Lesson 30 – "Playing On The Porch" – Part I

In This Lesson: In this lesson you will learn a way to play a cool blues tune solo; meaning no accompaniment of any kind. This one is in E.

While many of the techniques and strategies in this book work great in a band or group situation, there's a lot to be said for simply sitting around and playing by yourself with no other accompaniment at all.

There are a lot of advantages to playing by yourself and attempting to play both the rhythm and the lead (call and response) parts.

1. You learn to take ownership of the beat. This is so critical and so often overlooked. It has nothing to do with a metronome or a drummer. It is about keeping the time yourself and sticking with it.

2. You getter better acquainted with the 12 bar blues form. You'll soon get to where you can just feel where the next chord is coming and what it's going to be.

3. You get to try out new licks and sounds without needing any help from anyone else.

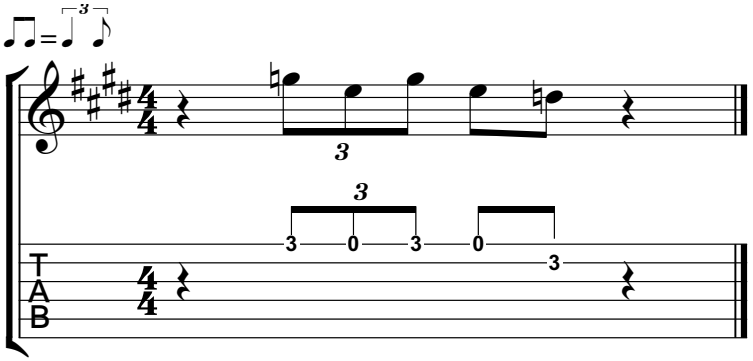
4. You can just sit down with any guitar, any time, and play. You'll have a great time and when you get it down, it's really enjoyable for others to listen to.

In this first part, I'm using a blues in the key of E. Following the 12 bar form that means I'll use an E or E7 type of chord, A or A7, and B or B7 type chord. I chose basic open position E, A, and B7 for this example.

I just made up very simple licks that could be played within 2 beats. Here they are in TAB:

Lick #1:

EXAMPLE 30-1



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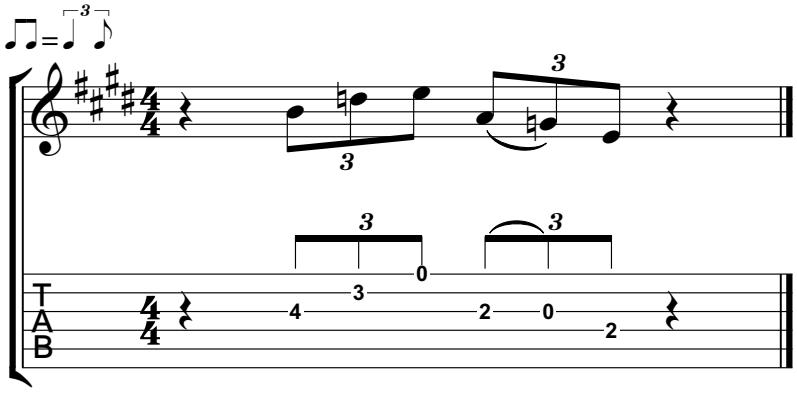
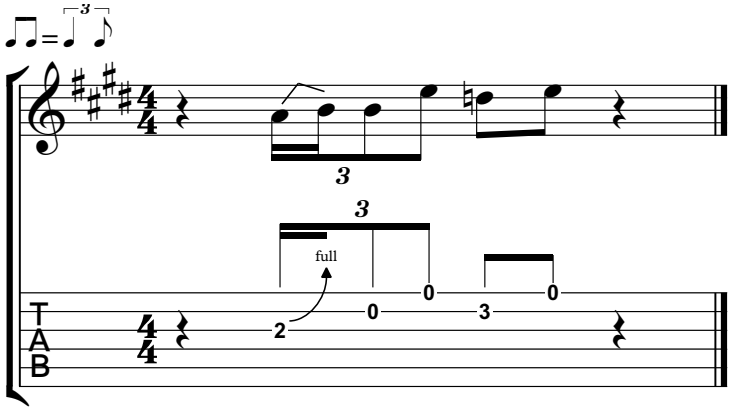
Lick #2:

