

Jimmy Day Riff – Explained As A TriTone

Here's a Jimmy Day riff that's been posted and tabbed out a few times in recent memory. Review the TriTone page on my web site for an introduction to TriTones and some basic examples of how to apply them to the pedal steel guitar. This riff is in the key of C but kicks off in F and after a few notes in F, the riff goes to some notes in B. Guess what the TriTone of F is: F > F# > G > G# > A > A# > B!!!! Count three full tones above F and you get a B. Now this riff goes back to C then to A. While in the key of A, the lead part goes to a D#9th chord, the TriTone of A! From there it's pretty conventional although more TriTone substitutions could be made. So here's a pretty stock (also used by Tom Brumley on YouTube) hard core country riff that uses TriTones to add a unique flavor without actually sounding like a jazz riff. TriTones are not just for jazz players! Note that the D#9th TriTone sub could also be viewed as an Aaug7th cord depending on how many notes you add to the 9th chord in your lead part.

E lowers strings 4,8 a half tone

	F	C	A7
1			
2	B Tritone Sub		D#9 th TriTone Sub
3	▼		▼
4	6E – 6 – 7	8 – 8	8 – 7 – 6E
5	4 – 5 – 3 – 3	4 – 5 – 3 – 3	4A – 4(1/2A)
6	6 – 6A – 7A	8 – 8A	8A – 7 – 6
7			4B – 4B
8			4E – 4E
9			
10			

Alternate tab for first block

	F	C	A7
1			
2			
3			
4	6E – 6 – 7	8 – 8	8 – 7 – 6E
5	4 – 5 – 3 – 3	4 – 5 – 3 – 3A	5(1/2A) – 5
6	6 – 6A – 7A	8 – 8A	8A – 7 – 6
7			5B – 5B
8			
9			5 – 5
10			

	D7	G	C
1			
2			
3			
4			
5	3A – 3	3 – 3A	1
6	3B – 3B	3 – 3B	1
7	3	3 – 3	1
8	3E		1E
9		3 – 3	
10			