

AN ASSORTMENT OF BLUES GROOVE LICKS

ASCENDING SWING LICK AND VARIATIONS

1 Here's a lick that is a basic ingredient of many others. It can be used almost anywhere in a blues shuffle progression, and is a great launching point for a solo. This lick is often part of a lick that develops further. Notice the small notes in parentheses above the musical staff. This tells you to swing your eighth notes.



(♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$)

G7

3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 6↑ 6↑ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 6↑ 6↑ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 6↑ 6↑ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 6↑ 6↑ 6↑

1A The lick above is played in the lower register. It also sounds good in the upper register where it can be played in single notes or tongue-blocked octaves.



(♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$)

G7

6↑ 6↓ 7↓ 8↓ 8↑ 9↑ 9↑ 6↑ 6↓ 7↓ 8↓ 8↑ 9↑ 9↑ 6↑ 6↓ 7↓ 8↓ 8↑ 9↑ 9↑ 6↑ 6↓ 7↓ 8↓ 8↑ 9↑ 9↑ 9↑

1B There are countless ways to extend, alter, or embellish this basic line. Here are a couple of licks that use this phrase as its foundation.



(♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$)

G7

3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 6↑ 6↑ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 2↓ 2↓ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 5↘ 5↓ 5↘ 5↓ 5↓ 4↓ 3↓ 2↓ 4↑ 3↘ 3↓ 6↑



1C Here's a 3rd position version of the basic ascending swing lick. Many licks are often executed in this harmonica cross. In this example, your C harmonica will be played in the key of D.



($\text{♪} = \overset{\frown}{\text{♪}} \overset{\frown}{\text{♪}}$)

D7

1↓ 2↘ 3↗ 3↓ 4↓ 4↓ 1↓ 2↘ 3↗ 3↓ 5↓ 4↓ 1↓ 2↓ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 4↓ 1↓ 2↘ 3↗ 3↓ 4↓ 4↓ 4↓

1D Adding a few notes to the previous 3rd position lick gives it another feel.



($\text{♪} = \overset{\frown}{\text{♪}} \overset{\frown}{\text{♪}}$)

D7

1↓ 2↘ 3↗ 3↓ 4↓ 4↓ 1↓ 2↘ 3↗ 3↓ 4↓ 4↓ 1↓ 2↘ 3↗ 3↓ 4↓ 4↑ 3↓ 3↘ 3↓ 2↘ 2↘ 1↓ 1↓

2 Here is another extended version of the ascending swing lick. This lick gets played with a combination of single-note puckers and tongue-block chords. James Cotton has used this one.



($\text{♪} = \overset{\frown}{\text{♪}} \overset{\frown}{\text{♪}}$)

G7

6↑ 3↓ 6↑ 3↓ 5↑ 2↓ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 6↑ 6↑ 7↓ 6↓ 5↓ 4↓ 4↑ 3↓

6↑ 3↓ 6↑ 3↓ 5↑ 2↓ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 6↑ 6↑ 3↓ 6↑ 5↓ 5↓ 5↑ 4↓ 3↓ 6↑ 6↑ 3↓ 5↑ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑

6↑ 3↓ 6↑ 3↓ 7↓ 6↓ 5↓ 4↓ 4↑ 3↓ 6↑ 5↑ 2↓ 3↘ 3↓ 4↓ 5↑ 6↑ 6↑ 3↓ 6↑ 5↓