

bb king guitar licks

Book Concept: BB King Guitar Licks: Unlocking the Blues Master's Secrets

Book Description:

Want to unleash the soulful magic of B.B. King's legendary guitar style? For years, you've struggled to capture that distinctive vibrato, those bending notes that weep with emotion, those lightning-fast licks that define the King of the Blues. You've practiced scales and chords, but something's missing – the feeling, the raw power and subtle nuance that made B.B. King a global icon.

This book isn't just another guitar lesson book; it's a journey into the heart and soul of B.B. King's guitar playing. It unlocks the secrets behind his iconic style, providing not just technical exercises, but a deep understanding of the musicality and phrasing that made him a legend.

"BB King Guitar Licks: Unlocking the Blues Master's Secrets" by [Your Name]

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Chapter 2: Bending and Bluesy Phrasing: Unlocking the emotional power of bending notes and phrasing.

Chapter 3: Lucille's Voice: Tones, Effects, and Gear: Understanding B.B.'s iconic tone and equipment.

Chapter 4: Signature Licks and Riffs, Note-for-Note Transcription: Learning iconic licks from his vast repertoire.

Chapter 5: Improvisation and Soloing in the Style of B.B. King: Applying the techniques to your own playing.

Chapter 6: Analyzing B.B. King's Iconic Songs: Breaking down solos from classic tracks.

Chapter 7: Putting it all Together: Performance and Practice Tips: Developing your own unique style.

Conclusion: Continuing Your Blues Journey and Honoring the King's Legacy.

Article: BB King Guitar Licks: Unlocking the Blues Master's Secrets

Introduction: The Legacy of B.B. King and the Essence of his Style

B.B. King, the undisputed "King of the Blues," left an indelible mark on the world of music. His influence extends far beyond the blues genre, inspiring generations of guitarists with his unique style. This book delves into the core elements of his playing, aiming to empower you to capture the essence of his legendary sound. Understanding his technique is only half the battle; truly emulating B.B. King requires understanding his musicality, phrasing, and emotional depth. This introduction sets the stage for a deeper exploration of his technique and the magic behind his music.

Chapter 1: The Vibrato – The King's Signature Sound

Mastering B.B.'s Expressive Vibrato Techniques

B.B. King's vibrato is instantly recognizable. It's not just a technical exercise; it's an emotional expression. This chapter dissects the mechanics of his vibrato, exploring different techniques:

Hand Vibrato: This classic technique involves subtly moving your fretting hand to create a wavering pitch. B.B. employed a unique combination of wrist and finger movements, creating a rich and expressive vibrato that's both fast and controlled. We'll analyze the different finger positions and movements that contribute to this distinctive sound. Exercises focusing on developing this control will be provided.

Wrist Vibrato: A more subtle approach, wrist vibrato allows for slower, more sustained vibrato, ideal for adding emotional depth to sustained notes. We'll explore the nuances of this technique and provide drills to improve control and smoothness.

Arm Vibrato: A less common technique employed by B.B., arm vibrato creates a wider, more dramatic vibrato effect, often used for emphasis. We'll detail how to utilize this effectively, focusing on correct posture and body mechanics.

We will include detailed exercises and audio examples to help you develop and refine your own vibrato, bringing you closer to replicating the unique emotional power of B.B. King's vibrato.

Chapter 2: Bending and Bluesy Phrasing

Unlocking the Emotional Power of Bending Notes and Phrasing

Bending notes is fundamental to blues guitar, and B.B. King mastered this art form. This chapter explores:

Precise Bending Techniques: Achieving clean, in-tune bends requires practice and precision. We'll cover the proper finger placement, hand position, and muscle memory techniques required for accurate and controlled bending.

Bending Variations: B.B. King employed various bending techniques, including full bends, half bends, pre-bends, and release bends. We will explore each type in detail, providing exercises to help you master each technique.

Blues Phrasing: It's not just about bending notes; it's about how you use them within a phrase. B.B. King's phrasing is legendary for its expressiveness and emotion. This section focuses on rhythmic variations, note choices, and the use of space to create powerful and

soulful phrases. We'll analyze examples from his solos to illustrate these principles.

This chapter provides a comprehensive guide to mastering bending techniques and applying them to create expressive blues phrases in the style of B.B. King.

(Chapters 3-7 would follow a similar in-depth structure, exploring Lucille's voice, signature licks, improvisation, song analysis, and performance tips.)

Conclusion: Continuing Your Blues Journey and Honoring the King's Legacy

This book serves as a starting point on your journey to understand and emulate B.B. King's genius. Continual practice, listening to his music attentively, and developing your own musicality will solidify your skills and allow you to truly embody the spirit of the King of the Blues. By embracing both the technical aspects and the emotional core of his playing, you can honor his legacy and create your own unique blues voice.

9 Unique FAQs:

1. What makes B.B. King's vibrato so unique? His vibrato combines speed, control, and expressive nuances, going beyond simple pitch variation.
2. How can I achieve the same tone as B.B. King? A combination of his guitar (Lucille), amplifiers, and effects pedals contribute to his signature tone.
3. What are some essential scales for playing B.B. King style? The blues scale, pentatonic scale, and minor blues scale are fundamental.
4. How can I improve my bending technique? Practice slow, controlled bends focusing on precision and intonation.
5. What are some of B.B. King's most iconic licks? His "The Thrill Is Gone" and "Every Day I Have the Blues" solos contain many recognizable riffs.
6. How did B.B. King approach improvisation? He emphasized phrasing, emotion, and telling a story through his solos.
7. What are some tips for performing B.B. King's music live? Focus on dynamics, emotional delivery, and connecting with the audience.
8. Are there any specific exercises to improve my blues guitar phrasing? Practicing rhythmic variations and using space within your phrasing is key.
9. What resources are available for further study of B.B. King's music? Numerous recordings, biographies, and instructional videos exist.

9 Related Articles:

1. B.B. King's Influence on Modern Blues Guitar: Explores how his style shaped contemporary blues players.
2. The Evolution of B.B. King's Guitar Technique: Tracks the development of his skills throughout his career.
3. Analyzing B.B. King's Use of Dynamics and Phrasing: A deeper dive into his expressive playing.
4. Mastering the Blues Scale: A B.B. King Approach: Focuses on the essential scales for playing in his style.
5. The Gear of B.B. King: Lucille and Beyond: Details his guitars, amplifiers, and effects.
6. 5 Essential B.B. King Licks Every Guitarist Should Know: Provides easy-to-learn licks from his repertoire.
7. Improvising in the Style of B.B. King: A Step-by-Step Guide: Offers practical advice on soloing like the master.
8. The Emotional Power of B.B. King's Vibrato: Delves into the expressive aspects of his vibrato technique.
9. B.B. King's Legacy: His Impact on Music and Culture: Explores his broader influence on music history.

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