

"Born on the Bayou" CCR



By Jordan Baker

In northern California in the mid-'60s—particularly in the hippie-folk-rich Berkeley area—Creedence Clearwater Revival's swampy, Southern sound seemed as if from another world. Guitarist Tom Fogerty, who formed CCR in nearby El Cerrito, was the band's original frontman, but it wasn't until he stepped into the rhythm guitar spot and his brother John took over chief songwriting, vocal,

and lead-guitar duties that the hits began to roll out. John's raw voice suggested a wise, storytelling bluesman, and he used it well in songs like "Proud Mary" and "Born on the Bayou," the latter of which was a narrative of a young boy's memories of growing up in the South. Making it even more convincing were drummer Doug Clifford and bassist Stu Cook, who stomped, rocked, and swung as needed, providing the backdrop for John's extended solos.

INTRO/VERSE

John (Gtr. 2) enters with an arpeggiated figure in 5th position, fretting the E7 shape that appears throughout the song. In the verses, he modifies the chord briefly by bringing the 4th finger down to barre the 2nd and 3rd strings, which results in an E9 voicing. See Fig. 1 for both of these shapes, and make sure you can transition smoothly between them. You'll likely find your pinky's last knuckle doing the majority of the work—bending to let only the fingertip touch the 3rd string during the E7, then straightening to form the barre when switching to E9. Try playing 2nd string alone while holding either of these shapes, to determine whether they are being fretted cleanly.

During these sections, John makes interesting use of a tremolo effect. He sets the rate to 175 ms, which at this song's tempo approximates eighth-note triplets. The result in certain places is a three-against-two feel: the guitar's notes pulse in triplets while the rest of the band marches forward in a straight-eighths rhythm. Notice that the effect is more obvious on sustained notes, and that the depth of the effect is set low enough that, given the steady eighth notes, Fogerty's own picking accents

aren't obscured by the signal cutting out. To recreate this effect, set the depth control somewhere around 50 percent, so that the tremolo unit never drops your sound below half volume.

Tom's accompaniment (Gtr. 1) is based largely on syncopated figures such as the E7 vamp shown in Fig. 2. Follow the indicated pick-stroke directions, and place an accent on each downstroke. The key to matching this part lies not only in the accents and picking but in fret-hand technique. Instead of allowing the fretted notes to ring out, Tom releases pressure during all upstrokes, stopping the previously struck chord and thereby creating a tight rhythmic feel.

SOLOS

John's lead explorations fall well within the E Mixolydian mode (E-F#-G#-A-B-C#-D). The E7, D, and A chords constituting Tom's

rhythm, too, are all built from this mode, so it becomes a natural choice for melodic additions. One pattern for playing these notes across the neck is shown in Fig. 3; try using this example as a starting point for getting the Mixolydian sound in your ears and fingers. John takes a

more chordal approach to the D-A-E7 turnarounds, sticking to chord tones for harmonic reinforcement. One way to get comfortable improvising over this song would be to play all your own licks during the one-chord E7 sections, and then bring everything back together at the turnarounds by basing your phrases on John's approach. **B**



Fig. 1

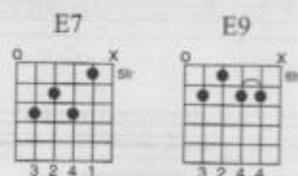


Fig. 2

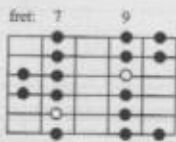
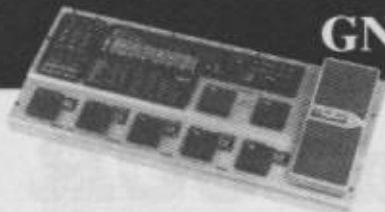


Fig. 3



TONE ZONE

GUITARS: Solidbody
PICKUP/POSITION: Humbucker/Bridge
GAIN: 4 (clean), 6 (dist.)
EQ: Bass/Mid/Treble: 5/7/6
FX: Tremolo (Depth: 50%, Rate: 175 ms)



BORN ON THE BAYOU

As Recorded by Creedence Clearwater Revival

(From the Fantasy Recording BAYOU COUNTRY)

Transcribed by Jordan Baker

Words and Music by John Fogerty



Lyrics

Verse 1

Now, when I was just a little boy, standin' to my daddy's knee.
My poppa said "Son, don't let the man get you, do what he done to me."
'Cause he'll get you. 'Cause he'll get you now, now.

