for soloing
  - A Dorian mode is built with
    - Root 2nd b3rd 4th 5th 6th b7th
  - The second double stop has the F# in it, and the last one has the C in it, that is the 6th and the b3rd that gives it the Dorian sound.
- To find the double stop you start with the root on the A string then move a whole stop below it, you also play the note on the E string right below the root. There you move the A string a half step down and a whole step on the E string then move that shape a whole step down.
- Also look at how the rhythm gets mixed up.

Middle 4



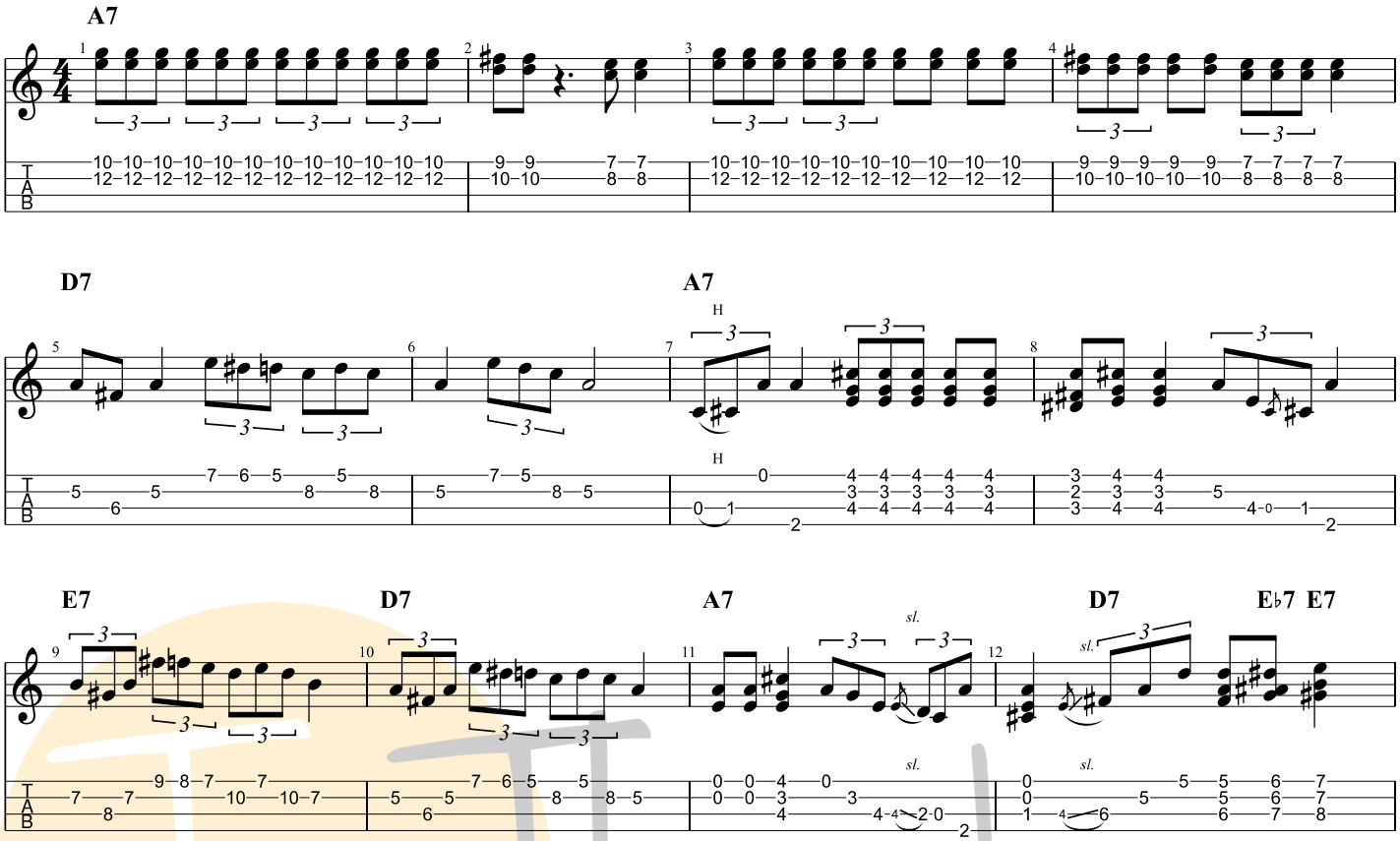
- Over the D7 we are using the D mixolydian mode.
  - Mixolydian is a major scale with a b7th
    - Root 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th b7th
  - The 8th fret of the E string is the C note, the b7th of D, which is the note that highlights the Mixolydian sound.
- First beat of the A7 we hammer in the major 3rd from the minor 3rd
- Over the A7 we are actually just using a full blown chord shape in the solo, and it sounds amazing.
- We also finish with an A7 arpeggio, don't be afraid of soloing with the arpeggio.

Turnaround



- Measure 9 is E mixolydian
- Measure 10 is the same phrase in D mixolydian
- The turnaround is arpeggios with a D note as a passing tone then it finishes with an A7 shape, triplets in a D chord then climbing D shape to the Eb to the E. Love this turnaround!

Full solo on next page


A7
D7
A7
E7
D7
A7
D7
E♭7
E7