

Amazing Rhythm Trick – Open String Chords in E Major

Hello friends,

And welcome back to Swiftlessons for another rhythm guitar tutorial. In today’s session I’ll be breaking down how your open E and B strings can be applied to each of the 7 chords in the key of E major. The basic approach is to strip down each ascending bar-chord shape so that their three-note triads are played against the open strings. These chords will be easy to perform, lush, and able to sustain from one chord transition to the next. Let’s get started!

Section #1: Open String Chords in Emaj

In this section we will simplify each bar chord in the key of E to include our open B and E strings.

	Emaj	F#m	G#m	Amaj	Bmaj	C#m	D#dim	Emaj
E	-0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0---							
B	-0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0---							
G	-1-----2-----4-----6-----8-----9-----11-----13-----14---							
D	-2-----4-----6-----7-----9-----11-----13-----14-----14---							
A	-2-----4-----6-----7-----9-----11-----12-----14-----14---							
E	-0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0---							

Section #2: Embellishing a Common Progression

Now that we have mastered each of these open string variations, let’s use them to embellish a common 1.5.6.4 progression in E major.

Emaj	Bmaj	C#m	Amaj
E -0-----0---0-0- -0-----0---0- -0-----0---0-0- -0-----0---0-0-			
B -0-----0---0-0- -0-----0---0- -0-----0---0-0- -0-----0---0-0-			
G -1-----1---1-1- -8-----8---8- -9-----9---9-9- -6-----6---6-6-			
D -2-----2---2- -9-----9---9- -11-----11---11- -7-----7---7-			
A -2-----2---2- -9-----9---9- -11-----11---11- -7-----7---7-			
E (0)----- ----- ----- -----			
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &