

Gianni Chiarello

# CONTEMPORARY BLUES CHORDS AND COMPING

Exploring rhythm guitar and the blues.



# CONTEMPORARY BLUES

## CHORDS AND COMPING

By Gianni Chiarello



### AUDIO TRACK LISTING

01 Tuning Notes	21 60's Funk/Boogaloo
02 Basic 12 Bar Blues Form	22 Rumba Blues
03 12 Bar Blues in A	23 Rumba Blues n2
04 12 Bar Blues in C	24 Rumba Funk with Slides
05 12 Bar Blues in E	25 Funk Blues
06 12 Bar Blues in G	26 Gospel Style
07 Cliché Phrase n1	27 Jazz Blues in F
08 Cliché Phrase n2	28 Jazz Style Comping
09 Cliché Phrase n3	29 Big Band Style Comping
10 Other Cliché Phrases	30 Big Band Style Comping v2
11 Mixing Cliché Phrases	31 Arpeggio Minor Progression
12 Two Note Comping in A	32 Slow 12/8 Arpeggio
13 Two Note Comping in A v2	33 Sus Style Comping n1
14 Two Note Comping in E	34 Sus Style Comping n2
15 TNC With Top Pivot Note	35 Sus Minor Blues
16 TNC With Top Extension Note	36 Miles' Trick (E on bass)
17 TNC With Top Extension Note and Top Pivot Note	37 Miles' Trick (A on bass)
18 SRV Shuffle Style	38 Cooler Blues
19 Altered Chords SRV Style	39 Full Example: E Major Blues
20 Slow 12/8 'Two and Four'	40 Full Example: A Minor Blues

This book © Copyright 2011 by Gianni Chiarello.

Unauthorized reproduction of any part of this publication by any means including photocopying is an infringement of copyright.

## **INDEX**

- 03 Introduction
- 04 About the audio tracks

### ***Basic Blues Concepts***

- 05 Typical blues progressions
- 06 Shuffle feel and straight feel
- 08 Examples of rock and roll style comping
- 12 Cliché phrases

### ***Contemporary Chords and Comping Ideas***

- 16 Two note comping
- 22 Modern blues styles

### ***Comping Tips and Tricks***

- 43 Right hand technique tips
- 45 Adding ghost notes to your comping
- 46 'Layers' and visual maps

### ***Bringing It All Together: Extended Examples***

- 50 Full comping example : E Major Blues
- 53 Full comping example : A Minor Blues
  
- 56 Closing notes
- 57 Suggested listening
- 58 Suggested reading
- 59 About the author
- 60 Templates

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **(Important: please read!)**

I have written this book to provide a variety of comping ideas for the beginner to advanced blues guitarist, trying to write exercises that could be played as 'standalone'. I thought of collecting a wide array of ideas to steer your playing in different directions, not only harmonically, but also rhythmically.

Most of the material in this book comes from my experience in playing countless blues, jazz, and funk gigs, and hours of listening to and transcribing from the classic records. Repetition is still the essence of creating a statement that has life of its own, so in most of these exercises you'll recognize a pattern that connects them all. I have tried, when applicable, to explain with simple harmonic concepts why I use a chord instead of another, but, as tradition dictates, try and learn the nuances by ear and by 'feel' first and foremost as timing, rhythmic feel, tone and intensity of playing are often impossible to notate.

After going through this book, keep adding to your vocabulary by transcribing from the masters and copying from your fellow musicians. I have added some blank templates at the end of the book for you to use. As I always suggest to my students, try to create a vocabulary of blues comping patterns to incorporate in your playing to then naturally build your very own style.

Don't be afraid to modify this material to fit your style and musical sensibility, most often when tradition is bridged with originality you have a winning combination.

I hope you will find the concepts in this book beneficial, and that you will incorporate some of these sounds in your everyday playing.

Best of luck!

Gianni Chiarello

## **ABOUT THE AUDIO TRACKS**

I have included with this publication a recording of all the examples, in MP3 format, for reference purposes. Once you have learnt the examples 'as written' I urge you to take chances and try to incorporate parts you like in your everyday playing.

A lot of the examples utilize 'MrG Blues Tracks' as backing tracks. This is an excellent set of blues backing tracks and an invaluable tool for all level musicians, covering a wide range of tempos and styles, in all 12 keys.

You can purchase these tracks here:

<http://www.mrgcentral.com/>

**TRACK 09: Cliché Phrase n3**

The first system shows a G7 chord with a melodic line in the treble clef. The tablature below it shows fret numbers 5, 7, 9, 10, 10, 8, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, 10, 8, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, with 'x' marks under the 2nd and 4th strings for the first two measures.

The second system shows a C7 chord. The tablature shows fret numbers 8, 10, 10, 8, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, 10, 8, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, with 'x' marks under the 2nd and 4th strings for the first two measures.

The third system shows a D7 chord. The tablature shows fret numbers 10, 11, 10, 10, 8, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, 6, 5, 3, 2, with 'x' marks under the 2nd and 4th strings for the first two measures.

I am sure by now you have understood the logic behind this kind of comping: below you will find four more examples of phrases.

As usual, to have full command of this style of comping, it is mandatory to know all this material in all keys, and sections of the guitar neck.

**TRACK 10: Other Cliché Phrases**

The first example shows a G7 chord. The tablature shows fret numbers 6, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, with a '3' under the first measure indicating a triplet.

The second example shows a G7 chord. The tablature shows fret numbers 6, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, with a '3' under the first measure indicating a triplet.

## MODERN BLUES STYLES

In this section I wanted to bring a diverse selection of what I consider necessary knowledge for a working blues guitarist. Over my years of performing I have been asked to play in the blues styles explained in the following pages countless times.

Again, for exercise sake, some of these examples might seem a bit 'mechanical'. Towards the end of the book, you will find two full length, comping examples that incorporate some of these styles in a more traditional format. It is paramount to listen to many modern blues recording to find them in their natural setting.

As we have just mentioned Stevie Ray Vaughan, I'd like to pay tribute to this great master with a classic, Hendrix influenced, comping idea.

### TRACK 18: SRV Shuffle Style



The musical notation for Track 18: SRV Shuffle Style is presented in three systems, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The first system is for the E chord, the second for the A and E chords, and the third for the B, A, E, and B chords. The tablature includes various techniques like bends and slurs.

 **TRACK 38: Cooler Blues**



The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first system is labeled 'Am' and contains four measures. The second system is labeled 'Dm' and also contains four measures. The third system contains four measures with chord changes: Em<sup>11</sup> C#m<sup>11</sup>, Dm<sup>11</sup> Bm<sup>11</sup>, Am, and E<sup>13</sup>. The guitar tablature is provided below each staff, showing fret numbers for strings T, A, and B. Triplet markings are present in measures 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12.

In the example above I have tried to incorporate the Miles' trick in a minor blues in the key of A. In bar 2 I have used a pedal note E and the fourth underneath it moves first two consecutive half steps down, then two consecutive half steps up (bar 4).

The same thing happens in the following four bars, obviously transposed to accommodate the minor chord on the 4<sup>th</sup>, D minor.

To maintain the quartal style I have used the chords in bars 9 and 10, if you notice Em<sup>11</sup>, C#m<sup>11</sup> Dm<sup>11</sup> and Bm<sup>11</sup> are all built in fourths.

# OUR OTHER eBooks!

Click [here](#) to learn more about the following eBooks and Blues Tracks.

## CONTEMPORARY BLUES SOLOING



Buy 'Contemporary Blues Soloing' E-book securely with Paypal \$19.95 [HERE](#)

An in-depth, 66-page journey through many of the techniques used by contemporary blues artists like Robben Ford, Scott Henderson and many more. Includes over 40 Mp3 audio examples.

From the Introduction:

'I have written this book with the intent of helping the intermediate blues/rock player to break out of the well known 'box standard pentatonic shape' and venture towards more contemporary sounds. The blues language has developed in the last few decades from just being pentatonic based, to a more articulate language, thanks to fusion and jazz influences. I have been asked too many times during my years of teaching how to go beyond the usual pentatonic phrases that we have all heard way too many times, so I thought of collecting a wide array of ideas to steer your playing in different directions, not only harmonically, but also rhythmically'.

The ebook is a digital download in the popular Pdf format and includes a recording of all audio examples in MP3 format.

