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He later reflected that it was his love of corndogs that ultimately became his undoing. Those tender morsels, oh so carefully wrapped in a deep fried golden brown batter mixture- who would have known the little stick would be rooted so deeply in the dog section?

Exerpt from, ["Birks Works"](#). A story of a troubled young man who looks at things a bit differently.

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Blues Licks

What's a lick? Licks are part of the language of music. Classical music has licks, rock, country, pop, and jazz music have licks in them. Licks are like phrases that you hear every day. For example, if you see someone you know and you say, "How's it going?" or, "Hey, what's up?", you are saying a phrase that has already been said a million times, but it's still an OK phrase. You just have to know where and when to say it. Same with licks. Oscar Peterson is the master of the jazz piano lick. He has a library of licks that jazz piano players around the world have been copying for years, and as long as you play the licks in the right place, they are OK.

This is what a lick is. A musical statement that has been played a million times by everyone, but is still OK to use when appropriate. In fact, sometimes you NEED to use them. If you are on a session or a gig and you are playing Nat Cole's version of "Route 66", the people you are playing with are going to put in some basic licks that Nat Cole used and you'll need to know them. The ending licks of blues tunes, the "Count Basie Ending", licks that lead into different sections, bebop licks, latin licks- the list is endless.

Just remember- licks are a basic part of the jazz vocabulary and no matter how original you want to be, if you want to work, gig, and session, you better know them.

The licks below are just a brief touch upon the ocean of what is available, and more will be put here as time goes on. If you have some licks that should be included, [submit](#) them to me and I'll put them up.

Note: Please listen to the MIDI file before playing these licks. The transcribing capability of my software did not allow for some the exactness that I would have liked so the sheet music is slightly different than what I played.

Lick 1



Musical notation for Lick 1. The piece is in C major, 4/4 time. The right hand starts with an F7 chord (F, A, C, E♭) marked with a '3' for a triplet. The melody consists of eighth notes: F4, A4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4. The left hand plays a bass line: F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter).

[\(midi link\)](#)

Lick 2



Musical notation for Lick 2. The piece is in C major, 4/4 time. The right hand starts with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes: D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand plays a bass line: F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter).

[\(midi link\)](#)

Lick 3



Musical notation for Lick 3. The piece is in C major, 4/4 time. The right hand starts with an F7 chord (F, A, C, E♭) marked with a '3' for a triplet. The melody consists of eighth notes: F4, A4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4. The left hand plays a bass line: F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter).

[\(midi link\)](#)

Lick 4



[\(midi link\)](#)

Lick 5



[\(midi link\)](#)

Lick 6



[\(midi link\)](#)

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