

12 Bar Blues – Key of E Guitar Tabs and Chords

Hi, hope you enjoyed the video and you like this little blues tune, it's a lot of fun to play. Take your time with it though, there are lots of technical elements involved, and mind the rhythm as well.

If you missed the video guitar lesson, make sure you watch it here:

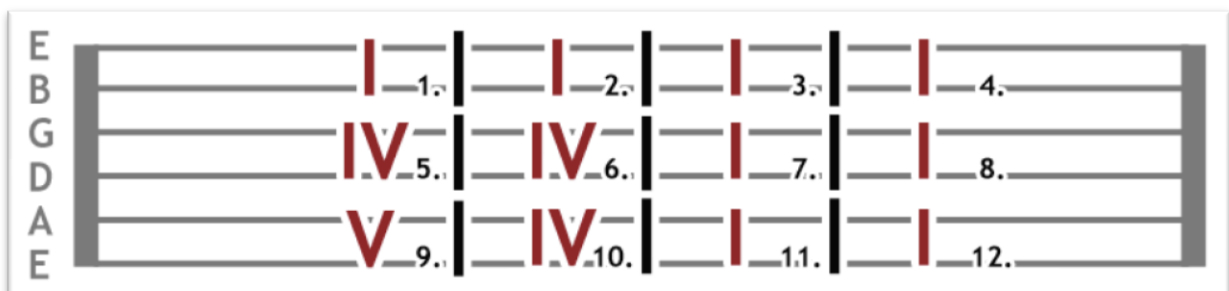
<http://www.theguitarlesson.com/premium-guitar-lessons/acoustic-guitar/12-bar-blues-guitar-lesson-key-E>

12 Bar Blues Chord Progression

As you'll know, the 12 bar blues uses a very specific chord progression, mixing the I, the IV and V chords of the key you are in. Since we are in the key of E, our I chord is E, our IV is A, and our V chord is B.



Here is the standard 12 bar blues chord progression:

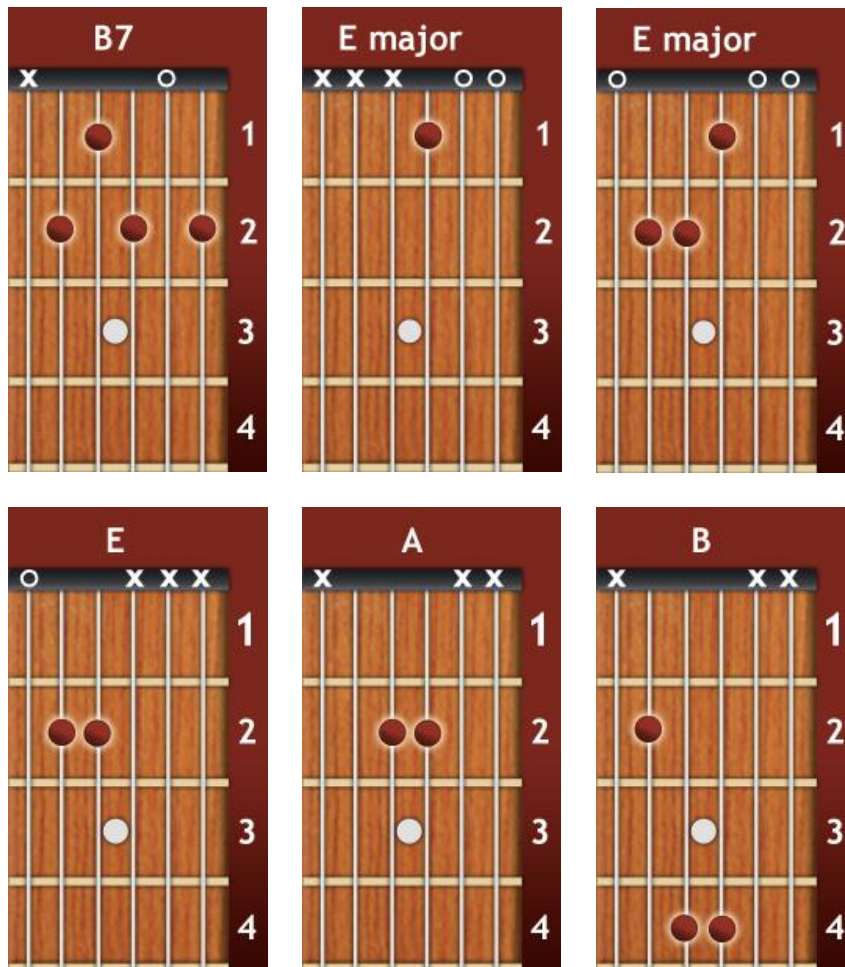


And here it is in the key of E:



