



How to Finish a Blues Solo – 3 Impressive Licks

Hello friends,

And welcome back to Swiftlessons for another lead guitar tutorial. In today's session I'll be breaking down three impressive licks that you can use to finish a blues guitar solo. These phrases are excellent for players hoping to expand their lick vocabulary outside of the typical pentatonic scale, as they demonstrate how melodic ideas can be formed by following the chord progression in various positions across the fretboard. Let's get started!

Section #1: The 12 Bar Blues in C

Our featured licks will be played over the last four bars of our blues progression. Note that each of these chords can be played as dominant 7 or nine chords for extra flavor.

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

Section #2: Visualizing Chord Shapes

There's a common myth that ones prowess as an improviser is dependant upon how many scales they have memorized. While scales are powerful tools for finding the "correct notes," it's equally important to know various positions of a given chord. Additionally, a well-developed ear for music, and the ability to translate ideas to the fretboard is the most valuable skill a lead guitarist can have. The following chord positions were the starting-point for the licks we are learning today:

	C	F	G	C13	F	G
E	-8-----8-----10-- --8-----5---7--					
B	-8-----10---12-- --10---6---8--					
G	-9-----10---12-- --9-----5---7--					
D	-10---10---12-- --8-----					
A	-10---8---10-- -----					
E	-8----- -----					

Section #3: Three Licks to Finish a Blues Solo

Now that we are able to visualize the connection between melodies and chord positions, let's learn a few of my favorite licks for wrapping up a blues solo!

	G	F	C	F	C	G
E	/7---7-7-8-9-10--/7--- -----8--8-11-8-11- -8-8--8-----8---8-----5-6-7					
B	/8--8-8-----8-7- -6--6-10-6-10-10----- ----11-11-/10-10-9-9-8v-6-7-8					
G	----- ----- -----					
D	----- ----- -----					
A	----- ----- -----					
E	----- ----- -----					