

Alternate Texas Blues Rhythm - Performance Notes

Like the *Texas-Style Blues rhythm*, the *Alternate Texas Blues Rhythm* features strummed chords played in combination with various riffs along with added strumming variations and chord substitutions. Both progressions are played in the Key of 'E' Blues. Below is a step-by-step approach to learning the complete twelve-bar progression.

Bar 1

The first half of Bar 1 is an 'E' chord with a 'down-up- x -down' strum. The 'x' represents a beat counted as either a rest or a *palm-muted* 'chop' of the strings. A *palm-mute* is resting the palm of the fretting hand on the strings so they produce a percussive 'choppy' effect when strummed. Using a *rest* (*silent count*) initially will be less-challenging than using a palm-mute. For the three-beat riff that ends Bar 1, strum the open third, fourth, and fifth strings then 'tap' and release the flattened first finger across the middle two strings along the second fret. All of Bar 1 can be strummed: 'down-up- x -down... down-up-down'.

Bars 2 - 4

Bar 2 maintains the same tempo and strum pattern as Bar 1 ('down-up- x -down... down-up-down'), with the only change being the last three-beat riff is played with single-notes on the bottom string. Bars 3 & 4 simply repeat Bars 1 & 2. Before moving on to Bar 5, practice combining Bars 1 - 4.

Bars 5 - 8

Bars 5-6 feature the same '*Walk In the Park*' rhythm introduced with the 'Texas-style' rhythm (*previous lesson*). Note the new *chord voicing* used for the 'A7' chord (*right*). Bars 7-8 return back to the 'E' strum pattern used in Bars 1-2.

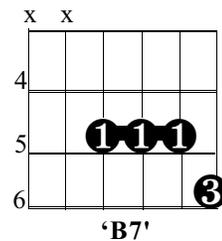
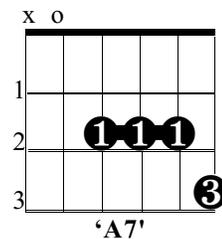
Bars 9 - 11

The new chord voicing for 'B7' (*right*) is the same chord shape as the 'A7' used in Bars 5-6 - just played two frets higher. Use the '*Walk In the Park*' rhythm for Bars 9-10 and simply slide the 'B7' shape down two frets to play 'A7'. For Bar 11, return back to playing just one bar of 'E'.

Bar 12 - Turnaround

The 'B7' chord is used for the turnaround, using all downstrokes to change the tempo ('1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3') as a way to 'rev-up' into Verse 2. Practice combining Bars 11-12 (*shown in Tab below*), then combine Bars 9-12 together before attempting to play all twelve bars combined.

Chord Shapes



Ending

In Verse 2, the Ending replaces the turnaround from Verse 1. Again, the x's represent either a *palm-mute* or a *rest* in between strummed chords. Practice combining Bars 11-12 of Verse 2 (*shown below right*) before attempting the complete two-verse progression.

Verse 1 (Bars 11-12)

Verse 2 (Bars 11-12)

	E	B7 (Turnaround)	E	E (Ending)
1	0 0 0	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	0 0 0	0 0
2	0 0 x 0	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	0 0 x 0	0 x 0
3	1 1 x 1 0 2 0	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	1 1 x 1 0 2 0	1 x 1
4	2 2 x 2 0 2 0	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	2 2 x 2 0 2 0	2 x 2
5	2 2 x 2 0 0 0		2 2 x 2 0 0 0	2 x 2
6	0 0 x 0		0 0 0	0 0