

Eric Johnson Triads

One of the guitar legends of our day is the great Eric Johnson. Eric's amazing speed and musicality changed the landscape of Rock guitar. His soloing is immediately recognizable by his use of open triads with large intervals. These "Eric Johnson Triads" can add color and depth to your guitar sound, and this lesson teaches these unmistakable triads and how to incorporate them to make great sounding solos!

The Triad Forms (Roots on 5th and 4th Strings)

To get this "open" sound, a unique inversion for the triad is used. The root is then followed by a 5th higher, then the 3rd is added above the 5th, creating the interval of a 10th from the lowest root note of the triad to the highest note, the 3rd. On guitar, these forms skip a string between the 5th and the highest tone.

These are the forms in the key of G with the roots on the 5th string.

Diagram showing fretboard positions for triads with roots on the 5th string in the key of G:

- G: 10fr.
- Am: 12fr.
- Bm: 2fr.
- C: 3fr.
- D: 5fr.
- Em: 7fr.
- F#: 9fr.

Below the diagrams is a musical staff showing the triads as triplets on a treble clef staff and as fret numbers on a bass clef staff. The fret numbers for the bass clef staff are: G (10, 12), Am (12, 14), Bm (2, 4), C (3, 5), D (5, 7), Em (7, 9), F# (9, 10).

These same interval relationships can be applied to triads with roots on the 4th string. These are the forms in the key of G with the roots on the 4th string.

Diagram showing fretboard positions for triads with roots on the 4th string in the key of G:

- G: 5fr.
- Am: 7fr.
- Bm: 9fr.
- C: 10fr.
- D: 12fr.
- Em: 2fr.
- F#: 4fr.

Below the diagrams is a musical staff showing the triads as triplets on a treble clef staff and as fret numbers on a bass clef staff. The fret numbers for the bass clef staff are: G (5, 7), Am (7, 9), Bm (9, 11), C (10, 12), D (12, 14), Em (2, 4), F# (4, 5).

Practice the forms until they begin to feel comfortable to you. Notice the finger pattern shapes are the same for both the 5th and 4th string forms.

Once you are comfortable with the forms, then pick out a different key and transpose the forms to various other keys. The final step is to incorporate them into your own soloing ideas.

For inspiration, check out Eric Johnson's legendary intro to his classic song "Cliffs of Dover."

For step-by-step quality guitar instruction check out the award-winning Gibson's Learn & Master Guitar course at www.LearnAndMaster.com and the lessons section at www.gibson.com for all the help you need to become the player you want to be!



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, American Idol Finalist Melinda Doolittle, and legendary producer Tommy Sims.*

Gibson's[®] Learn & Master[®] GUITAR with Steve Krenz

Comprehensive learning in the
comfort of your home.

What's in the box?

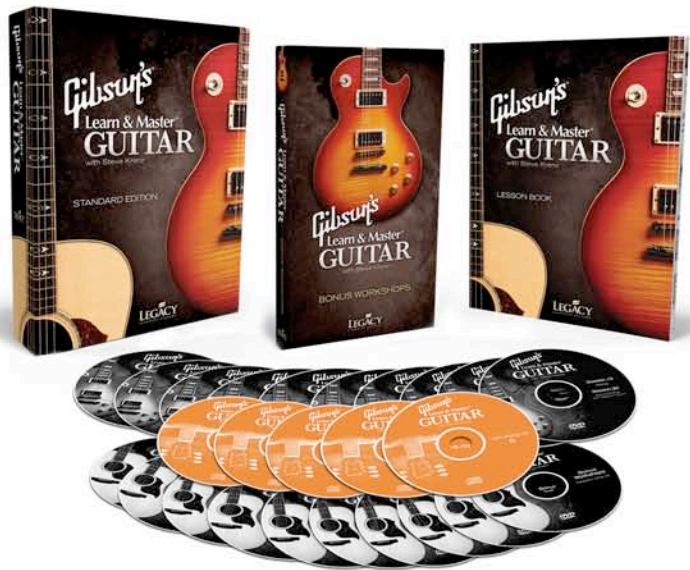
20 DVDs in HD with over 40 hours
of instruction.

5 Jam-Along CDs.

100+ page lesson book.

Bonus Content: The Life of Les Paul,
Gibson USA, and more.

Unlimited access to our online
student support site.



Learn at home or on the go with the
Learn & Master Guitar App



www.Gibson.com