EXAMPLE 30-2



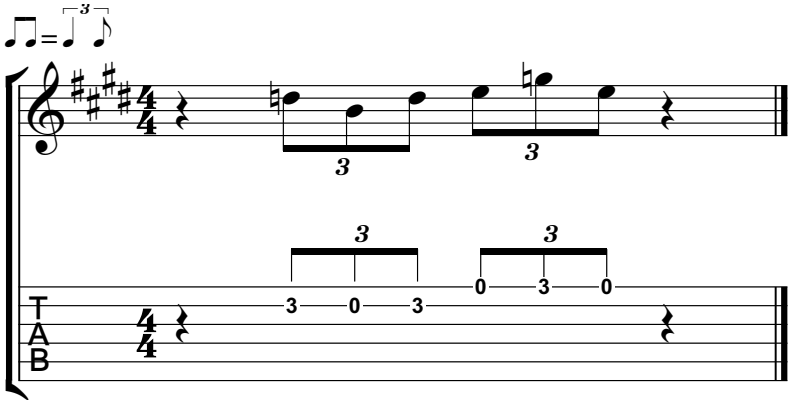
Lick #3:

EXAMPLE 30-3



Lick #4:

EXAMPLE 30-4



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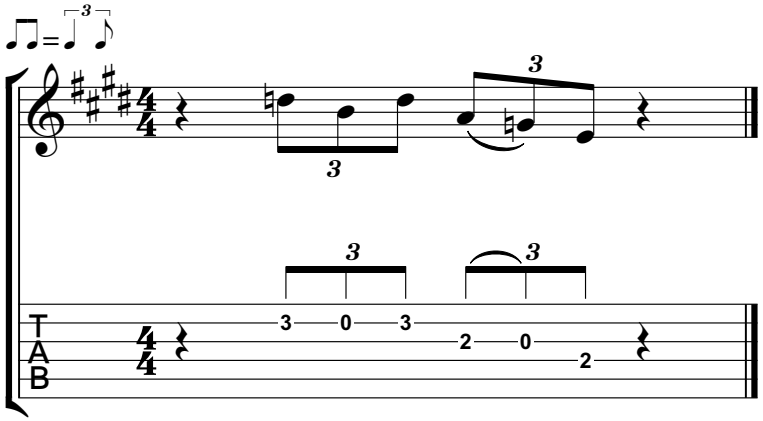
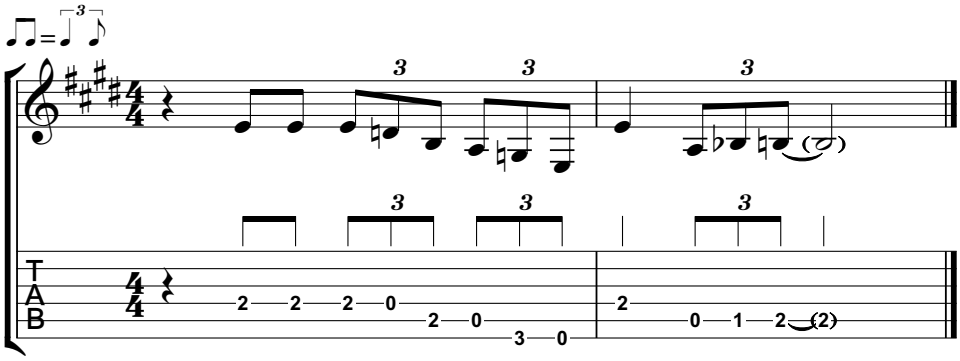
Lick #5:

EXAMPLE 30-5



And the turnaround lick I used:

EXAMPLE 30-6



Once you get each one of those down individually, and can play them comfortably. Mix and match them all you like.

