STYLISTIC & CREATIVE IDEAS FOR YOUR BLUES SHUFFLE
LESSON 1: EXPLORING THE ‘PINETOP SMITH’ RIFF

Here are the main variations of the riff that we look at in Lesson 1. This is a classic riff first documented in Pinetop Smith’s seminal 1928 recording ‘Pinetop’s Boogie Woogie’. After the first couple of examples, I have only written it on the chord of G – it will be good practice for you to work out the notes on the chords of C & D. In fact, I recommend trying to work out all these variations in EVERY key!

• Perhaps go around the cycle of fifths
• Or try playing them over 12 Bar Blues in other keys – begin with closer keys like C, F & D and then through more remote keys Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, A, E, B.
• Perhaps go around the cycle of fifths again

Try playing them over 12 Bar Blues in other keys

This is a classic riff first recorded ‘Pinetop’s Boogie Woogie’.

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