



Dario Cortese

20 COUNTRY LICKS



as appeared on GT175

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by Dario Cortese

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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

Ex 07: Brent Mason Triplet Run

This is Brent Mason's version of Albert Lee's idea. Brent would play it alternating fingers and thumb-pick but I used normal alternate picking which I found easier. [back to index](#)

♩ = 130 G

3 3 3

T
A
B

3 5 6 7 5 5 6 7 5 7 8 9 7 7 8 9 8

□ □ ∇ □ □ □ ∇ □

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Ex 08: Jerry Reed

This has always been one of my favourite rhythms ever. It's country & funky, traditional and modern... just incredible! All the ghost notes you'll find here are played just hitting the strings with the picking hand with a percussive motion (ala 'More Than Words). [back to index](#)

♩ = 130

G7

r m r m r m r m

0 1 2 3 4 5 3 4 5 0 1 2

V □ V □ X X □ X V □ V

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Ex 09: Doc Watson Bluegrass Flatpicking

This example is inspired by the bluegrass flatpicker Doc Watson. Hit the strings very hard and closer to the bridge. The motion should come from the wrist (almost a rotary motion) but don't let your picking hand touch the body of the guitar! [back to index](#)

♩ = 160 C

T
A
B

0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 2 1 1 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 3 0 1 0 0 2 3 3

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Ex 10: Western Swing

This example is played using Brent Mason's technique (thumb-pick + middle finger + thumb-pick + ring finger). Use neck pick up and study this line slowly at first. It can be played using a pick although it's quite tricky to get the same definition on the notes. [back to index](#)

♩ = 250C⁶

T
A
B

9 12 10 9 12 11 10 8 9 10 8 10 8 10 7 8

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

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Ex 11: Brian Setzer Rockabilly

This is a very traditional line that every rockabilly guitarist has played. Focus on the feel and swing of the line and play closer to the bridge to obtain the correct sound. The last chord requires the use of the thumb of the fretting hand. [back to index](#)

[illegible]

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 G⁷

r m r m r

3 3 3 3 3 3

10 12 10 12 10 12 11 13 10 12 10 12 10 15

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

0 0 8 6 7 5 6 5 3 4

r m r m r m r m r m r m r 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 A⁷

8 7 9 8 7 8 0 5 6 0 5 6 0 4 5 0 3 4

r m 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](#)

♩ = 140 B \flat

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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](#)

♩ = 140 C

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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](#)

♩ = 170 A 7

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Enjoyed the lesson?

Have a look at the Country Essentials series!

	<p><u>GT154: Country Essentials 1</u></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 FREE lesson on the website so check it out!</p>
	<p><u>GT155: Country Essentials 2 : Banjo Imitation</u></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><u>GT156: Country Essentials 3: Fiddle Imitation</u></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><u>GT157: Country Essentials 4: Pedal Steel Imitation</u></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><u>GT158: Country Essentials 5: Piano Imitation</u></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><u>GT159: Country Essentials 6: Combining It All</u></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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