Eddie Hazel guitar style: Maggot Brain phrasing study

Original exercises in his style, not a transcription. Standard tuning. E minor pentatonic box at the 12th fret.

How to read the tab: dots are the string lines, numbers are frets, the top line counts eighth notes. **b** = bend a whole step (target in brackets), **r** = release, **p** = pull off, **~** = wide, slow vibrato. Box: E 12 15, A 12 14, D 12 14, G 12 14, B 12 15, e 12 15. Start around 60 bpm; speed up only when every bend is in tune and every rest is counted.

The vamp

A plain E minor chord picked one note at a time. A friend, looper or drone can play it.

```
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |.................0.............|.................0.............|
B  |.............0.......0.........|.............0.......0.........|
G  |.........0.............0.......|.........0.............0.......|
D  |......2.....................2...|......2.....................2...|
A  |..............................|..............................|
E  |..0...........................|..0...........................|
      Let ring, pick down on every note
```

Exercise 1: bend and match

Play the target note, then bend until the pitch matches it.

```
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |..............................|..12..........................|
B  |..12..........................|...............15............|
G  |...............14.............|..............................|
D  |..............................|..............................|
                    b(B) ~~~~                      b(E) ~~~~
```

Exercise 2: cry and hold

Hold the bend with slow, wide vibrato; release slowly, pull off, land.

```
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |..............................|..............................|
B  |..15..........................|..15............12............|
G  |..............................|.......................14.....|
D  |..............................|..............................|
      b..... ~~~~~~~~              r slowly       p       ~~~
```

Exercise 3: sing, then breathe

Bars 2 and 4 are silence. Count the rests out loud.

```
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |..15.....12..................|..............................|
B  |...............15......12....|..............................|
G  |..............................|..............................|
D  |..............................|..............................|
                    b      ~~~       (rest, breathe)
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |..............................|..............................|
B  |..............................|..............................|
G  |..14.....12...................|..............................|
D  |...............14.............|..............................|
                    ~~~~~~~           (rest, breathe)
```

Exercise 4: theme, go off, come back

Theme, wander high, wander low, then the theme again note for note.

```
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |.........12..................|..15......12.............12......|
B  |..12.............15......12..|...................15.............|
G  |..............................|..............................|
D  |..............................|..............................|
      THEME                          GO OFF
                        b                 b               b
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |..............................|.........12..................|
B  |..............................|..12.............15......12......|
G  |...............14......12.....|..............................|
D  |..14......12..................|..............................|
      GO OFF (low)                   THEME AGAIN
                                                    b
```

Exercise 5: wah sweep on a held bend

Hold the bend in tune while the wah moves slowly. No wah? Roll the tone knob.

```
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |..............................|..............................|
B  |..15..........................|..15..........................|
G  |..............................|..............................|
D  |..............................|..............................|
      b.......held............       b.......held............
      wah: heel.....to toe           wah: toe.....to heel
```

Exercise 6: leave room for the echo

Delay on. Play three notes, stop, let the repeats answer you.

```
      1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &     1   &   2   &   3   &   4   &
e  |..12..........................|..............................|
B  |......15..12..................|..............................|
G  |..............................|..14..12.....................|
D  |..............................|.........14...................|
                    (echo answers)                 (echo answers)
```

Tone sheet (starting points, not his settings)

Guitar: single coil, Strat type, neck or middle pickup; any guitar works.
Amp: clean to light break up.
Fuzz: about halfway; level no louder than bypass; roll guitar volume back a little.
Wah: slow sweeps, or parked part way open.
Delay (studio layer): 350 to 450 ms, two to four repeats, mix low.
Reverb: a little to moderate. **Phaser:** optional, slow, shallow.

Tempo log

Date	Exercise	bpm	Bends in tune? (yes or no)	Note

Listen to

Maggot Brain (1971)
Funky Dollar Bill (1970)
Can You Get To That (1971)
I Bet You (1970)
California Dreaming (1977)

Look after your hands

Long bends and wide vibrato are hard on fingertips and wrists. Keep sessions short, rest between exercises, and stop if anything hurts.

Free to print for personal practice