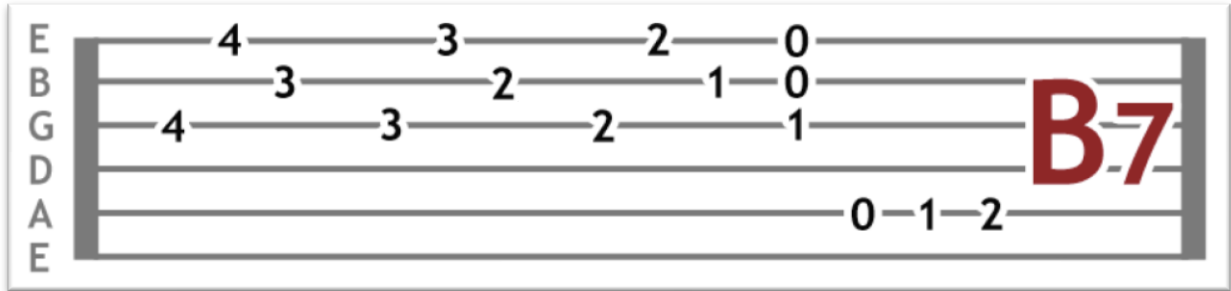
Chords

These are the chords you'll be using in our 12 bar blues lesson:



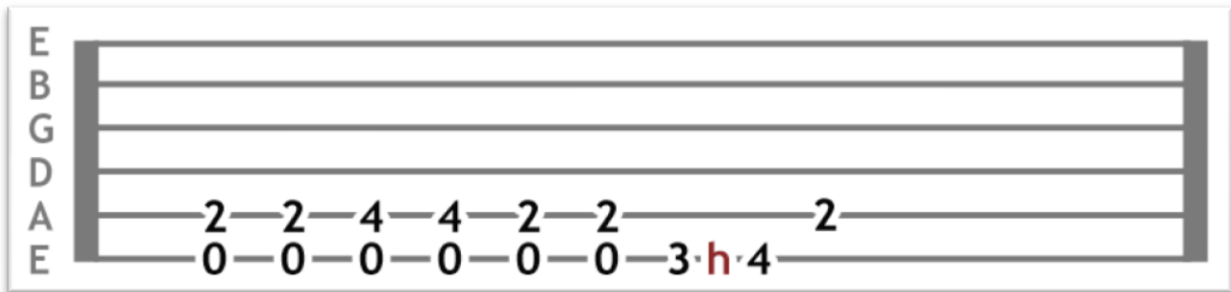
Tabs

Initial turnaround (optional, you can just start with the 1st bar if you want)



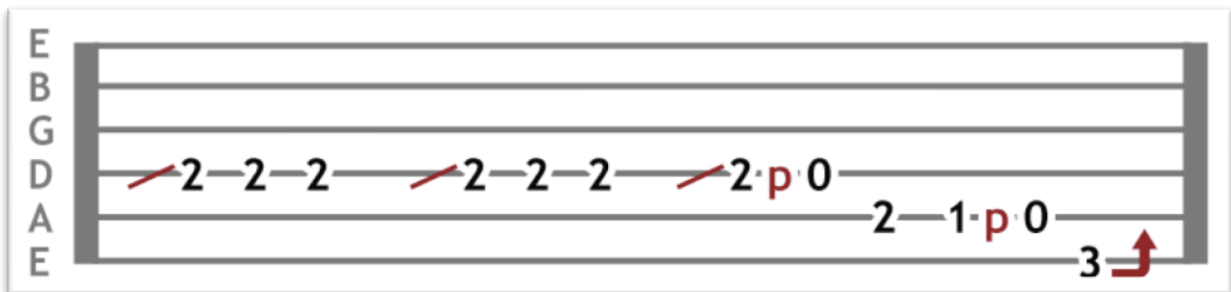
A guitar tab for a B7 chord. The strings from top to bottom are E, B, G, D, A, E. The fret numbers are: E string (4, 3, 2, 0), B string (3, 2, 1, 0), G string (4, 3, 2, 1), D string (0, 1, 2), A string (0, 1, 2), and E string (0, 1, 2). A large red 'B7' is written on the right side of the tab.