[Click here to download the Contents table and a sample of the book with Mp3 recording free!](#)



[Clicca qui](#) per comprare la versione in Italiano 'Tecniche Solistiche nel Blues Moderno'

## CONTEMPORARY SOLO GUITAR



Originals and jazz standards arranged for solo guitar in the style of W. Krantz, P. Metheny, L. Breau, K. Rosenwinkel and more. Every piece is accompanied by an insight on composition and techniques to achieve that elusive 'contemporary jazz' sound. The book is available as a digital download in the popular Pdf format and includes a recording of all ten pieces in MP3 format. The digital download is under 20mb for quick download times.

[Click here to download the Contents table and one full piece with Mp3 recording free!](#)

Buy 'Contemporary Solo Guitar'

E-book securely with  
Paypal \$19.95

[HERE](#)

# BLUES JAM TRACKS & INSTRUMENTAL BACKING TRACKS

## MRG BLUES BACKING TRACKS VOL 1



### 'MrG Blues Tracks Vol 1'

*E<sub>b</sub> - Shuffle*  
*C# - Hendrix Style*  
*E - Slow Blues*  
*F - Standard Jazz Blues*  
*D - Brown Funk*  
*C - Rhumba Blues*  
*A<sub>m</sub> - Minor Blues*  
*G - Slow Gospel*  
*B - Rockabilly*  
*B<sub>b</sub> - Cool Blues*  
*G<sub>b</sub> - Cold Fusion*  
*A<sub>b</sub> - Zydeco*

MrG Blues Backing Tracks is a collection of high quality blues backing tracks for all instruments. Twelve tracks, to cover all keys, tempos ranging from very slow to very fast, in the most popular blues styles. These professional tracks have been produced with instruments played live with the best technology available. All downloads are mp3 at high quality conversion DRM free and iPod compatible. Downloading the tracks from this site also includes full charts.

Click [HERE](#) to listen and purchase these Blues Backing Tracks at:

[www.MrGCentral.com](http://www.MrGCentral.com)

## MRG BLUES BACKING TRACKS VOL 2



### 'MrG Blues Tracks Vol 2, Funk and Soul'

*E - Groovin'*  
*A - The Clapper*  
*C - Drunk Funk*  
*D - Money Groove*  
*Gb - Slow Pace*  
*G - Motor City*  
*F - Chillin'*  
*Bb - Got Soul*  
*Db - The Bridge*  
*Eb - LA Lounge*  
*B - Tight*  
*Ab - Funk Fusion*

Inspired by the golden era of Motown and the classic 70's funk grooves these tracks are guaranteed to get you moving whilst you improve your instrumental skills. Vol 2 includes 12 tracks to cover all keys, tempos ranging from very slow to very fast, in the most popular blues styles. These professional tracks have been produced with instruments played live with the best technology available. All downloads are mp3 at high quality conversion DRM free and iPod compatible. Downloading the tracks from this site also includes full charts.

## MRG BLUES BACKING TRACKS VOL 3



### 'MrG Blues Tracks Vol 3, Rock Blues'

*A - Rockin' Out*  
*Em - Slow Shuffle Groove*  
*Abm - 80's Pop Rock*  
*C - The Bounce*  
*Bb - Relax*  
*Eb - Stone In My Shoe*  
*G - Stevie's Shuffle*  
*Db - Fast Lane*  
*D - Funk Rock*  
*F - Good Old R&R*  
*B - Glam Days*  
*Gb - Z Shuffle*

Prepare for a journey through classic rock, heavy blues and funk rock: these tracks are guaranteed to get you rocking whilst you improve your instrumental skills. Vol 3 includes 12 tracks to cover all keys, tempos ranging from very slow to very fast, in the most popular Rock Blues styles. These professional tracks have been produced with instruments played live with the best technology available. Downloading the tracks from this site also includes full charts.

Click [HERE](#) to listen and purchase these Blues Backing Tracks at: [www.MrGCentral.com](http://www.MrGCentral.com)

# **Contemporary Blues Chords and Comping**

**by Gianni Chiarello**

**An in-depth exploration of the twelve bar blues,  
from classic R&R grooves to the most  
modern Blues and Fusion sounds,  
following a journey through different comping  
styles and techniques.**