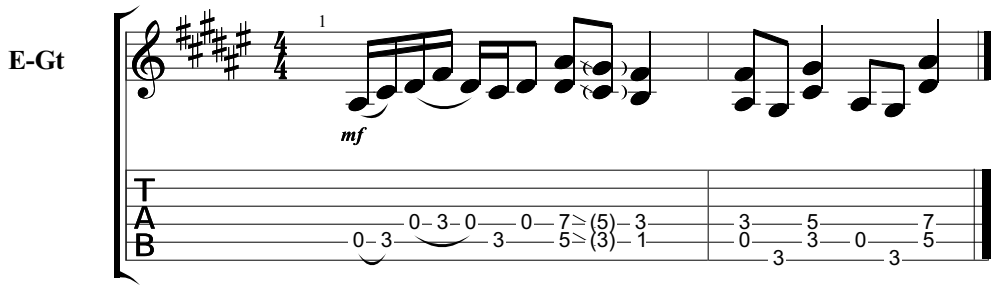
Layla

Derek and the Dominoes

Custom
①= F ④= Eb
②= C ⑤= Bb
③= Ab ⑥= F

♩ = 116



Playing Tips:

The first and most recognizable part of the riff is played using two techniques called hammer-ons, and pull-offs.

Hammer-ons are achieved by plucking the string with your pick and then pushing (hammering) your fretting finger down hard and fast enough to produce a second note that rings out clearly and independantly from the first note.

Pull-offs are similar to hammer-ons but in reverse. With your picking hand you pluck your note, and then pull your fretting finger off in such a way that the new note rings out clearly and independantly from the first note.

The rest is power chords, I find it easiest to play fast power chord passages like this using my 1st and 4th finger. Using those fingers also allows you to move the bass note of the chord around easily which is necessary for the second measure of the riff as the chords walk back up.

Theory:

This riff can be played simply in standard tuning, and Eric Clapton does this regularly in concert, but on the record the guitars are tuned a semitone high, so your E is tuned to F, your A is tuned to Bb, etc.

On the record this riff is in the key of F# and is based out of The F# Major scale. The F# major scale is F# G# A# B C# D# E# F#. The quick series of single notes at the beginning are A# C# D# F#, the 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 1st degrees of our scale. The chord sequence is D#, C#, B, B/A#, etc.