

Teaching Boogie Woogie

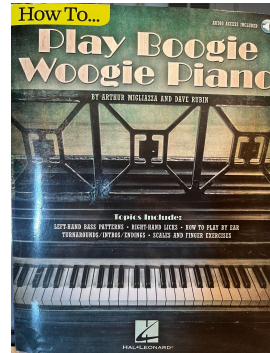
2024 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat

Laurie Richards

Source

How to Play Boogie Woogie Piano by Arthur Migliazza and Dave Rubin

Book includes audio files accessible online
using the code provided in the book.



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Book Organization

Chapter 1 - Background

- 12BB
- Swing vs straight 8th notes
- Review common chords
- Progressions
- Blues scale

Chapters 2 & 3 - Left Hand Patterns

- Shuffle patterns
- Classic Boogie Woogie patterns
- Walking patterns
- Walking pattern transitions (CP Squidgies Boogie FL6)
- Achieving LH independence - exercise in book to use with any LH pattern

Chapters 4-11 - Right Hand Licks

- Basic lick
- Variations
- "In the style of..."

Chapter 12 - Tips

Chapter 13 - Turnarounds, Breaks, Intros & Endings

Chapters 14-18 - Additional Resources & Suggestions

My Approach

Process all projects in the Key of C. I teach in this order:

17 LH patterns + walking transitions

8 RH Licks with several variations each

1. LH Shuffle Patterns (p. 23)

- Label each pattern (bottom p. 23) A through F
- Run each pattern through LH independence exercise on p. 30-31

2. RH Lick #1

- Label the licks 1A through 1H for easy reference
- Practice one lick at a time as follows:
 - Play through the 12BB with LH Shuffle Pattern A (written out in the book - see Track 27)
 - Try with some or all of the other LH Shuffle Patterns

3. LH Boogie Woogie Patterns (p. 24)

- Label each pattern A through H
- Run each pattern through LH independence exercise on p. 30-31

4. RH Lick #1 Mastery

- Random choice of RH #1 Licks played with random choice of LH Shuffle or Boogie Pattern
- I create wheels for RH and LH using wheelofnames.com - spin each wheel to determine which RH and LH to play

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5. RH Lick #2

- Label the licks 2A - 2D as before
- Practice one lick at a time with LH Shuffle Patterns and LH Boogie Woogie patterns

6. RH Lick #2 Mastery

- Random choice of RH #2 Licks played with random choice of LH Shuffle or Boogie Pattern
- Add a RH #2 Licks wheel for review

7. LH Walking Patterns (p. 25-26)

- Run each pattern through LH independence exercise on p. 30-31

8. Comprehensive Review Licks 1 & 2

- Random RH Lick with random LH pattern
- Wheel 1 includes:
 - RH Licks 1A through 1H
 - RH Licks 2A through 2D
 - (Optional) RH only from "In the style of...." pages
- Wheel 2 includes:
 - LH Shuffle Patterns A - F
 - LH Boogie Woogie Patterns A - H
 - LH Walking Patterns A - C
- Spend as much time on these random combinations as necessary

9. RH Lick #3 as before

- Label, practice with various LH patterns

10. LH Walking Bass Transitions (p. 26 - 28)

- CP Squidgies Boogie FL6
- These aren't labeled as they can be used at your discretion with any pattern
- Practice with any RH chords (CAGE, 9th, Bishop St., 13th, etc. - CP Blues & Improv Program, Project 12)

11. Comprehensive Review Licks 1, 2 & 3

- Random RH Lick with random LH pattern
- Wheel 1 includes:
 - All RH Licks learned
 - (Optional) RH only from "In the style of...." pages
- Wheel 2 includes:
 - ALL LH patterns
- Spend as much time on these random combinations as necessary

12. Next Steps

- Continue in the same manner until all RH Licks have been learned
 - Add each subsequent RH Lick as before
 - Comprehensive Review (randomly selecting from ALL RH Licks and ALL LH Patterns)
- The remaining chapters may be used as you see fit - read through them!
- Projects may be processed in different keys as developmentally appropriate; I go through everything in the Key of C first

NOTE: Chapter 13 Turnarounds, Breaks, Intros & Endings may be introduced at any point, or it can wait until you've completed all the RH Licks.

Additional Suggestions

- You may choose at any point to explore some of the information in Chapter 1, e.g.
 - “Slow change” vs. “fast change” 12BB (p. 12)
 - Find examples of both in Foundation blues pieces
 - Review chords p. 14 - 17
 - Major vs minor blues scale (p. 18-19)
 - Other blues forms (p. 20-21)
- Check out Brendan Kavanaugh (“Dr. K”) on YouTube “How to Play Amazing Boogie Woogie” for additional ideas and resources
- Learn all of this along with your students!