

Three Legendary Rock Guitar Riffs - 1970's

Hello friends,

And welcome to another rock guitar lesson. In today's session I'll be sharing with you three classic rock riffs that serve as excellent warmups. These licks were chosen for their iconic status, ease of performing, and their practice benefits. Let's get started!

Riff #1 - Lynyrd Skynyrd "Sweet Home Alabama" (Key of G)

In 1974, Guitarist Gary Rossington composed one of the most recognizable guitar riffs of all time. It is performed over a 5,4,1 progression in G major, and is excellent for developing timing and picking accuracy.

D	C	G
e ----- ----- -----	e ----- ----- -----	e ----- ----- -----
B -----3-----3----- -----3-----	B -----3-----3----- -----3-----	B -----3-----3----- -----3-----
G -----2-----0----- -----0-0-----2p0-	G -----2-----0----- -----0-0-----2p0-	G -----0-0-----0----- -----0-----0-2p0-
D -0-0-----0-----0- -----0-----0-2p0-	D -0-0-----0-----0- -----0-----0-2p0-	D -0-0-----0-----0- -----0-----0-2p0-
A -----3-0-3----- -----0h2-----2-----	A -----3-0-3----- -----0h2-----2-----	A -----3-0-3----- -----0h2-----2-----
E ----- -3-0-3----- -----	E ----- -3-0-3----- -----	E ----- -3-0-3----- -----
1 & 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a 1 & a 2 & 3 e & a 4 e & a		

Riff #2 - Led Zeppelin "Black Dog" (Key of A)

In December of 1971, guitarist Jimmy Page kicked off Led Zeppelin's fourth record with this hard-hitting riff. It is built from the Am pentatonic scale, and is useful for its syncopated rhythm, and use of common lead techniques including slight bends, hammer-ons and pull-offs.

A
e ----- ----- ----- -----
B ----- -----5- ----- -----
G ----- -----5b-----7- -5h7p5-----5b- -----
D ---5-6- -7-----7----- -----7-7-----7- -5-7-7-----2-
A -7----- ---7----- ----- -----5-7-3-5-0-
E ----- ----- ----- -----
& 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & a 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 &

Riff #3 - ZZ Top "La Grange" (Key of A)

Guitarist Billy Gibbons' main riff for "La Grange" is an interesting take on the blues shuffle. Practice this riff to develop your sense of timing, hybrid picking, and pinky dexterity.

A
e ----- ----- ----- -----
B ----- ----- ----- -----
G -2-2---2---2---2- ---2--- (2) --5b- -5b-2---2---2---2- ---2-----
D -2-2---2---2---2- ---2---5b--2--- -2--2---2---2---2- ---2-----
A ----- -----0---0---0- ----- -----0-3-3-5-5-
E ----- ----- ----- -----
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &