

# Guitar Clinic: two-fisted flash techniques with Ozzy's Jake E. Lee

by Michael Smolen  
and Mark Bosch

**ORIGINALLY TRAINED AS A** classical pianist, Virginia-born rocker Jake E. Lee—known to his friends as “Kamikaze”—didn’t pick up a guitar until he was 15 years old. Influenced by such axe-wizards as Ulrich Roth (formerly of Scorpions), Tommy Bolin and Eddie Van Halen, Jake has played with upcoming metallists Ratt and veteran vocalist Ronnie James Dio. He received major exposure when he joined Ozzy Osbourne on his *Speak of the Devil* tour, replacing Brad Gillis, and made his vinyl debut on Ozzy’s new album, *Bark at the Moon* (CBS Associated). When unleashed on stage, Jake plays with an almost uncontrollable fury, punctuating his guitar attack with some of the most innovative riffs and flash techniques in the business—most notably, his rapid-fire hammer-on and pull-off leads.

Listen to Jake’s guitar work on “Rock ‘n’ Roll Rebel” from *Bark at the Moon* and hear how he plays arpeggiated leads with lightning-quick speed by using a “two-hands-on-the-neck” hammer-on and pull-off technique. A review of the March 31, 1983, “Guitar Clinic” with Jimmy Page and the May 31, 1983, “Guitar Clinic” with Eddie Van Halen would be useful as a refresher on the basics of hammer-ons and pull-offs. This month’s lesson is a flashier, two-fisted way of doing them.

The key to successful two-hands-on-the-neck leads is the placement of your finger during the hammer-on phase, and the proper timing of the pull-off of the desired note to complete the lick. The inset photos show you the placement of your wrists and fingers before and after executing this technique. For the hammer-on, use the forefinger of your right hand (your left if you are a lefty) and slam it down hard on the fret, as close to the metal as possible without actually touching the metal or eliciting any string buzz. You may notice upon initial practice



GUASTELLA/GALELLA INSETS BY MICHAEL DELSOL

*Jake E. Lee's career was boosted by a stint with Ronnie Dio. Insets show proper fingering for the two-fisted technique.*

of the hammer-on technique that the tip of your finger hurts. Constant practice will develop a callous on the tip of your finger that will make the hammer-on process less painful.

The first piece of tablature below is an exercise based on classical music and will help you to develop your style and speed. The second

exercise is a Jake E. Lee-type riff that, when played accurately, will let you both see and hear how the two-hands-on-the-neck lead technique can open up a whole world of playing possibilities.

**Next Month:** ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons

	R1 (3) R1	R1 (1) R1 (1)	R1 (1) R1 (1)	R1 (2) R1 (4)	R1 (1) R1 (1) R1 (3) R1 (4)	R1 (1) R1	R1 (2) R1 (4)
E	17-12-17-12	17-10-17-8	15-7-15-7	15-8-15-10	13-5-13-5-13-7-13-8	15-7-15-7	15-8-15-10
B							
G							
D							
A							
E							

R1-right hand index    1-left hand index    2-left hand middle    3-left hand ring    4-left hand pinky  
All numbers in parentheses represent suggested left hand fingerings