

LED ZEPPELIN

WHOLE LOTTA LOVE

by Jimmy Page/Robert Plant/John Paul Jones/John Bonham
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GUITAR

The guitar part consists mostly of the now legendary simple riff that makes up the core of this song. The big low E chord, with the octave and a 5th on top, plus the unison with the bass make it a very powerful riff when it's played with good rhythmic attack. When trying to get the guitar sound it's best to go for a more natural valve distortion rather than over-kill with a fuzz box. The effects in the middle were created in the studio with a theremin, a sort of audio generator common at the time, but a little imagination, some electronic noise making gadgetery and a tape recorder should provide a good substitute.

BASS

Again, basically a question of keeping the main riff going

in unison with the guitar. Like a lot of blues influenced rock in the early seventies, the rhythm has a marked 'swing' feel to it and this, just as much as the driving attack, needs to be captured by both lead guitar and bass.

DRUMS

Whereas the main riff moves in 16th notes, the drum pattern moves in 8th notes with on-beat / off-beat punctuation from the snare on the 2nd and last 8th note beats of the bar. The fills tend to be made up of 16th note beats in clusters of six but they must be made to roll in keeping with the swing feel to the beat. Overall, the drumming involves some irregular, syncopated patterns, especially on the 3rd and 4th beats in the bar.

The musical score is arranged in five systems. The first system includes the vocal line (Vo.) and the first guitar part (Gt.-I). The second system includes the second guitar part (Gt.-II). The third system includes the bass line (Ba.). The fourth system includes the drum line (Dr.). The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The guitar part (Gt.-I) features a prominent riff marked with a circled '1'. The bass part (Ba.) features a unison riff with a circled '2'. The drum part (Dr.) features a steady 8th-note pattern. The vocal part (Vo.) has the lyrics 'You... need'.

① (Gt.): The main riff. To get the right rhythm use alternating up and down strokes and dampen the bottom open E string slightly with the right hand palm.

② (Ba.): In the bass unison a fluent and steady rhythm is called for with accents falling on the beat under the 5th chord in the guitar part.