

## Pentatonic Lick Builder – Mini Lesson

### Using Just 2 Strings and 4 Notes from Each Pentatonic Pattern!!!!

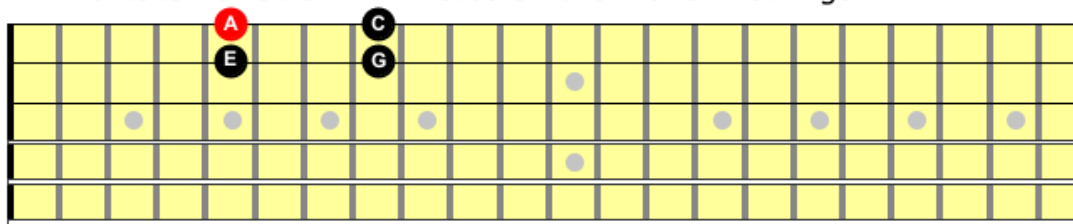
Hi folks! In the past few days Lauren sent out an email with a link to one of my YouTube lessons and several people have asked for tabs. Rather than TAB out all the examples in that video, I thought I would put together this mini lesson for Fellowship of the Strings members!!! Going with the “Teach a Person to Fish” theory of instruction, I'm hoping to inspire some “A HA!” moments by letting you in on how I sit around making up new licks....in this case with a really limited amount of information.

We're just going to use:

- 1 pentatonic pattern at a time
- just 2 strings from that pattern – the High E and B strings
- just 4 notes, in different order and permutations!
- Some imagination!!!

For the licks 1-3, we're just going to be using the following notes:

#### Am Pentatonic Pattern 1 - Notes on the E and B Strings



Now, a little theory.... These notes will work over either an A7 or an Aminor chord. Why???

- The Aminor chord contains the notes A, E, and E..... so does this pattern!!!!
- The A7 chord has the notes A, C# and E....the pattern has 2 of those notes, and the C natural played over A7 sounds “Bluesy”

So here are the licks 1-3....

## 2 String Cells - Example Licks

Play over A7 or Am chord

Standard tuning  
♩ = 100

Lick 1                      Lick 2                      Lick 3

The image shows three musical licks for guitar, each consisting of a treble clef staff and a guitar-specific staff below it. The guitar staff is labeled 'dist. guit.' on the left and has strings E, A, and B indicated. Lick 1 is in 4/4 time, starting on the E string (5th fret) and moving to the B string (5th fret). Lick 2 is in 4/4 time, starting on the E string (5th fret) and moving to the B string (5th fret). Lick 3 is in 4/4 time, starting on the E string (5th fret) and moving to the B string (5th fret). The notation includes fingerings (1, 2, 3) and fret numbers (5, 8, 5) for each lick.

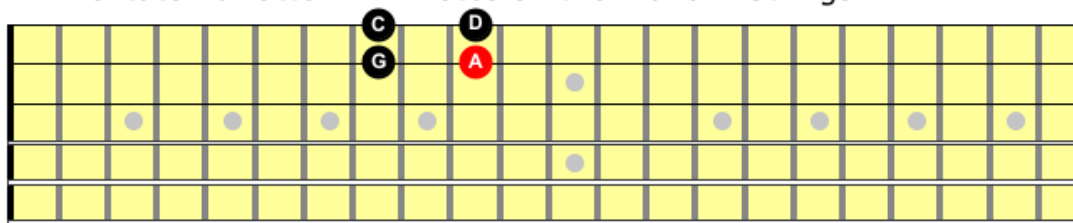
**Lick 1:** 5 simple notes, starting on the E at the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the B string and ascending to A at the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the E string. Then we make our way back down to E where we started. This lick is a staple for players like Albert and BB King, Eric Clapton, and countless others!

**Lick 2:** Again just 5 notes, this time ascending through the 4 note pattern and coming back to the A at the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the E string. Another lick I've heard 1000 times from the greats.

