

WESTERN SWING RHYTHM

by Keith Baumann

Editor's Note: Our last issue (Volume 10, Number 2) focused on Western Swing guitar. We received a lot of great feedback from subscribers who loved all of the rhythm examples. Occasionally we will present new rhythm progression material in the Western swing style. One of the most popular Western swing numbers is "Take Me Back To Tulsa". The progression shown below is one that will fit that song, along with many others.

In 1940 Bob Wills was in a recording session with a young Eldon Shamblin. On "Take Me Back To Tulsa" Wills turned around and said to Eldon "why don't you put a lot of runs in this one?" Eldon, who had basically been a jazz guitar player prior to working with Wills created a moving bass chord progression for the tune and revolutionized the art of the rhythm guitar. Here is a rhythm progression that is based

on that historic version of Eldon Shamblin's "Take Me Back To Tulsa".

(See Volume 10, Number 2 (January/February 2006 issue) of Flatpicking Guitar Magazine for more information about Eldon Shamblin and Western Swing rhythm guitar.)



Audio CD
Track 22-23

Western Swing Rhythm

Chord diagrams for the first progression:

- G** (3fr)
- D7/a** (3fr)
- G/b** (5fr)
- C⁶** (7fr)
- G/b** (5fr)
- B_bdim** (5fr)
- Am7** (5fr)
- D9** (5fr)

Musical notation for the first progression (measures 1-8).

Tablature for the first progression (measures 1-8).

Chord diagrams for the second progression:

- D9** (5fr)
- Am7/e** (5fr)
- Fdim** (7fr)
- D9** (9fr)
- D7** (3fr)
- D7/c** (3fr)
- G/b** (2fr)
- G** (3fr)

Musical notation for the second progression (measures 5-12).

Tablature for the second progression (measures 5-12).