

Riff over A Chord

Right Hand

E, G, E, D (use 2 on E \flat grace note): 3, 5, 3, 2

Left Hand

E, G, E, D: 2, 1, 2, 3

Pocket

Get in your time machine, and head back to the 1960s peace and love. Think The Doors, Ray Manzarek, and the Vox Continental organ. The right-hand part in “Whiskey Lights” emphasizes accents and pushes, while the left hand is the bass line, literally. The initial theme produces two distinct parts, while the B section is more uniform, played primarily on the downbeat.

Chords in the Tune

Em, A, A7, C, G, D, G/D, B

Soloing

The left-hand bass part is constant throughout this tune, which leaves the right hand free to explore mixing and matching various rhythms, ideas, and patterns to create something unique each time around. Lick 4 features some rhythms not used in the recording, but they could be used in a solo for this song. The key is to blend all of these ideas together when soloing.

Lick 1

This lick is an example of how you might start a solo, but it's nothing wild or too far removed from the feel of the song. I've broken out a bit from the Dorian mode by adding a bluesy, flat-5 note (B \flat) for a very brief moment. We return to the original mode, with B-natural, in the next bar.

Chords: Emin, A, A7, Emin, A, A7

Lick 2

This has a similar feel to Lick 1, but it's a little trickier. Keep the left-hand pattern solid, and play around with the right hand by accenting different parts of the beat.

Chords: Emin, A, A7, Emin, A, A7

Lick 3

There are more eighth notes here, with grace notes almost at random. Let's not feel restricted by rules, so just add grace notes when the mood strikes and where it feels right.

Musical notation for Lick 3, showing a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece is divided into three measures. The first measure is labeled 'Emin' and contains eighth notes with grace notes. The second measure is labeled 'A' and contains eighth notes with grace notes. The third measure is labeled 'A7' and contains eighth notes with grace notes. The bass line consists of quarter notes.

Lick 4

The quarter-note triplets in Lick 4 is an example of another way to expand on your solo.

Musical notation for Lick 4, showing a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece is divided into three measures. The first measure is labeled 'Emin' and contains quarter-note triplets. The second measure is labeled 'A' and contains quarter-note triplets. The third measure is labeled 'A7' and contains quarter-note triplets. The bass line consists of quarter notes.