

## The Power of Love Guitar Solo

### Table of Contents

Anatomy of a Timeless Solo

Secret Sauce in Six Strings

Why It's Back on TikTok

Play It Like Huey

### Anatomy of a Timeless Solo

When the Power of Love guitar solo kicks in at 2:17 of Huey Lewis and the News' 1985 hit, it's like someone flipped a switch on collective nostalgia. But what makes this 38-second masterpiece outlast hairstyles, synthesizers, and even the Back to the Future franchise it famously soundtracked?

Recorded on a '63 Fender Stratocaster through a modified Marshall amp, the solo combines:

Hybrid picking techniques borrowed from country music

A bluesy Mixolydian mode progression

Precision muting that would make Nile Rodgers nod approval

### Secret Sauce in Six Strings

Music theorists at London's ICMP recently deconstructed why this signature guitar work feels simultaneously familiar and revolutionary. The magic lies in the tension between major 7th intervals and blue notes - a cocktail that somehow channels both wedding receptions and muscle car commercials.

"You know," says session guitarist Marty Schwartz, "it's the musical equivalent of a perfectly balanced cocktail - sweet enough for radio, but with enough bite for guitar nerds." This duality explains why cover versions range from jazz trios in Kyoto to Metallica's Kirk Hammett noodling it backstage.

### The TikTok Resurrection

Wait, no - let's correct that. Actually, it's Gen Z driving the solo's resurgence. #PowerOfLoveSolo challenges have amassed 17 million views since March 2024, with players from Mumbai to Memphis putting their spin on the lick. The current top video? A 19-year-old from Liverpool playing it on a Hello Kitty-shaped guitar.

### Why It's Back on TikTok

Three factors fuel the revival:

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Nostalgia cycles accelerating (80s reboots now every 5 years vs. 20)  
Guitar sales hitting 2005 levels post-pandemic  
That cursed algorithm favoring "earworm + visual gimmick" combos

But here's the kicker - streaming data shows Gen Z listeners are 23% more likely to replay the guitar-driven section than older demographics. Maybe those "cheugy" millennials were onto something after all.

## Play It Like Huey

Want to nail that iconic tone without selling your kidney for vintage gear? Here's the modern shortcut:

Squier Classic Vibe Strat (\$429)  
Neural DSP Cory Wong plugin (\$129)  
Elixir 10-46 Nanoweb strings (\$16)

Pro tip: The secret sauce isn't in the gear - it's in the left-hand muting. Practice while watching *Back to the Future* (1985 version, obviously) to internalize the rhythm. You'll start feeling those quarter-note triplets in your sleep.

## Q&A: Burning Questions

Q: Did Huey Lewis actually play the solo?

A: Nope! Session ace Chris Hayes handled lead guitar duties.

Q: Best modern song using similar techniques?

A: Check out The War on Drugs' "Red Eyes" - it's like the 2020s spiritual successor.

Q: Why does the solo feel "happy-sad"?

A: Blame the G Mixolydian scale - major scale with a flattened 7th that creates tension.

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