Blues Turnarounds

From the book:

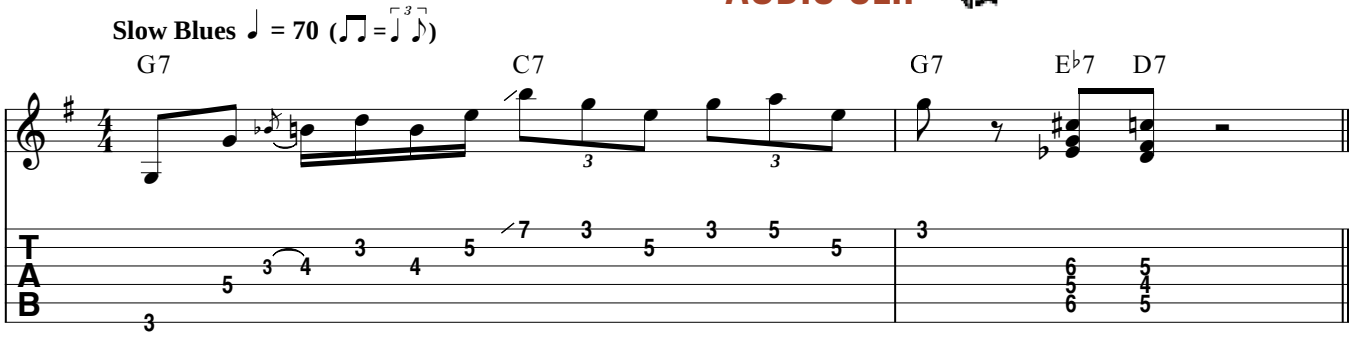
Blues Turnarounds:
A Compendium of Patterns & Phrases for Guitar

by Dave Rubin & Rusty Zinn
#HL 695602 Book/CD $14.95 (US).

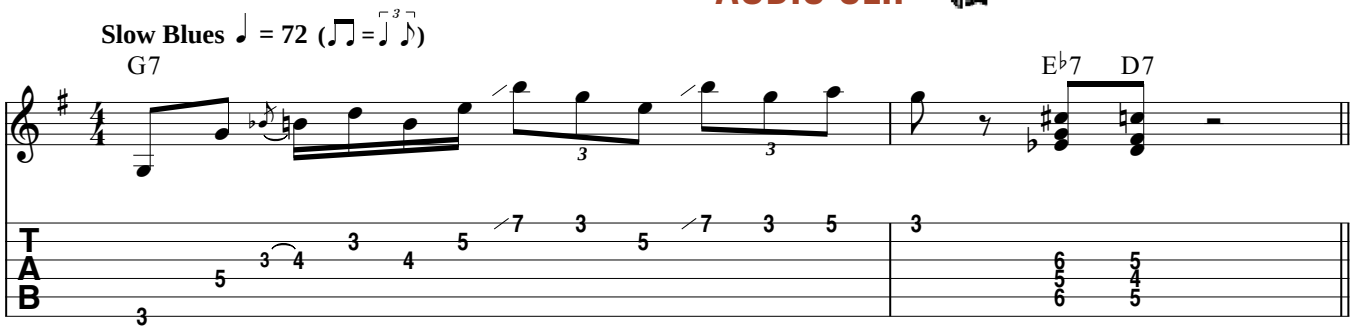
This beautiful turnaround is a Robert Junior turnaround that is one of my favorites. Robert not only played patterns like this behind Sonny Boy Williamson II, but also on the great duet album that he made with Otis Spann on Candid Records, *Otis Spann is the Blues*.

This zippy pattern keeps the heat on high by remaining on strings 1 and 2 through to the resolution to the V (D7) chord on beat 3 in measure 2. You should also be aware that the repetition of the G and E notes on beats 3 and 4 of measure 1 could be seen as the root and 6th of the I (G) chord rather than the 5th and 3rd of the IV (C). This would then indicate the I chord for all four beats of measure 1 instead of the more common I–IV change of two beats each as shown.

AUDIO CLIP



Robert Junior is probably one of the all-time great purveyors of blues turnarounds, and this is another one of his classics. Like all of the turnarounds presented up to this point, it is well suited to accompanying the harmonica.

Here's a variation on the previous example. The B (3rd), G (root), E (6th), and A (9th) notes on beats 3 and 4 of measure 1 imply the I (G) chord with melodic tones from the G Mixolydian mode in conjunction with the notes on beats 1 and 2.

AUDIO CLIP