

Drop D Blues Magic

Creating bluesy sounds in drop D tuning is easy and fun. First, tune your 6th string E down to a D. Now, your strings are 1st-E, 2nd-B, 3rd-G, 4th-D, 5th-A, and now 6th-D. This is called “Drop D Tuning”.

To build the Drop D Blues song played in the video, start with playing 3rds in the key of G. This, when put over the low D bass note, creates a rich bluesy sound. Here are a few 3rds in the key of G played on the 4th-5th strings.

3rds in G

T						
A	10	9	7	5	4	2
B	12	10	9	7	5	3

Now, to give our song some color, let's add some open strings around these - the low 6th string D and open 3rd string G.

3rds in G with Open D & G

T						
A	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	10	9	7	5	4	2
	12	10	9	7	5	3
	0	0	0	0	0	0

The ending lick solidifies the drop D bluesy sound. Take a look at the basic lick and then the embellished lick. While the same notes are used in both, adding some hammer-ons and pull-offs creates a great sounding ending blues lick.

Basic Ending Lick

Embellished Ending Lick

T											
A	3	2	0	3	2	0	3	0	2	3	0
B											

Here is the entire short song putting all of these elements together. Experiment with your own variations to creat your own drop D blues song. Enjoy!



Steve Krenz

As an educator, Steve is best known for the top-selling guitar instruction course, **Gibson's Learn & Master Guitar** that received the 2011 Acoustic Guitar Magazine Player's Choice Award for Best Instructional Material. As a professional guitarist in Nashville, Steve's broad playing experience includes playing guitar with a symphony orchestra, to jazz big bands, to performing with numerous Grammy-winning artists like Donna Summer, Michael W. Smith, Bryan White, The Fifth Dimension, Israel Houghton, and Tommy Sims.