

THE BLUES SCALE AND ITS USE

The Blues Scale consists of the following tones:

Root, ^b3rd, 4th, ^b5th (#4), 5th, and ^b7th

Example: F Blues Scale . . . F, A^b, B^b, B^{#4}, C, E^b, F

When playing a twelve bar blues in the key of G, You may use the G Blues Scale exclusively: G, B^b, C, D^b, D^{#4}, F, G.

When playing a twelve bar blues in the key of B^b, you may use the B^b Blues Scale exclusively: B^b, D^b, E^b, E^{#4}, F, A^b, B^b.

The Blues Scale can also be used over minor chords when the minor chord is sounded for 2, 4, 8 or 16 bars or longer.

Example: If D Minor is sounded for eight measures, use the D Blues Scale - D, F, G, A^b, A^{#4}, C, D.

When playing in minor tonalities you may choose to alternate between the Dorian minor and the Blues Scale, both having the same root tone.

Example: D Minor is sounded for eight bars - play D minor (Dorian) or play D Blues or alternate.

The Blues Scale is used to convey a "Funky", "Down-Home", "Earthy" or "Bluesy" sound/feel. Rhythm and blues players use this scale extensively. Experiment with the Blues Scales listed below and apply them to side 1, track 2, 3, 4 and 5 or side 2, track 1, 2 and 5.

The TWELVE BLUES SCALES

The image shows twelve lines of handwritten musical notation, organized into two groups of six. Each line represents a blues scale. The scales are: C, D^b, D, E^b, E, F, G^b, G, A^b, A, B^b, B. The notation includes treble clefs (top six lines) and bass clefs (bottom six lines). Chord symbols are written above and below the notes to indicate the key signature for each scale. The scales are written in a rhythmic, bluesy style with slurs and dynamic markings.