

Quick Notes on “Hey Joe” by Jimi Hendrix – Part 1

Tempo: 85 – 88 bpm (straight beat!)

This is merely Part 1 of this song right now, but I'll be giving you some killer details not only about how to make the most of this particular Hendrix classic – but a vast majority of them!

As I mentioned in the video, this intro doesn't constitute a true riff. However, there are a ton of things Hendrix did, in general, that we, as budding “embellishers” will absolutely find useful across the board. Tomorrow I will be showing you a MINI song study in the world of Hendrix flavor.

It'll only cover the main aspect of this song, which is a progression of C – G – D – A – E. The “E” here is held. These 5 basic chord shapes (incidentally, the makeup of the CAGED system) are found in dozens of Hendrix songs – and believe it or not, he would often use the same embellishments. When we repeat something over and over, we're actually making use of the official terminology that IS a “riff.”

So, tomorrow just might be a huge eye opener for all future Hendrix studies.

I played today's series using a 90 bpm shuffle beat, but the actual song uses a straight beat. When you practice along with today's beat track (standard click track) you will likely have a few issues knowing when to come in. It's a bit challenging, but after a few tries you'll likely “feel” it. If not today, you'll get it tomorrow for sure.

All that I'd like you to focus on today is the intro. You will get the FULL score and everything you need when we visit the phrasings/embellishments tomorrow. In other words, we're not done!

The diagram shows a guitar tablature for the intro of "Hey Joe". It consists of three measures of music on a six-string guitar. The notes and fingerings are as follows:

- Measure 1:** 0 (slur), 5 (slur), 3 (slur), 0 (slur), 2 (slur), 0 (slur). Fingerings: (1), (2).
- Measure 2:** 0 (slur), 0 (slur), 5 (slur), 5 (slur), 4 (slur), 4 (slur). Fingerings: (1), (1), (2), (2).
- Measure 3:** 0 (slur), 1 (slur), 2 (slur), 9 (slur), 7 (slur), 9 (slur), 7 (slur), 9 (slur). Fingerings: 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3.

Below the tablature, red numbers indicate fretting hand positions for each note:

- Measure 1: 2, 3, 1, 3
- Measure 2: 2, 3, 3, 1
- Measure 3: 4*, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 2, (*or 3)