

RIGHT HAND RIFFS

PICK UP's, SLIDE's & TREMELO's

Pick Up's, Hammer On's and Tremelo's are devices that are often used in Blues.

A **PICK UP** is a short riff that leads into a chord or pattern.

A **SLIDE** is when you very quickly slide off one note onto another note.
(almost as if you've hit the first note by accident)

This is a typical BLUES device which is trying to copy the sound of a string being 'bent' on a Guitar - as often happens in the Blues

A **TREMELO** is when two notes are alternated many times at high speed giving a vibrating sound. Listen to the sound clip.

Try the following two bars that use all three devices.

— PICK UP —

E Eb E G A TREMELO (between G and C)

The musical notation is for a 12/8 shuffle in C. It consists of two measures. The first measure is a pick-up riff with notes E, Eb, E, G, and A. The second measure features a tremelo between G and C. Red arrows indicate slides: one from Eb to E and another from F# to G. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in C.

SLIDE on to E
from Eb

SLIDE on to G
from F#

12/8 SHUFFLE in C

In the following practice pieces I haven't put in any TREMELO's but you can try them yourself if you want to. For example in bars two, four, six etc you can either hold the G and C note for four beats or play them as a TREMELO. Experiment!

I also haven't written in all the notes for the HAMMER ON because there wasn't much room - I have written 'hammer on from Eb' underneath instead.