

“Boom Boom (Boom Boom)” - John Lee Hooker  
 Tempo: Varies depending on performance reference

So, when it comes to blues, there are a few things that should be considered.

First, it's all about structure. In this song, we have a (mostly) recurring theme, which is a “riff set” in a basic sense. This PDF will be your full score AND the full reference file. It's much easier to think of this song using the pickup lines as shown below. It's based around the E/E Pentatonic Blues (and/or G Major Blues) scale.

A guitar pickup line diagram showing a sequence of notes: 4, 3, 4-2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2. The notes 4, 3, 4-2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a '3' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 0, 3, 2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a '3' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2 and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2 and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them.

A guitar pickup line diagram showing a sequence of notes: 4, 3, 4-2, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2. The notes 4, 3, 4-2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a '3' above them. The notes 2, 0, 0, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2, 0, 3, 2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a '3' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2 and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them.

A guitar pickup line diagram showing a sequence of notes: 4, 3, 4-2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2. The notes 4, 3, 4-2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a '3' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2 and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them.

Second, in order to understand the overall structure, it's important to realize that the vocals come in, THEN the riff series. The easiest way to explain that is through a chord/lyric/riff reference. This means that you will be “singing” and THEN playing. At first this WILL be slightly confusing, but when you see the chord/lyrics pickup further below you'll realize how these pieces go together.

Here's the intro breakdown with “chord” prompts through the song as well as how to “fit” the pieces together:

Riff Series 1 (The “< (repeated)” means the E – A – A – E is repeated):

**E - A - A - E < (repeated)**

A guitar pickup line diagram showing a sequence of notes: 4, 3, 4-2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2. The notes 4, 3, 4-2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a '3' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2, 0, 2, and 0 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. The notes 2 and 2 are grouped with a slur and a 'P' above them. Below the diagram, the notes are labeled with red text: 2 1, 2, 2 (1), 2 (1), 2 (1), 2 (1), 2 (1), 2 (1).

For now you don't have to worry about the E – A – A – E part. The (1) is the other way you MIGHT play this, but I think the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger is best.

Riff Series 2:

**A - D - D - A** **E - A - A - E**

The same applies here. No worries yet on the A - D - D - A part (or the ending E - A - A - E)

Riff Series 3:

**B - E - E - B** **(E) E - A - A - E**

At this point you have completed the intro, but the overall theme that you've been playing is mixed into the verse as well. Sure, Hooker (and his fellow musicians) did a few things differently based on expression, but the idea is right on with the reference below.

Boom, boom, boom, boom	Riff Series 1 ----- <cont'd.>
Right off a' yo feet	Riff Series 2 ----- <cont'd.>
Put you in my house	Riff Series 3 ----- <cont'd.>
Oh, how, how, how	Riff Series 1 ----- <cont'd.>
Hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm	Riff Series 2 ----- <cont'd.>
Up and down that floor	Riff Series 3 ----- <cont'd.>
That baby talk (Whoa, yeah)	Riff Series 1 ----- <cont'd.>

Gonna shoot you right down.  
 And take you home with me.  
 Boom, boom, boom, boom.  
 Hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm  
 I love to see you strut.  
 When you're talkin' to me.  
 I like it like that.

Instrumental break (the below is played twice in a row)

E – A – A – E (x4)  
A – D – D – A (x2)  
E – A – A – E (x2)  
B – E – E – B (x2)  
E – A – A – E (x2)

(repeat intro, then...)

Won't you walk that walk	Riff Series 1 ----- <cont'd.> And talk that talk.
And whisper in my ear	Riff Series 2 ----- <cont'd.> Tell me that ya love me
I love that talk	Riff Series 3 ----- <cont'd.> When ya talk like that
Oh, how, how, how	Riff Series 1 ----- <cont'd.> Hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm
Hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm	Riff Series 2 ----- <cont'd.> I love to see you strut.
Up and down that floor	Riff Series 3 ----- <cont'd.> When you're talkin' to me.
You knock me out (Whoa, yeah)	Riff Series 1 ----- <cont'd.> Right off a' my feet.

Instrumental Outro (the below is played once)

E – A – A – E (x4)  
A – D – D – A (x2)  
E – A – A – E (x2)  
B – E – E – B (x2)  
E – A – A – E (x2)

Nate's notes: after looking over the “cheat sheet” rundown, you'll notice that this is very much a blues 101 structure – and if you simply play the riff series as shown in BETWEEN the lyrics you will get through the song. Now, when you examine the instrumental part, these are the same “chord guides” that were showing during the riff series. If you decide to strum along with the backing track, each chord is grouped in a way OTHER than how I would usually show them. Taking, for example, the E – A – A – E part, you would quite literally strum “E” once, then “A” twice, then “E” once. This will give you the precise structure used in the song. In the instrumental section you can quickly count the measures and see that it's 12 bar blues (ie, 12 measures)

THIS version, in my opinion, makes everything much much easier than the original score. The riffs in this song are the real focus, but this reference guide will get you through the song.