

JUMP BLUES

Jump blues refers to an uptempo, jazz-tinged style of blues that first came to prominence in the mid to late 1940s. Usually featuring a vocalist in front of a large, horn-driven orchestra or medium-sized combo with multiple horns, the style is distinguished by a driving rhythm, intensely shouted vocals, and honking tenor saxophone solos—a precursor to rock 'n' roll. This solo covers one 12-bar chorus in a medium swing, jump-blues style.



With Solo, Track 22
Backing Track, Track 23

Jump!

G13
Swing 8ths

G13 **C9**

G13 **D9**

C9 **G7** **G C C# D**

Analysis

The variety of chords in the gospel-blues style sets up a number of harmonic options for shaping a colorful solo. Double-stop licks are a great way to start a chorus in this style. This lick, over the I chord (B^b), is built from the B^b Major Pentatonic scale.

1

B^b

B^b Major Pentatonic—5th Position

The bend to the unison (the note is played before and after we bend to it) of the root (D) over the III chord (D7) in **bar 2** exemplifies the simplicity of a good blues lick.

D7
Bend to the Unison

2

In **bar 3**, the repeating triplet rhythm combined with the repetitive melodic figure against the IV chord (E^b) lifts the energy of the solo.

E^b

3