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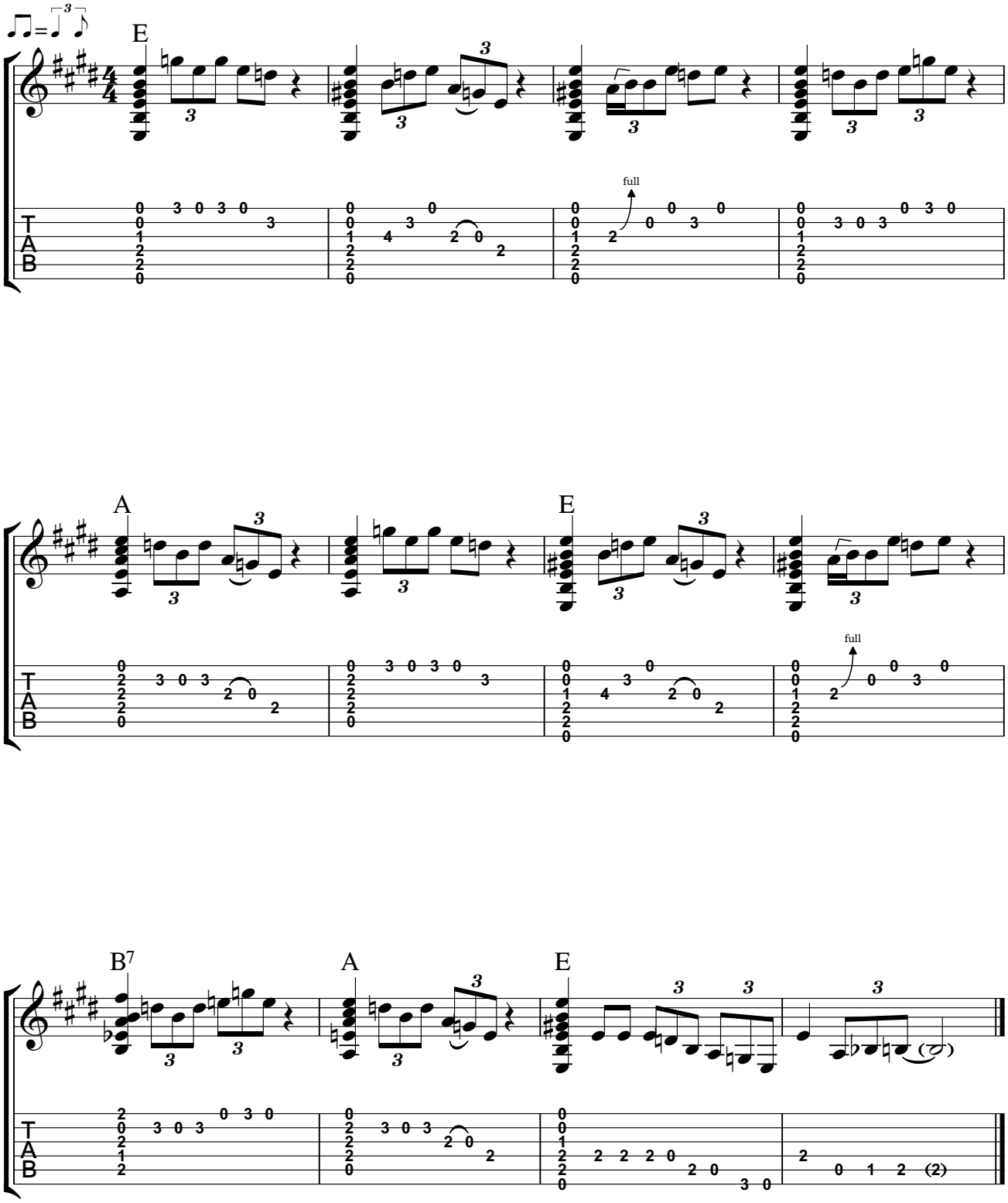
Here is the TAB for the way I played it on the video:

EXAMPLE 30-7, CD 3 TRACK 23



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