

## PLAYING RIFFS

Now that you have started to play individual notes by learning the Pentatonic Scale you are ready to apply the technique to a song by playing a Riff and not just the strummed chords.

A Riff is simply a recurring pattern of notes, not chords, that really define the song and will be very recognisable to the listener. A well known example of a Riff that defines a song would be the Riff in Sunshine of Your Love by Cream. Hear it and you instantly know the song.

Most of us shy away from playing Riffs believing it to be too difficult but really like the learning you have done so far it is just a question of applied practice. You are learning to be selective with the string or strings you use.

The major issues are being accurate with selecting the string or strings to use and using the right finger to help us move smoothly.

Learning to play individual strings via the pentatonic scale exercise will help you to not have to overthink each finger and string change.

Its the old muscle memory thing, your fingers need to be trained to make the move without having to think which finger goes where and when, I'm afraid its just plain old repetition, repetition .

Take a look at the video on playing the Riff to Let it Be by the Beatles.