The 12-Bar Blues Shuffle in A

Three open chords, twelve bars, and one groove: an open-string root with a fifth for a beat, then a sixth for a beat.

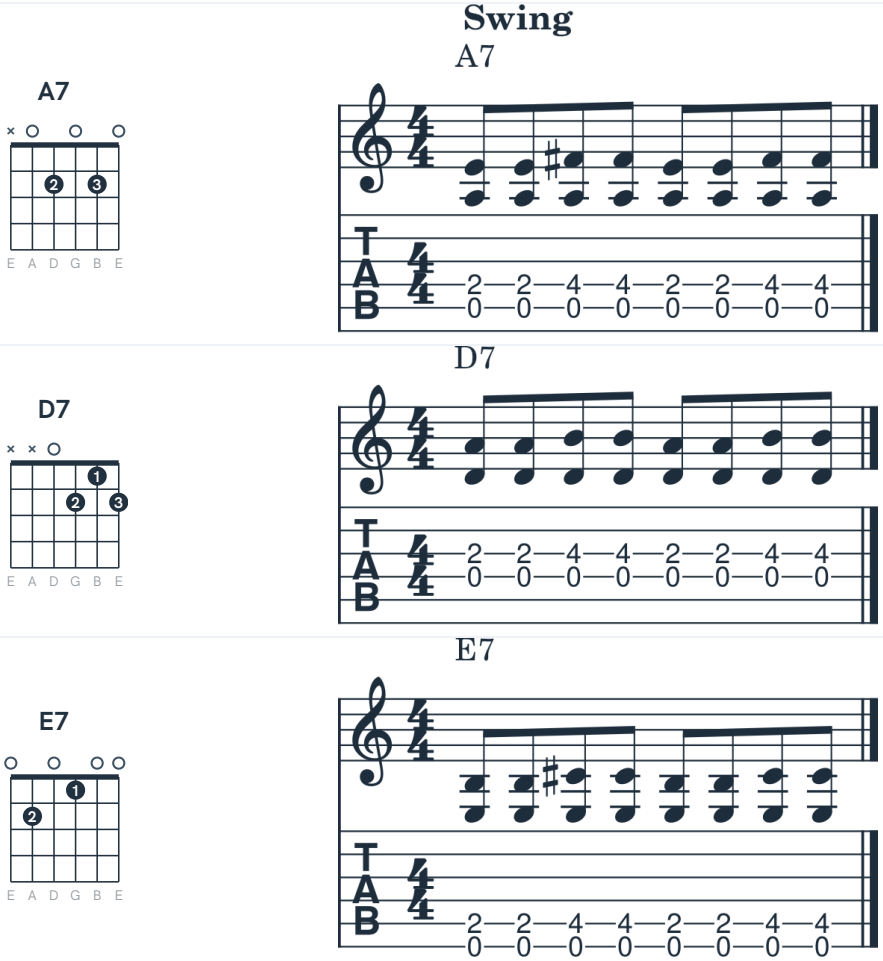
1 · THE CHART: I7 – IV7 – V7 IN A

A is **I7**, D is **IV7** (five half steps up), E is **V7** (seven half steps up). The colors mark the function: I cyan, IV indigo, V7 magenta, as on the piano sheet (Handout 53). **Quick change:** D7 in bar 2 (the "slow change" stays on A7). **Turnaround:** E7 in bar 12 pulls you back to bar 1.

A7 bar 1 · I7	**D7** bar 2 · IV7 · quick change	**A7** bar 3 · I7	**A7** bar 4 · I7	**D7** bar 5 · IV7	**D7** bar 6 · IV7
A7 bar 7 · I7	**A7** bar 8 · I7	**E7** bar 9 · V7	**D7** bar 10 · IV7	**A7** bar 11 · I7	**E7** bar 12 · V7 · turnaround

2 · THE BOOGIE SHUFFLE, ONE BAR FOR EACH CHORD

The eighths are written even but played **long–short** (swing; see Handout 338). Root + 5th for a beat, then root + 6th for a beat, twice a bar. The root string stays **open**; only the other string moves, fret 2 then fret 4. Staff notes are written an octave higher than they sound. In the tab, the top line is string 1.



Root A: open 5th string.
5th E: 4th string, fret 2.
6th F#: 4th string, fret 4.

Root D: open 4th string.
5th A: 3rd string, fret 2.
6th B: 3rd string, fret 4.

Root E: open 6th string.
5th B: 5th string, fret 2.
6th C#: 5th string, fret 4.

Open strings, low to high (strings 6 to 1): **E A D G B E**. On the moving string, fret 2 gives the chord's 5th and fret 4 (one whole step higher) gives the 6th.

Try it Count "1-a 2-a 3-a 4-a" and land the long note on each number. Play A7, D7, then A7 for two bars; D7 for bars 5–6, A7 for bars 7–8, then E7, D7, A7, E7. Chord boxes: × = skip the string, ○ = open, numbers = fingers (1 = index).

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