

# Kickoffs Lesson 2 - "Son Of A Gun I'm Tired"

"Son Of A Gun I'm Tired" is a common kickoff for bluegrass songs. The syllables in "Son Of A Gun I'm Tired" are used in place of numbers to count the rhythm made by a triplet, two quarter notes and finally a five beat note that is made up of a whole note tied to a quarter note. This kickoff starts on the root of the chord, and ends on the fifth of the chord. The example below is in the key of G.

4

In the example below the "Son Of A Gun I'm Tired" lick is used to kick off "Can't You Hear Me Callin' ". Note that the melody starts on the fifth of the chord.

4

The rhythm of "Son Of A Gun I'm Tired" can be used with different notes to kick off a song that starts on the root or the third of the chord. The kickoff below starts on the fifth of the chord and ends on the third.

8

Here is an example of a kickoff for "Blue Ridge Cabin Home". Note that the melody starts on the third of the chord. Also, the final note of the kickoff is cut short to accommodate the melody.

11

2

The "Son Of A Gun I'm Tired" kickoff below starts on the third of the chord and ends on the root.

15

Here is an example of a kickoff for "One Tear". Note that the melody starts on the root of the chord. Also, the final note of the kickoff is cut short to accommodate the melody.

18

Bonus points: The first version of the "Son Of A Gun I'm Tired" kickoff is in closed position, which means it can be moved up and down the fretboard to play in different keys. Can you play the second and third version of the kickoff in closed position?