

Level 1 SS Riffs

			Starts on Fret	Chords on A string	Chords on E string
1st pos		Another One Bites the Dust	5	Am Dm (D5)	Em Am
3rd		Aqualung	7	A (to E ^b)	E (to B ^b)
2nd pos		Baby Shark	0	D G Bm A ⁷	A D F [#] m E ⁷
		Barracuda	0	A5 C	E5 G
		Big Ben Chimes, Westminster	9	D A	A E
		Climbing Up Falling Down Ext	0	A7	E7
		Dueling Banjos	4	A	E
		Good the Bad and the Ugly	1	Am D Am G	Em A Em D
		How Dry I Am	0	D A D	A E A
3 stretch		Iron Man	0	A5 C5 D5 FEFEF C C DD	E5 G5 A5 CBCBC GG AA
5th pos		James Bond Theme #2	5!	Dm	Am
2nd pos		Peter Gunn Theme	0	A7 omit 3rd	E7 omit 3rd
1st pos		Satisfaction (Stones)	0	D5 C5	A5 G5
Position Shift !		Seven Nation Army Riff	5	D Bb A	A F E
3rd pos		Smoke on the water	0	A5 D C A5	E5 A G E5
		William Tell	0	D A	A E

L1

2/20/23 "Single String Riffs" Pedagogy OVERVIEW

These are throw-away riffs which allow players to express a musical idea. I don't teach a rock repertoire but these give students a chance to play rock type riffs as well as other familiar phrases.

My goal is to make sure students are working on fingering technique and rhythm and also developing a sense of harmonization. These are intended to get students playing melody with proper finger position. Of course these riffs all should be played on multiple strings but we are going to play them as **Single String** challenges. This forces the student to develop fingering technique.

These are intended to be played with a backup player since they really come alive that way. It can be a fun challenge to play some of these riffs on all the strings since the chords are really ambitious. Timing is crucial

Two musicians should play the riff and then the chords switching back and forth. This is great for rhythm and dexterity It really demonstrates the importance of proper technique since any sloppiness will destroy your ability quickly to get back and forth.

- You may NOT play these with just 1 finger!
- If you INSIST on playing with just one finger then it HAS TO BE THE FOURTH FINGER!

Everyone wants to rock! But I want you to learn good technique and theory so you can play and understand anything. Here is the deal. I will teach you these riffs as SINGLE STRING EXERCISES. You have to play them perfectly using the right fingerings. This will massively improve your ability to play anything. There are much easier ways for beginners to play these riffs. You are welcome to do that after you master the Single String Version.

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST, SS RIFF

1980 ORIGINAL IN FMIN

JOHN DEACON 1951-
QUEEN

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

The musical notation shows a 4/4 time signature. The first measure is labeled 'E MIN' and contains a power chord (5-3 on the E string). The second measure is labeled 'A MIN' and contains a power chord (0-0-0). The third measure contains a sequence of notes: 7, 7, 7, 7 on the E string. The fourth measure contains a sequence of notes: 0, 0, 3, 0, 5 on the E string. The tablature staff below shows the fret numbers for each string: E (5, 3), B (0, 0, 0), G (7, 7, 7, 7), D (0, 0), and A (3, 0, 5). The riff is repeated twice.

E string Emin Amin

C string Cmin Fmin

B String Bmin Emin

F String Bmin Emin

G String Gmin Cmin

D String Dmin Gmin

A String Amin Dmin

TRIVIA: THE FIRST WORD OF THIS SONG (OTHER THAN "LET'S GO") IS "STEVE WALKS WARRILY."

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AQUALUNG, SS RIFF

1970 ORIGINAL IN G MIN

THE INTRO MODULATES ALL OVER THE PLACE.

IAN ANDERSON 1947-

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E min

B^b

TABLATURE

FRET #

E string **E min** **Bb**

B String **B min** **F**

C string **C min** **Gb**

G String **G min** **Db**

F String **F min** **B**

D String **D min** **Ab**

A String **A min** **Eb**

2/18/23

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BARRACUDA-SS RIFF

1977, ORIGINAL IN E

HEART
 ANNE WILSON,
 ROGER FISHER,
 NANCY WILSON
 TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E string	E	G	C string	C	E _b
B String	B	D	F String	F	A _b
G String	G	B _b			
D String	D	F			
A String	A	C			

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BIG BEN CHIMES, WESTMINSTER, SS RIFF

1793 CURRENTLY IN E MAJOR

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

A **E** **A**

TABLATURE
FRET # 9 5 7 0 0 0 7 9 5

E string **A E A**

C string **F C F**

B String **E B E**

F String **Bb F Bb**

G String **C G C**

D String **G D G**

A String **D A D**

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CLIMBING UP, FALLING DOWN, EXTENDED-SS RIFF

BRIAN PERKINS 1964-
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E⁷

FINGER #

FRET NUMBER #

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the first part of the riff. It features a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: E2 (open), F#2 (1st finger), G#2 (2nd finger), A2 (2nd finger), B2 (1st finger), C3 (open), D3 (open), E3 (1st finger), F#3 (2nd finger), G3 (3rd finger), A3 (4th finger), B3 (4th finger), and C4 (7th finger). The fretboard diagram below shows the corresponding fret numbers: 0, 2, 4, 4, 2, 0, 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 7.

