

# Favorite Chet Licks

by Craig Dobbins

This time we'll look at some of Chet's licks from the classic album "The Atkins-Travis Traveling Show." (The original vinyl LP is of course long out of print, but the album is available on CD.)

Ex. 1 is a bluesy descending lick in E from *Down South Blues*, the album's opening track. Chet played licks like this by bracing his thumb with his index finger and "flatpicking" with his thumbpick. The lick is 1:22 into the track. (Chet is on the left channel.)

Ex. 2 is one of Chet's great counterpoint licks, from *Mutual Admiration*. After a couple of measures of alternating bass fingerpicking, Chet plays an ascending bass line harmonized with a descending melody (in two-part harmony, no less!). The lick is 0:32 into the track.

Ex. 3 is the intro from the traveling show segment ("*We're the Atkins-Travis traveling show . . .*"), just before *I'll See You In My Dreams*. It's a three finger roll pattern with a descending bass. Chet played rolls like this with a p-m-i pattern. The lick is right at the beginning.

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