

Level 2 SS Riffs

			1st note Fret	Chords on A String	Chords on E String
5 th pos		1812 Overture	0	D	A
		Addams Family Theme	0	D A	A B
4 th		Blister in the Sun	0	A D A D	E A E A
		Come as you are	0	Bm A	F#m E
		Dance Macabre	0 5	Dm E ⁷ A ⁷	Am B ⁷ E ⁷
		Eine Klein Nachtmusic	5	D A ⁷	A E ⁷
		Enter Sandman	0	Am D ⁷	Em A ⁷
		Great Gates of Kyiv	5	D A	A E
		In the Hall of the Mountain King	0	Am B ⁷ /A B ^b /A	Em F ^{#7} /E F/E
		James Bond #3			
		My Sharona	2	B5 E D	F#5 B A
Position Shift!		Rock Lobster	0	Am F E ⁷	Em C B ⁷

L2

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!

2/18/23

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.

1812 OVERTURE, SS RIFF

1880 ORIGINAL IN E FLAT

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY 1840-93
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

A

TABLATURE
FRET #

E string A

C string F

B String E

F String Bb

G String C

D String G

A String D

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ADDAMS FAMILY THEME, SS RIFF

ORIGINAL IN BFLAT

COMPOSED BY VIC MIZZY IN 1964

VIC MIZZY 1916-2009
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

A B A

TABLATURE
FRET #

E string A B

C string F G

B String E F#

F String C D

G String C D

D String G A

A String D E

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BLISTER IN THE SUN, SS RIFF

1983, ORIGINAL IN G

GORDON GANO 1963-
VIOLENT FEMMES
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

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

C string C F
 F String F Bb

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COME AS YOU ARE, SS RIFF

1992 ORIGINAL IN EMIN (TUNED DOWN A WHOLE STEP)

THIS RIFF IS RIDICULOUS TO PLAY ON ONE STRING, BUT WE ARE COMMITTED!

KURT COBAIN (1967-94)
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

F#MIN **E**

TABLATURE

FRET # 0 0 1 ||: 2 5 2 5 2 2 1 | 0 7 0 0 0 7 0 1 :||

E string **F#m E**

B String **C#m B**

G String **Amin G**

D String **Emin D**

A String **Bmin A**

C string **Dm C**

F String **Gm F**

L2

SINGLE STRING RIFFS!

2/19/23

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DANCE MACABRE, SS RIFF

1874, ORIGINAL IN D OR GMIN?

CHORDS NEED WORK

CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS (1835-1921)

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

Amin B7 E7

TABLATURE

FRET # 0 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0

Amin B7 E7

5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0

E string Amin B7 E7

B String Emin F#7 B7

G String Cmin D7 G7

D String Gmin A7 D7 C string Fmin G7 C7

A String Dmin E7 A7 F String Bbmin C7 F7

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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			

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ENTER SANDMAN, SS RIFF

KIRK HAMMETT,
JAMES HETFIELD,
LARS ULRICH.
(METALLICA)

1991, ORIGINAL IN EMIN

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

- E string** **Emin** **A5**
- B String** **Bmin** **E5**
- G String** **Gmin** **C5**
- D String** **Dmin** **G5**
- A String** **Amin** **D5**

This one is sort of ridiculous to play as a single string riff. You can still learn a lot by trying. I have included an "Octave Cheat" to simplify. I have also included the real way to play it at the bottom. It is still tricky.

Note! To make this sound like a metal riff and not like a jazz riff you have to avoid any swing or backbeat.

ACTUAL WAY IT IS PLAYED!

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THE GREAT GATE OF KIEV, SS RIFF

1880 ORIGINAL IN EFLAT

MODEST MUSSORGSKY 1839-1881

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

The first riff is written in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of notes: A (open), E (open), A (2nd fret), E (4th fret), A (3rd fret), E (4th fret), A (2nd fret), and E (open). Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 1, 2, 4, 1, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 1, 1. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 5, 7, 9, 5, 9, 7, 0, 9, 12, 7, 5, 4, 0, 9, 12, 7, 5, 4, 0.

E string A

B String E

C string F

G String C

F String Bb

D String G

A String D

The second riff is written in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of notes: D (2nd fret), E (open), A (2nd fret), E (4th fret), A (3rd fret), E (4th fret), A (2nd fret), E (open), and A (open). Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 1, 0, 1, 1, 5, 3, 1, 5, 3, 1, 3, 1. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 2, 0, 5, 7, 12, 9, 7, 12, 9, 5, 7, 2, 0.

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IN THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING, SS RIFF

ORIGINAL IN BMIN

1875 FROM PEER GYNT, OPUS 20

EDVARD GREIG 1843-1907

TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E MIN

F#7/E

F/E

TABLATURE

FRET #

0 2 3 5 7 3 7 6 2 6 5 1 5

E string Emin F#7/E F/E

B String Bmin C#7/B C/B

G String Gmin A7/G Ab/G

D String Dmin E7/D Eb/D

A String Amin B7/A Bb/A

C string Cmin D7/C Db/C

F String Fmin G7/F Gb/F

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MY SHARONA, SS RIFF

1979 ORIGINAL IN G

THIS RIFF IS RIDICULOUS TO PLAY ON ONE STRING, BUT WE ARE COMMITTED!

BERTON AVERRE AND DOUG FIEGER
THE KNACK
TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

F#5 B A

TABLATURE START THIS ONE ON THE LOW E STRING SINCE IT IS A BASS RIFF

FRET #

E string F#5 B A

B String C#5 F# E

G String A5 D C

D String E5 A G

A String B5 E D

C string D5 G F

F String G5 C Bb

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ROCK LOBSTER-SS RIFF

1978, ORIGINAL IN CMIN

Orig on low tuned guitar.
 CD Eb DC AbFAbG

THE B52s
 TRANSCRIBED BY BRIAN PERKINS

E string	Emin	C B7	C string	Cmin	Ab G7
B String	Bmin	G F#7	F String	Fmin	Db C7
G String	Gmin	Eb D7			
D String	Dmin	Bb A7			
A String	Amin	F E7			