



Dario Cortese

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20 COUNTRY LICKS



*as appeared on GT175*

# 20 COUNTRY LICKS

by Dario Cortese

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**Ex 01: Basic Chicken Picking**

This example is played fingerstyle to highlight the chicken picking sound. You can also try to do it using hybrid picking but personally I think there is nothing better than fingerstyle for this kind of lick. Really dig in and snap the strings! [back to index](#)

♩ = 140    A

p    i    i    p    i    p    i    p    i

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**Ex 02: Pedal Steel**

Hybrid picking is used for this Pedal Steel inspired lick. Make sure you release the bends properly (it's very common to release just a semitone instead of a whole tone as indicated) and try to keep every note clearly separated. [back to index](#)

♩ = 100    A

□    m    □    m    □    m    □    m    □    V    □    V    □

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**Ex 03: Scotty Moore**

This is a 'mystery' lick by Scotty Moore. It can be used in many different situations and it's great for jam sessions. Use the pick (or thumb-pick) on the bottom three strings and the fingers on the top 3. [back to index](#)

♩ = 250    G7    x3    C7

□    □    □    □    □    □    □    □    □    □    □    □    □

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**Ex 04: Carl Perkins**

From one of the Kings of rockabilly, this line is a 'must know' for every guitarist. This is often played in unison with the bass (or double bass!). At the end there is a quite interesting E9 chord position. [back to index](#)

♩ = 200 E7

T  
A  
B

0 0 4 4 2 2 4 4 5 5 4 4 2 2 3 4 2 0

∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩ V ∩

E9

12  
0  
11  
12  
11  
0

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**Ex 05: Country Piano / Maybelle Carter**

This example is built around a 'walk-up' idea that goes from the I chord (G in this example) to the IV chord (C). Strum the chords using Maybelle Carter technique style which is just a down-up with the index finger. What a fantastic guitarist she was! [back to index](#)

♩ = 100 G

T  
A  
B

3 3 3 3 5 6 7 8  
4 4 4 4 5 5 5 9  
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 10

∩ i i ∩ i i ∩ 5 3 5 6 7 8

Am7 G° G/B C

r m r m r m

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**Ex 06: Albert Lee Triplet Run**

Albert Lee plays this kind of triplet run in most of his solos. It's one of those little lines that creates his unique and trademark sound. I played it using hybrid picking but Albert often uses the pick only. [back to index](#)

♩ = 200 A

T  
A  
B

0 2 4 2 4 2 4 6 5 7 5

m ∩ m ∩ m ∩ m ∩ m ∩ m

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**Ex 12: Danny Gatton**

This line shows the incredible sense of freedom that Danny Gatton had when playing over a static chord like this. Note the double stop idea (very unusual!) and the pentatonic line with a open G string used as a pedal tone. What an incredible guitarist! [back to index](#)

♩ = 110 G<sup>7</sup>

TAB: 10 12 10 12 10 12 11 13 10 12 10 12 10 15

TAB: 13 13 10 8 9 8 6 8 6 8 6 7 5 6 5 3 4

r m r m r

m m m m m m m m

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**Ex 13: Brad Paisley**

This is a tritone idea that Brad seems to like quite a lot. It's basically playing 3rd and 7th of the dominant chord using a chromatic approach. Technique wise you need to get use to playing two consecutive double stops with the same fingers. There is no secret, just practice! [back to index](#)

♩ = 130 A<sup>7</sup>

TAB: 8 9 0 5 6 0 5 6 0 4 5 0 3 4

r m r m r m r m r m r m

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**Ex 17: Fast Chicken Triplets**

This is one of my favourite lines. Play the first two triplets using a mini-sweep but make sure you hit the last note with the middle finger. The 3rd triplet is played with just alternate picking. Try not to play the mini-sweep too fast otherwise it's gonna be very hard to match that speed with alternate! [back to index](#)

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**Ex 18: Brad Paisley**

This is a crazy Brad Paisley line. He often throws in something that is quite unexpected! This line starts with natural notes, moves to natural harmonics (which are quite tricky at that speed!) and ends with natural notes. It's a journey! Luckily he didn't use the G-Bender on this one! [back to index](#)

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**Ex 19: Brent Mason advanced double stop**

This is a very small idea based on Brent Mason's use of double stops. He's so used to play this kind of lines that the speed is not an issue anymore (for him!). The best possible approach is to make this kind of lines part of your style so you'll play it very often and the speed will naturally come. [back to index](#)

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**Ex 20: Brent Mason advanced double stop 2**

This is a slightly longer lines using double stops. This one features a different movement for the picking hand: the pattern is odd (3 notes) so the picking directions are fingers (for the double stop), up, down. Practising this cell in isolation will make the lick easier to execute. [back to index](#)

♩ = 150 E7

T 9 7 5 4 3 2 0 1 2 0 2 1 0 0 3 4

A 9 7 6 5 4 4 0 1 2 0 2 1 0 0 3 4

B 11 11 9 9 7 7 6 5 5 4 4 0 1 2 0 2 1 0 0 3 4

m r m r m r m r m r m m r m m

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## Enjoyed the lesson?

### Have a look at the Country Essentials series!

	<p><b><u><a href="#">GT154: Country Essentials 1</a></u></b></p> <p>This lesson is an introduction to the various techniques involved in playing country guitars. Lots of common licks are presented to explain those techniques. This is a <b>FREE</b> lesson on the website so check it out!</p>
	<p><b><u><a href="#">GT155: Country Essentials 2 : Banjo Imitation</a></u></b></p> <p>This lesson is about banjo rolls and open string scales. You'll find the explanation of the banjo rolls, and lots of scales and licks in different keys and level of difficulty.</p>
	<p><b><u><a href="#">GT156: Country Essentials 3: Fiddle Imitation</a></u></b></p> <p>This is one of the most popular lessons. I had lots of good feedback on this one. You'll find the explanation on the notes used in country phrasing and lots of cool single note lines licks.</p>
	<p><b><u><a href="#">GT157: Country Essentials 4: Pedal Steel Imitation</a></u></b></p> <p>Get ready for some serious bending workout! This is all about Pedal Steel imitation, from the typical Eagles-like bends till the Double bends of Jerry Donahue. There's also some stuff for a B-Bender equipped guitar!</p>
	<p><b><u><a href="#">GT158: Country Essentials 5: Piano Imitation</a></u></b></p> <p>Double stops are one of my favourite topics when it comes to country guitar. I love the fact that they are both rhythmic and harmonic. There are some really cool licks in this lesson. Brent Mason uses this kind of stuff constantly!</p>
	<p><b><u><a href="#">GT159: Country Essentials 6: Combining It All</a></u></b></p> <p>Here you'll find two solos combining all the techniques explored in the previous articles. The first solo is in the style of Albert Lee, Brad Paisley and Brent Mason whereas the second solo is in Western Swing style.</p>

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