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Box-Jumping Lick with Bends

Let's try this cool exercise, which starts out with the following lick.

First, bend the D
up a whole step to E.

Release the note a
half step to E \flat .

Then, release
the note to D.

Ex.
14

hold bend - - - -
1 - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$

hold bend - - - -
1 - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$

T A B
7 5 7 7 7 5 7

3 1 3 3 3 1 3

Now, let's move this lick higher on the fretboard.

Locate our
starting note A.

Now find that same note
one octave higher.

Ex.
15

T A B
7

T A B
10

Starting from that note, transfer the lick by its shape to the new location on the neck. This gives us the exact notes one octave higher.

Ex.
16

hold bend - - - -
1 - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$

hold bend - - - -
1 - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$

T A B
10 8 10 10 10 8 10

3 1 3 3 3 1 3

A Blues Scale Targeting I, IV, and V

Following is another take on target notes. In this exercise, we'll play the *blues scale* in a descending fashion. A blues scale is the same as a pentatonic scale except it includes an additional note, the $\flat 5$ th.

Swing 8ths

Ex. 30

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. It shows a descending blues scale: A (5th), G (4th), E (1st), D (4th), C (3rd), B (1st), A (3rd), G (1st). The bottom staff is a bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. It shows the notes corresponding to the blues scale: A (5th), G (4th), E (1st), D (4th), C (3rd), B (1st), A (3rd), G (1st). Below the staffs are the corresponding fingerings: 1, 4, 1, 4, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3.

Because the above lick lands on an A note, it would probably work best with the A7, which is the I chord.

Here's the same lick, but ending on a D note.

Swing 8ths

Ex. 31

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. It shows a descending blues scale: A (5th), G (4th), E (1st), D (4th), C (3rd), B (1st), D (3rd), G (1st). The bottom staff is a bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. It shows the notes corresponding to the blues scale: A (5th), G (4th), E (1st), D (4th), C (3rd), B (1st), D (3rd), G (1st). Below the staffs are the corresponding fingerings: 1, 4, 1, 4, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3.

Notice how this totally changes the flavor. Because this lick targeted the D note, it would sound best with the D7, which is the IV chord.

This next lick does all the same stuff, but targets the E note. It works best with the E7, which is the V chord.

Swing 8ths

Ex. 32

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. It shows a descending blues scale: A (5th), G (4th), E (1st), D (4th), C (3rd), B (1st), E (3rd), A (1st). The bottom staff is a bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. It shows the notes corresponding to the blues scale: A (5th), G (4th), E (1st), D (4th), C (3rd), B (1st), E (3rd), A (1st). Below the staffs are the corresponding fingerings: 1, 4, 1, 4, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3.

This is handy and useful stuff! Play all three licks in a row to really hear the difference. Then grab a friend and play these licks over a blues progression in A.