

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). Each scale is written as a sequence of notes with stems and flags, often including a double bar line at the end. Chord symbols are written above and below the notes to indicate the harmonic context for each scale.