**Lick 3:** 7 notes this time.... we play lick 2 but go down to the G note on the B string before coming back to the A to end this lick. Know where this lick came from??? Ever heard “Layla” by Clapton?? ;)

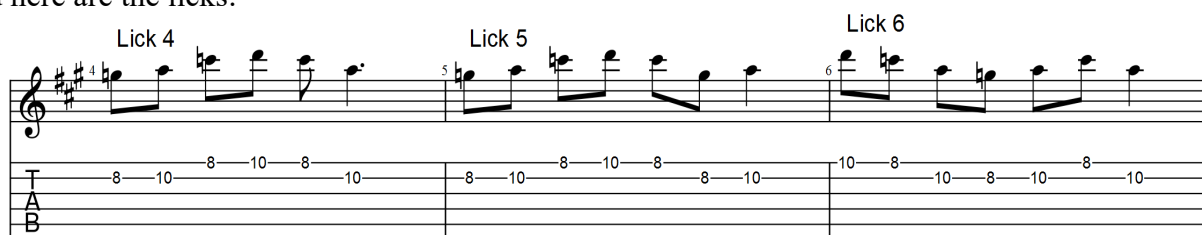
Here are the notes for licks 4-6:

#### Am Pentatonic Pattern 2 - Notes on the E and B Strings



**Pause for Theory:** We lose the E note, but gain a D. This may be a bit esoteric but a D note against an A7 or Aminor chord sounds to me like its asking the question “Why????”

And here are the licks:



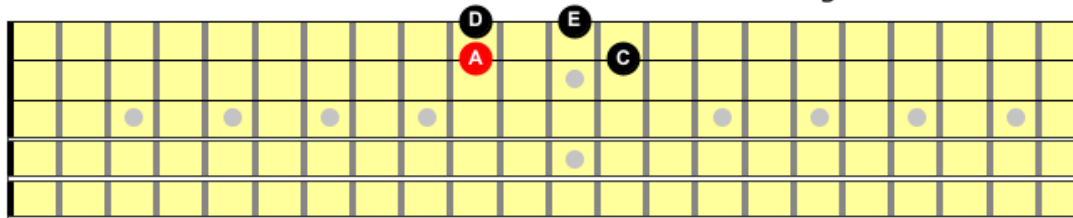
**Lick 4:** In this 6 note lick, we ascend up the pattern on the B and E strings, and descend back down to the A note at the 10<sup>th</sup> fret of the B string. Ending the lick on the root note really drives the tonality of the lick home!

**Lick 5:** Similar to lick 4, but we add a note...we ascend up the pattern, then when we descend we play the C at the 8<sup>th</sup> fret of the E string, then drop to the G at the 8<sup>th</sup> fret of the B string before ending up on the A at the 10<sup>th</sup> fret. Another timeless lick!!!

**Lick 6:** Reversing the order and descending first with this one! We play down from the D at the 10<sup>th</sup> fret of the E string to the G at the 8<sup>th</sup> fret of the B string... then ascend 2 notes with the A and C before ending the lick on the A note at the 10<sup>th</sup> fret of the B string. This lick is another Blues staple!!!!

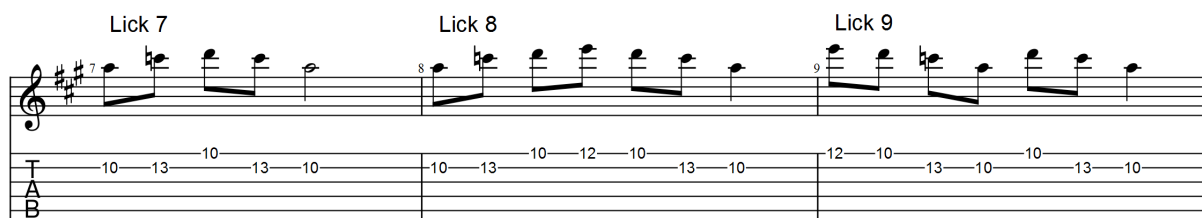
Here are the notes for Licks 7-9:

### Am Pentatonic Pattern 3 - Notes on the E and B Strings



**Pause for Theory:** We lose the G, but the E note is back. An E played against the A7 or Aminor sounds like a plea for something to my ears.....

And here are the licks:



**Lick 7:** 3 ascending notes, then descending back to where we came from. We start and end on the root note, A.

**Lick 8:** We ascend and descend the entire 4 note pattern here!!! This lick has Clapton written all over it!!

**Lick 9:** Mixing things up here, we ascend from the highest note in the pattern to the lowest...before “backtracking” to the D at the 10<sup>th</sup> fret of the E string and descending again to the A at the 10<sup>th</sup> fret of the B string. This sounds a lot like something Joe Bonamassa would play!!!

So there you have 9 licks, using the first 3 patterns of A minor pentatonic. Practicing learning patterns on 2 or three strings is a GREAT way to learn licks... it sounds WAY more like the things a blues player would actually play than running a scale from top to bottom! (Don't get me wrong...you need to know the scale patterns also!!!). All I did was mix up the order of the notes a little bit, and make sure to finish the licks on a chord tone (usually the root note).

If you like this mini lesson – you're going to love my course!!! Talk to you soon!!!

Charlie