

30-Minute Lickbag



Scott McGill, fusion virtuoso and BA Hons course leader at BIMM in Bristol, begins a new series with six tasty licks each month...

WELCOME TO THE first column designed for maximum guitar fun with limited time! Each issue you'll be given six licks, spanning across numerous styles that reference great ideas and tricks favoured by guitar legends and underground heroes alike. So get into your practice room, shut the door, take the phone off the hook and spend the next half hour with these short and sweet guitar gems!

BEGINNER'S LICKS EXAMPLE 1: DYLAN-STYLE ACOUSTIC

CD TRACK 24

This is a classic Dylan-style folk pattern from his early acoustic period. The lower bracketed chords reference the basic chord shape, while the

upper chords are the result of using a capo at the 3rd fret.

♩ = 138

F (D) C (A) F (D)

Capo 3rd fret

BEGINNER'S LICKS EXAMPLE 2: 16TH NOTE FUNK STRUMMING

CD TRACK 25

Get down and superb with this funk groove in F! Don't forget to slide into the second chord (your intended target chord is F9) from a fret below to give this riff its trademark James Brown/Tower Of Power type sound.

Take it slowly at first and get the groove happening (adhere to the pick strokes for best results) before increasing the tempo.

♩ = 97

E9 F9 F#13 E9 F9 F#13#9

Mute strings (Don't play on repeat)

INTERMEDIATE LICKS EXAMPLE 3: HENDRIX-STYLE BLUES

CD TRACK 26

Form your own Band Of Gypsies with this one under your fingers! In the first phrases, bend the first string upwards whilst simultaneously grabbing the second string with the same finger, then release the bend

letting the sounds of both strings collide. Repeat with the second and third strings. Bridge single-coil into a moderately driven amp will work the Voodoo well!

♩ = 127

E F# C#m B F# C#m

BU BD PB12 BD BU

INTERMEDIATE LICKS EXAMPLE 4: BLUES-FUSION

CD TRACK 27

A line like this works well over Em7 and other related tonalities such as G, A9 or C#m7b5 to name a few. The lick has a Mike Stern flavour and mixes

bluesy bending with Miles Davis style chromaticism for a sophisticated sound. Neck pickup with light drive (chorus effect to taste) is ideal.

ADVANCED LICKS EXAMPLE 5: FUSION PENTATONIC RUN

CD TRACK 28

This lick is based on the C minor pentatonic scale (C Eb F G Bb) and is reminiscent of John McLaughlin's 'Mahavishnu' era. Here I would suggest that you alternate using your third and second fingers so that your

fretting hand won't tire. The picking is mostly alternate, although you could use consecutive upstrokes when crossing strings. Neck or bridge pickup with a moderate overdrive would work well here.

ADVANCED LICKS EXAMPLE 6: MORSE-STYLE MIXOLYDIAN MADNESS!

CD TRACK 29

Based loosely on G Mixolydian (G A B C D E F), this one features bending, stinging vibrato, chromaticism and some 6ths typical of Steve Morse. In the last bar, I suggest that you use your first finger to start each group of

triplets making the line easier to manage and phrase properly. Consider slight palm muting when picking and using the neck pickup when high up the fretboard (plugged into a distorted valve amp).