

# Texas-Style Blues Rhythm

## Key of 'E' Blues

- Strum patterns and finger numbers to fret with are shown below each Tab.

### Intro

	E7					
1	4	3	2	0	/	/
2	0	0	0	0	/	/
3	/ 4	3	2	1		
4				2		
5				2		
6				0		

### 12-Bar Progression

#### E (bars 1-4)

1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
3	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
4	2 2	2 2	2 2	2 2
5	2 2	2 4 2	2 2	2 4 2
6	0 0 0 3 4	0 0 0 3 4	0 0 0 3 4	0 0 0 3 4
	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1

#### A7 (bars 5-6)

1	0 0	0 0
2	2 2	2 2
3	0 0	0 0
4	2 2	2 4 2
5	0 0 0 3 4	0 0 0 3 4
6		
	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1

#### E (bars 7-8)

1	0 0	0 0
2	0 0	0 0
3	1 1	1 1
4	2 2	2 2
5	2 2	2 4 2
6	0 0 0 3 4	0 0 0 3 4
	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1

#### B7 (9<sup>th</sup> bar)

1	2 2 2 2 2 2
2	0 0 0 0 0 0
3	2 2 2 2 2 2
4	1 1 1 1 1 1
5	2 2 2 2 2 2
6	
	↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓

#### A7 (10<sup>th</sup> bar)

1	0 0 0 0 0 0
2	2 2 2 2 2 2
3	0 0 0 0 0 0
4	2 2 2 2 2 2
5	0 0 0 0 0 0
6	
	↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓

#### E (11<sup>th</sup> bar)

1	0 0
2	0 0
3	1 1
4	2 2
5	2 2 2 4 2
6	0 0 0 3 4
	↓ ↑ 0 2 3 1 3 1

#### \* B7 (12<sup>th</sup> bar turnaround)

1	2 2 2 2 2 2
2	0 0 0 0 0 0
3	2 2 2 2 2 2
4	1 1 1 1 1 1
5	2 2 2 2 2 2
6	
	↓↓↓ ↓↓↓ ↓↓↓ ↓↓↓

\* The above twelve-bar progression is considered Verse 1. After the twelfth bar turnaround, Verse 2 is played by repeating Bars 1-11, then substituting the Ending (below) for the turnaround.

### Ending

#### E (12<sup>th</sup> bar 'false ending')

1	0 0
2	0 x 0
3	1 x 1
4	2 x 2
5	2 x 2
6	0 0

#### Outro

	4	3	2
	0	0	0
	/ 4	3	2

#### E (end)

1	0
2	0
3	1
4	2
5	2
6	0

## Texas-Style Blues Rhythm - Performance Notes

A *Texas-style Blues rhythm* features strummed chords played in combination with a *walking bass line*. The progression here will feature new variations added to the standard twelve-bar format from previous lessons, including *rhythm changes*, *chord substitutions*, and a *false ending*. The following sections provide a step-by-step approach.

### Intro

The Intro is a standard Blues riff in 'E' that ends with a strummed 'E' chord. For tempo, 'count' the Intro as: '1-2-3 - 1-2-3 - 1-2-3 - 1...' with the last sustained '1' count being the strummed 'E' chord. After the strummed 'E' chord, the slash marks (' / ') represent an extra 'lead-in' count ('...2 - 3 - 4...') that can be counted aloud, silently, or tapped in order to establish a *tempo* to begin the twelve-bar progression.

### Bars 1-4

The actual Texas-style rhythm begins on Bar 1. Initially, count each bar/section as: '1 - 2... 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3...', with the first '1-2' counts being the strummed 'E' chord followed by a six-note bass line riff. As an alternative, each bar can be counted in 'fours' ('1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4'). Regardless of the count used, the key is to capture a rhythm like that of a cowboy riding a slow, galloping horse.

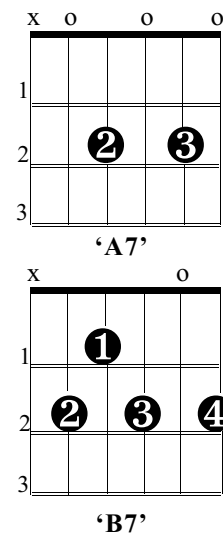
### Bars 5-8

Bars 5-6 feature a chord change to 'A7' (*see right*). The same 'Texas-style' strum pattern continues, with the only difference being the same initial six-note bass line simply shifts up one string to be played. Bars 7-8 return back to 'E' with the same rhythm pattern played in Bars 1-4. Try combining Bars 1-8 together before moving on to Bars 9-12.

### Bars 9-12

For Bars 9-10, a rhythm change occurs, referred to here as a '*Walk in the Park*' rhythm due to its easy-going strum pattern ('down-up... down-up-up-down'). When switching from 'B7' to 'A7', simultaneously shift the second and third fingers together up one string along the second fret. For Bar 11, return back to the initial Texas rhythm in 'E'. The twelfth bar features a turnaround that ends Verse 1 and 'leads-in' to Verse 2. The same 'B7' chord shape in Bar 9 is used for the turnaround, using all downstrokes to change the tempo ('1-2-3-1-2-3-1-2-3-1-2-3') and to 'rev-up' into Verse 2. After the turnaround, the progression repeats starting on

### Chord Shapes



### Ending

In Verse 2, the Ending section replaces the turnaround. A twelve-bar progression typically ends with a strummed chord at the twelfth bar. Here, the Ending is extended with an added Outro section, making what appears to be the strummed 'E' ending actually the '*false ending*'.

### Additional Notes

Note the *seventh chords* ('A7' and 'B7') being used instead of the standard or primary chords ('A' and 'E') from the Key of 'E'. This seventh chord *substitution* is common in many Blues rhythm progressions.

### Memorization Steps

- Step 1** - Memorize Bars 1-8
- Step 2** - Memorize Bars 9-12
- Step 3** - Connect Steps 1 & 2  
(Bars 1-12 = Verse 1)
- Step 4** - Repeat Bars 1-12  
(two consecutive verses)
- Step 5** - Use Ending for Verse 2
- Step 6** - Add Intro/Outro