Bars 1 and 2



A guitar tab for the first two bars. The strings from top to bottom are E, B, G, D, A, E. The fret numbers are: E string (2, 2, 4, 4, 2, 2, 2), B string (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3), G string (h), D string (4), A string (2), and E string (2).

Bar 3



A guitar tab for the third bar. The strings from top to bottom are E, B, G, D, A, E. The fret numbers are: E string (2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2), B string (p, 0), G string (2, 1, p, 0), D string (2, 1, p, 0), A string (2, 1, p, 0), and E string (3) with an upward-pointing arrow.

Bar 4

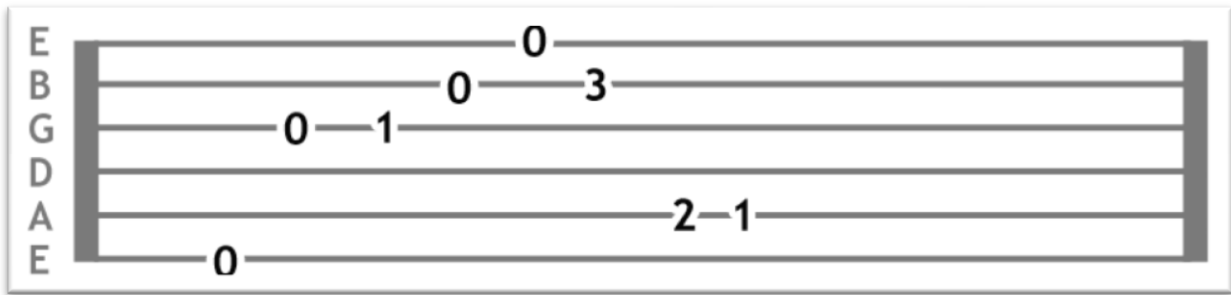


Diagram for Bar 4 showing fret positions on the strings (E, B, G, D, A, E):

- E string: 0
- B string: 0-3
- G string: 0-1
- D string: 2-1
- A string: 2-1
- E string: 0

Bar 5

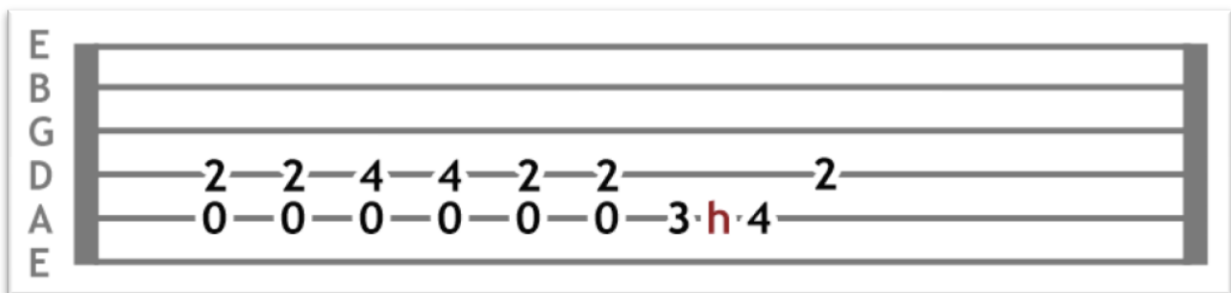


Diagram for Bar 5 showing fret positions on the strings (E, B, G, D, A, E):

- E string: 2-2-4-4-2-2-2
- B string: 0-0-0-0-0-0-3-h-4

Bar 6

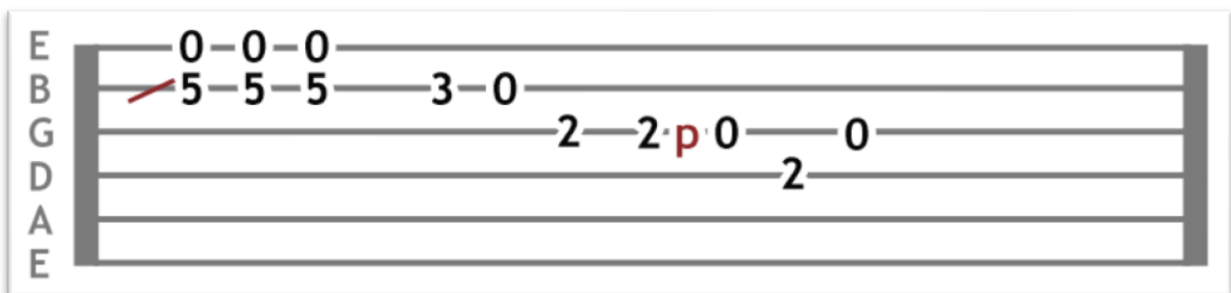


Diagram for Bar 6 showing fret positions on the strings (E, B, G, D, A, E):