- E string E7
- B String B7
- G String G7
- D String D7
- A String A7
- C String C7
- F String F7

PART #2

E⁷

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the second part of the riff. It features a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: F#2 (1st finger), G#2 (2nd finger), A2 (4th finger), B2 (4th finger), C3 (2nd finger), D3 (1st finger), E3 (1st finger), F#3 (2nd finger), G3 (4th finger), A3 (1st finger), B3 (2nd finger), C4 (4th finger), D4 (1st finger), E4 (2nd finger), F#4 (2nd finger), G4 (2nd finger), A4 (2nd finger), B4 (2nd finger), and C5 (2nd finger). The fretboard diagram below shows the corresponding fret numbers: 4, 5, 7, 7, 5, 4, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 10.

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DUELING BANJOS, SS RIFF

1954, ORIGINAL IN C

1972, ERIC WEISBERG VERSION IN A

ARTHUR "GUITAR BOOGIE" SMITH 1921-2014

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E

TABLATURE

FRET # 4 5 | 7 4 5 2 | 4 0 2 4 5 |

- | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| E string | E | C string | C |
| B String | B | F String | F |
| G String | G | | |
| D String | D | | |
| A String | A | | |

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EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK, SS RIFF

1787 ORIGINAL IN G

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-91)
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

A **E⁷**

TABLATURE
FRET # 5 0 5 0 | 5 0 5 9 12 | 10 7 10 7 | 10 7 4 7 0

E string	A	E7	C string	F	C7
B String	E	B7	F String	Bb	F7
G String	C	G7			
D String	G	D7			
A String	D	A7			

2/19/23

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THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY, SS RIFF

ORIGINAL IN DMINOR

COMPOSED BY ENNIO MORICONE FOR THE 1966 MOVIE "THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY

ENNIO MORRICONE 1928-2020

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

The musical notation consists of a standard staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. Above the staff, the notes are labeled with chords: Emin, A, Emin, and D. Below the staff, a guitar tablature is provided with fret numbers: 7 12 7 12 7 | 3 | 5 0 | 7 12 7 12 7 | 3 | 5 10.

E string	Emin	A	Emin	D	C string	Cmin	F	Cmin	Bb
B String	Bmin	E	Bmin	A	F String	Fmin	Bb	Fmin	Eb
G String	Gmin	C	Gmin	F					
D String	Dmin	G	Dmin	C					
A String	Amin	D	Amin	G					

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HOW DRY I AM, SS RIFF

This riff is older but Irving Berlin 1888-1989 ישראל ביילין used it in his 1919 song "The Near Future." It is a standard musical shorthand indicating drunkenness.

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing a sequence of notes with fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4) and chord symbols (A, E, A) above. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers (0, 5, 7, 9, 10) and a 'TABLATURE' label.

E string A E7 A

C string F C7 F

B String E B7 E

F String Bb F7 Bb

G String C G7 C

D String G D7 G

A String D A7 D

2/18/23

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IRON MAN, SS RIFF

1970, ORIGINAL IN B

BLACK SABBATH
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E⁵ G⁵ A⁵ C⁵ G⁵ A⁵

1 2 4 3 4 1 2

TABLATURE
FRET #

4/4

0 3 3 5 5 8 7 8 7 8 3 3 5 5

These are all POWER CHORDS!

E string E G A C G A

B String B D E G D E

G String G B C Eb Bb C

D String D F G Bb F G

A String A C D F C D

C string C Eb F Ab Eb F

F String F Ab Bb Db Ab Bb

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JAMES BOND THEME #2, SS RIFF

1962 ORIGINAL IN EMIN

MONTY NORMAN 1928-2022
 ARR. JOHN BARRY 1933-2011
 TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E string	Amin	C string	Fmin
B String	Emin	F String	Bbmin
G String	Cmin		
D String	Gmin		
A String	Dmin		

"SPY CHORD"
 EMINMAJ9
 0 10 9 8 7 X

AMINMAJ9
 X 0 10 9 9 7

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PETER GUNN THEME, SS RIFF

1958, ORIGINAL IN FMIN

HENRY MANCINI 1924-94
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E⁵

TABLATURE FRET #

E string Emin

C string Cmin

B String Bmin

F String Fmin

G String Gmin

D String Dmin

A String Amin

2/18/23

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"SATISFACTION" RIFF, SS RIFF

1965 ORIGINAL IN E

KEITH RICHARDS & MICK JAGGER
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

A **G** **D**

TREBLE CLEF 4/4 F#

0 0 0 0 2 3 3 3 3 2 2 0

E string A G D

B String E D A

G String C Bb F

D String G F C

A String D C G

C string F Eb Bb

F String Bb Ab Eb

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SMOKE ON THE WATER, SS RIFF

1971 ORIGINAL IN GMIN

DEEP PURPLE/ RICHIE BLACKMORE
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E string Emin A G Emin

B String Bmin E D Bmin

G String Gmin C Bb Gmin

D String Dmin G F Dmin

A String Amin D C Amin

C string Cmin F Eb Cmin

F String Fmin Bb Ab Fmin

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WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE SS RIFF

1829 ORIGINALLY IN E

GIOACCHINO ROSSINI 1792-1868

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing a sequence of eighth notes. The notes are: E4 (open), E4 (open), F#4 (open), G4 (open), A4 (open), B4 (open), C#5 (open), D5 (open), E5 (open), F#5 (open), G5 (open), A5 (open), B5 (open), C#6 (open), D6 (open), E6 (open). Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 5, 7, 9, 0, 0, 0, 0, 5, 9, 7, 4, 0, 0, 0, 0. The tablature is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, corresponding to the musical notation above.

E string A E7

B String E B7

C string F C7

G String C G7

F String Bb F7

D String G D7

A String D A7

The term "intellectual" has been defined as "a person who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger"