

IMPROVISATION — BLUES IN E

Level 3

Blues

~80 BPM

One scale - the E minor pentatonic, position 1 - covers the whole E7-A7-B7 blues grid. There's no need to switch on every chord: the blues tolerates the same scale running over all three chords, because it dodges the notes that would create a real clash. Everything relates to the E root. The grid is given at 80 BPM, slow enough to leave room for silence. The goal isn't to fill the twelve bars with notes, but to learn to build short phrases that answer the chord changes.

TIPS

Start by playing only the note E, in rhythm, especially as the chord moves to A7 or B7: that's the reference that keeps you from getting lost.
Once that anchor is solid, add one or two neighbouring notes, then alternate short phrases with silence.
Listen to what changes under your fingers as the chord moves: the same note doesn't sound the same over E7 and over B7.

CHORD PROGRESSION

I	I	I	I	IV	IV	I	I	V	IV	I	V
E7	E7	E7	E7	A7	A7	E7	E7	B7	A7	E7	B7

CHORDS

A7

B7

E7

FRETBOARD POSITION

Pentatonique Mi mineur — pos. 1