- E string: 0-0-0
- B string: 5-5-5-3-0
- G string: 2-2-p-0-0
- D string: 2

Bar 7

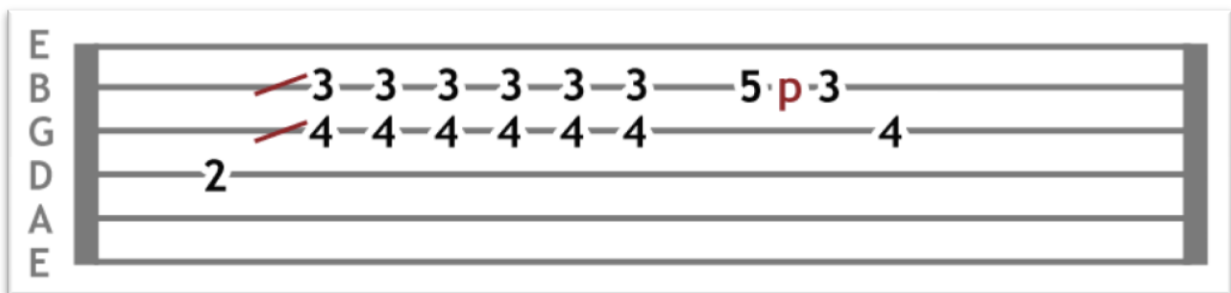


Diagram for Bar 7 showing fret positions on the strings (E, B, G, D, A, E):

- E string: 3-3-3-3-3-3-5-p-3
- B string: 4-4-4-4-4-4-4
- D string: 2

Bar 8

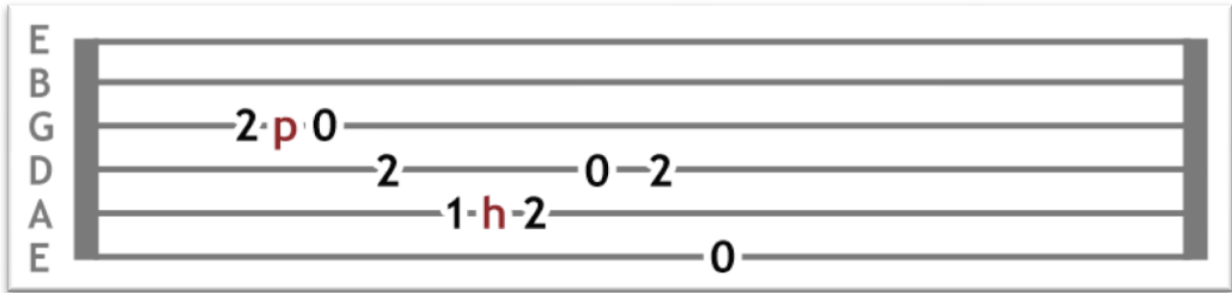


Diagram for Bar 8 (E major scale):

- E string: 2 · p · 0
- B string: 2
- G string: 0 - 2
- D string: 1 · h · 2
- A string: 0
- E string: 0

Bar 9

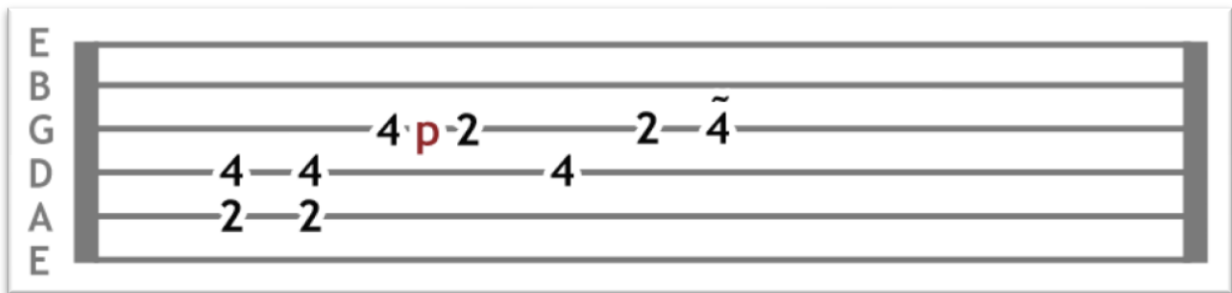


Diagram for Bar 9 (E major scale):

