12-Bar Blues Chart Check

Fill the chart, spot the changes, then write the shuffle in tab.

A · FILL IN THE MISSING CHORDS — BLUES IN E

The three chords in E are **E7**, **A7** and **B7**. Write the chord in each empty bar. **Hint:** home, a quick visit to IV in bar 2, home for bars 3–4; then IV for two bars and home for two; then V–IV–home–V.

bar 1	bar 2	bar 3	bar 4	bar 5	bar 6
E7	_____	**E7**	**E7**	_____	**A7**
bar 7	**bar 8**	**bar 9**	**bar 10**	**bar 11**	**bar 12**
E7	_____	_____	_____	**E7**	_____

B · QUICK CHANGE AND TURNAROUND — BLUES IN A

The **quick change** is a move to the IV chord in bar 2. The **turnaround** is the V chord in the last bar (bar 12). Chart P is in A: I = A7, IV = D7, V = E7. Look at each chart. Write the bar number, or **none**.

Chart P

1	2	3	4	5	6
A7	D7	A7	A7	D7	D7
7	8	9	10	11	12
A7	A7	E7	D7	A7	E7

Quick change bar _____ Turnaround bar _____

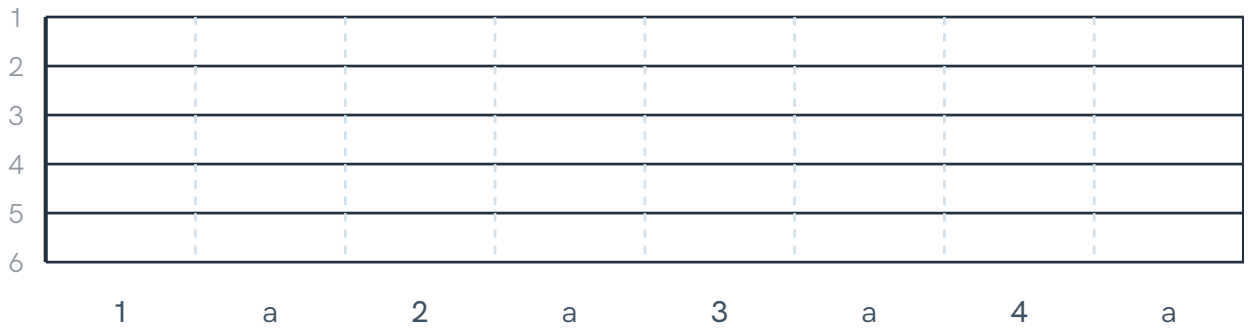
Chart Q

1	2	3	4	5	6
A7	A7	A7	A7	D7	D7
7	8	9	10	11	12
A7	A7	E7	D7	A7	A7

Quick change bar _____ Turnaround bar _____

C · WRITE THE SHUFFLE — THE IV CHORD IN E

Find the IV chord of E. Its shuffle bar is eight eighths (swing): root + 5th for a beat, then root + 6th for a beat, twice. Root = the **open** string with that chord's name. The 5th is on the next thinner string at fret 2, the 6th at fret 4. Write the frets on the tab; the top line is string 1. The fret changes on beats 2 and 4.



Check it Play your bar, then listen. One recording plays a whole chorus in E (swung); the other plays the part C shuffle bar. Does your hand match the chart? (B has no open string, so the B7 bars in the recording start on fret 2 of the A string.)

Answers. (a) bar 2: A7; bar 5: A7; bar 8: E7; bar 9: B7; bar 10: A7; bar 12: B7. (b) chart P: quick change bar 2, turnaround bar 12; chart Q: quick change none, turnaround none. (c) frets as string 5 / string 4: 0/2, 0/2, 0/4, 0/4, 0/2, 0/2, 0/4, 0/4 (root A; 5th E, 6th F#).

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