

THE BLUES SCALE AND ITS USE

The blues scale consists of the following: Root, b3rd, 4th, #4th, 5th and b7th.

EXAMPLE: F blues Scale F, Ab, Bb, B, C, Eb, F

When playing a twelve bar blues in the key of Bb, use the Bb blues scale:

Bb, Db, Eb, E, F, Ab, Bb

The blues scale can also be used over minor chords when the minor chord is sounded for 2, 4, 8, or 16 measures or longer. EXAMPLE: If D minor is sounded for eight measures, you may use the D blues scale: D, F, G, Ab, A, 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 measures - play D minor (dorian) or play D blues scale or alternate between the two scale sounds.

The blues scale is used to convey a "Funky", "Down-Home", "Earthy" or "Blusey" sound/feel. Don't run it in the ground by overuse! Rhythm and blues players use this scale extensively. Experiment with the blues scales listed below and apply them to the recorded tracks on the play-along recordings.

THE TWELVE BLUES SCALES (Treble & Bass Clef)

The image displays the twelve blues scales in both treble and bass clefs. The scales are arranged in two systems of three staves each. The first system is for the treble clef, and the second is for the bass clef. Each scale is represented by a single line of music with a key signature and a scale name above it. The scales are: C, Db, D, Eb, E, F, Gb, G, Ab, A, Bb, B. The notation uses eighth and quarter notes to represent the scale intervals. The bass clef system starts with a bass clef symbol on the left.