

Sunshine Of Your Love - Riff

Cream

Standard tuning

♩ = 120

Main riff

How the riff changes once the band comes in.

E-Gt

mf

T
A
B

12-12-10-12 12-11 10-8-10 11-11-9-11 12-12-10-12 12-11 10-12-12

Playing tip:

Whenever you tackle any scale or riff, it's always a good idea to take a moment to figure out what the most efficient way to play it is going to be. A good rule of thumb is each fret gets a specific finger. So if your riff was going to be based around the 1st through 4th fret, your first finger would be used for the first fret, your second finger the second fret, etc.

The main part of this riff is based around the Dm blues scale played at the 10th fret so fret ten would be your first finger, fret 12 would be your third finger and so on. The scale does shift down to the 8th fret for the second bar so again take a moment to figure out what the most efficient way of playing it is going to be. I find it's easiest to use your third finger for the 10th fret, and your first finger for the 8th fret.

Theory:

This riff is based around the Dm blues scale. The blues scale is very similar to the Minor Pentatonic scale but has a sixth note added to it. Our scale formula in relation to the major scale is as follows, 1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 1. So a D major scale is D E F# G A B C# D, a Dm blues scale is, D F G Ab A C D.

As the band kicks in the riff doesn't really change, Eric Clapton just adds to what he's already playing. The first four notes he harmonizes a major 3rd above (a major 3rd is 4 semitones.) Then he plays the rest of the riff an octave above where he originally played it to give it a little more lift.