- E string: 4 · p · 2
- B string: 2 - 4̃
- G string: 4 - 4
- D string: 4
- A string: 2 - 2
- E string: 2 - 2

Bar 10

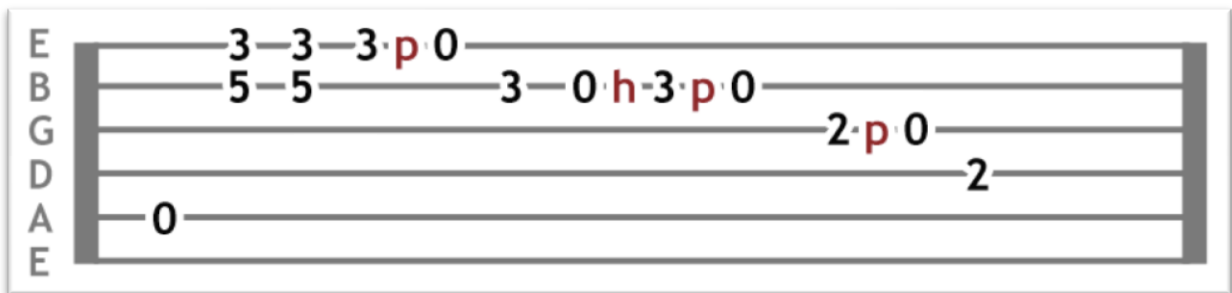


Diagram for Bar 10 (E major scale):

- E string: 3 - 3 - 3 · p · 0
- B string: 5 - 5
- G string: 3 - 0 · h · 3 · p · 0
- D string: 2 · p · 0
- A string: 2
- E string: 0

Bars 11-12 (This is the turnaround. Use the B7 chord to start playing from bar 1 again, or an E major chord to end the song.)

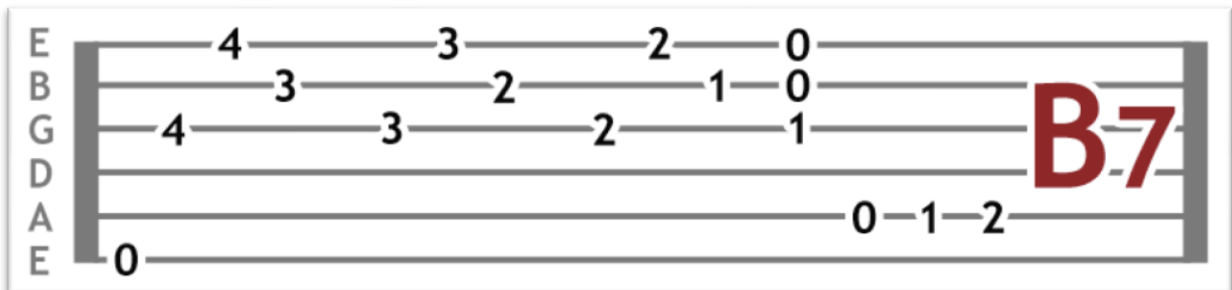


Diagram for Bars 11-12 (Turnaround):

- E string: 4 - 3 - 2 - 0
- B string: 3 - 2 - 1 - 0
- G string: 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
- D string: 0 - 1 - 2
- A string: 0
- E string: 0

B7 chord indicated on the right side of the diagram.

Have fun, practice a lot and I'll see you in the next lesson!

Tom Fontana

And remember:

- Check out the rest of our [beginner guitar lessons](#) as well, all of our [guitar lessons on songs](#) were designed to improve your guitar skills through playing popular songs.
- When you feel like learning a bit more theory, have a look at the [guitar theory](#) section of the site.
- Our partners regularly offer our members considerable savings on guitars and accessories, so remember to browse our [guitar store](#) if you need something.