

Swift Guitar Lessons

Classic Bluegrass Licks Routine



Hello friends,

And welcome to another bluegrass licks tutorial! In today's session I'll be sharing a routine that combines rhythm and lead techniques in the style of guitar legend Norman Blake. These licks can be used to embellish a basic 1.4.5 progression in the C position. Let's get started!

Section #1: The 1.4.5 in C Position

let's review the basic bluegrass progression that we are embellishing, a 1.4.5 played in the C position.

C /// | F // C // | C /// | G /// |
 C /// | F // C // | G /// | G // C // | :

Section #2: Source Scales

Whenever you learn a new lick, it's crucial that you understand the context it's being played in, and also the scales being utilized. Our routine is primarily drawn from the C and G major scales.

C Major Scale (Open)

E | ----- |
 B | -----0-1- |
 G | -----0-2----- |
 D | ---0-2-3----- |
 A | -3----- |
 E | ----- |

G Major Scale (E Position)

E | -----2-3- |
 B | -----3-5----- |
 G | -----2-4-5----- |
 D | -----2-4-5----- |
 A | -----2-3-5----- |
 E | -3-5----- |

Section #3: Bluegrass Routine

Now that you have memorized the basic progression and our source scales, let's combine rhythm and lead techniques to form an impressive practice routine. In this genre, it's very common to change keys using a capo, so be sure to experiment with different positions on the fretboard.

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

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