



Rock Lead Lesson - Mastering Scales & Lick of the Week

Hello friends,

And welcome to another *Lick of the Week*. In today's lesson I'll be showing you how to play the **A position of the blues scale**, key of A. We'll put that useful scale to work with a **blues rock lick** that utilizes double bending, pull-offs and heavy vibrato. Let's get started!

1) The Am Blues Scale (A Position)

As I have covered in previous lessons, chords and scale patterns can be played in five different positions, this is called "CAGED theory." [Click here](#) for a full lesson on that subject.

E	-----12-----15-----
B	-----13-----15-----16-----
G	-----12-----14-----
D	-----12-----13-----14-----
A	-----12-----15-----
E	-----12-----15-----
	E G A C D Eb E G A C D Eb E G

Quick Tip: Always take the time to master a scale position before attempting to improvise. I recommend the follow practice method:

- Practice the scale in sections, first the E, A, D strings, then the G, B, and high E strings.
- Perform the scale at a slow tempo using a metronome, and gradually increase the speed.
- Take the time to memorize the note names, and also scale intervals. For blues guitar, it's extra important to memorize where the **root notes**, **4ths**, and **5ths** are located within the scale pattern.
- Once the pattern is memorized, practice playing it with syncopation.
- After many repetitions, it's time to practice playing the scale over a variety backing tracks. You'll know you have the scale down when you can perform it in every key, and over a wide-range of rhythms and tempos.

2) Lick of the Week

Now let's put our scale to work with this high-energy blues/rock lick!

E	-----15-----12-----
B	-----15b(17)r15--13-15--13b-----13b-----
G	-----14p12--12--12-14----14vvv--
D	-----14--14-----
A	-----
E	-----

3) Bonus Licks for Premium Patrons

Now let's learn two face-melting repetition style licks!

E	-----	-----12-15p12--12-15p12-----
B	-----13-----13-----13-----13-----	-----15b-----15b-----16-15-13-----
G	-----14p0----14p0----14p0----14p0--12b--	-----
D	-----16-----16-----16-----16-----	-----
A	-----	-----
E	-----	-----