

# Youtube Fives - Five Hot Country Licks

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Welcome to this lesson, I hope you enjoyed the Youtube Video! Country guitar playing is a source of fascination for many guitarists so hopefully the following licks (in conjunction with the video lesson) will help you understand some of the techniques and ideas used in this great style of playing. I hope you enjoy this and don't forget to check out the other lessons at [www.stuartryanmusic.com](http://www.stuartryanmusic.com) - if there is anything you'd like to see there just drop us a line!

All the best,

Stuart and the team

## Performance Notes

**Lick 1, Bars 1 - 4** - We are in the key of 'A' Major and derive this first lick from the A Mixolydian Scale (A, B, C#, D, E, F#, G) played in the open position, a very common device in country as this allows for hammering on and pulling off to chord tones on open strings. The addition of the minor 3rd (C) as well as the Major 3rd (C#) is another common trick for getting that 'bluesy' country sound. Try the hybrid picking pattern (i.e pick and index finger) I use in the video.

**Lick 2, Bars 5 - 8** - The idea of ascending or descending two strings is another fantastic country guitar tool. Again the A Mixolydian scale is 'decorated' with the addition of the minor 3rd and the repeated pedal tone (the open G string) gives the lick something to hinge around.

**Lick 3, Bars 9 - 10** - This Albert Lee style phrase relies on a complex picking pattern - alternate pick the notes on string four with the pick and then use the 'm' (second) finger on the picking hand to pluck the notes on string two. There is a dash of chromaticism here which adds a bit of spice and the sequential nature of the lick gives it extra cohesion.

**Lick 4, Bars 11 - 12** - A classic Chet Atkins style phrase here; the concept is very deceptive in its simplicity, however - we are simply playing an ascending A Mixolydian scale but using open strings and letting the notes ring gives the lick more of a 'harplike' quality. Make sure you follow the picking pattern on the video to get all the hybrid picked ideas in place.

**Lick 5, Bars 13 - 18** - And a barnstormer to finish! Some Brad Paisley style uptempo legato in Bar 13 followed by the classic country interval of Major 6ths in bar 14 and a pedal steel style bend in bar 15 - this is again the classic 'minor to Major 3rd' movement, this time executed with a bend. The final lick from bar 16 onwards will develop your hybrid picking but start slowly as you have to get all the open strings in there as well!

♩ = 137

Lick 1

A G D

T  
A  
B

3 A G D

T  
A  
B

Lick 2

5 A G D

T  
A  
B

7 A G D

T  
A  
B

Lick 3

9 A G D

TAB: 7 10 11 11 7 8 9 9 | 5 6 7 7 5 5

Lick 4

11 A

let ring-----

TAB: 0 7 4 0 7 4 0 7 | 0 6 3 5 3

Lick 5

13 A G D A

BU BU BU

TAB: 0-4 0-5 4 0-5/7 5-0 7 6-0 7 5-0 | 7/9 9 9-9 10 11 | 12 12 14 12 12 13(14) 13(14)

16 G D A

TAB: 15-12 13-14 12 14-13 12 14 0 0 9 0 | 12 0 10/11 11\10-0 12-0 10/12 | 0