Verses 2 & 4

And I can remember the Fourth of July, runnin' through the backwood bare.
And I can still hear my old hound dog barkin', chasin' down a hoodoo there.
Chasin' down a hoodoo there.
Born on the bayou, born on the bayou, born on the bayou.

Verse 3

I wish I were back on the bayou, rollin' with some Cajun Queen.
Wishin' I were a fast freight train, oh, just a chooglin' on down to New Orleans.
Born on the bayou, born on the bayou, born on the bayou.

Intro

Moderate Rock ♩ = 114

Gtr. 2 (clean) E7

mf
w/ tremolo effect

TAB

Gtr. 1 (clean)

mf

TAB

*note sustained w/ feedback

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Born on the Bayou

0:49

Verse 2

Gr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (2 times)

Gr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (3 times)

E7
Rhy. Fig. 3

A

Gr. 2

'cause he'll get you... I can remember the Fourth of July.

E7 A E7

runnin' through the backwood bare. And I can still hear my old hounddog

E7 D A play 5 times

End Rhy. Fig. 3 Rhy. Fig. 4A End Rhy. Fig. 4A

Gr. 2

barkin', chasin' down a hoodoo there...

Rhy. Fig. 4 End Rhy. Fig. 4

Gr. 1

Born on the Bayou

1:26

Guitar Solo 1

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1

Gtr. 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 2 (1st 2 bars)

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (7 times)

E7

Gtr. 2

w/ dist.

Born on the Bayou

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 5 (3 times)

Gtr. 2

D A E7 D A E7

7 7 5 5 5 | 9 7 5 | 7 7 5 5 5 | 9 7 5

7 7 7 7 0 6 | 6 6 6 0 | 7 7 7 7 0 6 | 6 6 6 0

Gtr. 1

Rhy. Fig. 5 End Rhy. Fig. 5

7 7 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 7 7 7 7 0 | 7 7 7 7 0

7 7 5 5 5 | 9 7 5 | 7 7 7 7 0 6 | 6 6 6 0

Gtr. 2

D A E7 D A E7

7 7 5 5 5 | 9 7 5 | 3 3 2 2 0 | 4 4 2 2 2 2

7 7 7 7 0 6 | 6 6 6 | 4 4 2 2 2 2

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (6 times)

play 3 times

w/ clean tone

7 7 9 7 0 | 7 9 7 9 | 7 7 9 7 0 | 2

5 7 5 7 | 5 7 5 7 | 5 7 5 7 | 5 7 5 7

7 6 7 6 | 6 7 6 7 | 6 7 6 7 | 6 7 6 7

Born on the Bayou

2:35

Verse 3

Gtr. 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 2 (1 3/4 times)

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 6 (7 times)

E7

Gtr. 1 Rhy. Fig. 6

End Rhy. Fig. 6

wish I were back on the bayou...

Born on the bayou...

3:08

Guitar Solo 2

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (7 times)

E7

play 4 times

w/ dist.

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 5

D

A

E7

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (bar 2)

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (6 times)

w/ pick & fingers

Born on the Bayou

w/ clean tone

4:07

Verse 4

Gr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 6 (3 times)
Gr. 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 3

Gr. 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 4A (5 times)

I can remember the Fourth... chasin' down a hoodoo there.

Gr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 4 (4 times)

Gr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1 (till fade)

chasin' down a hoodoo there...

Repeat and Fade

*pick note on repeats



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