

THE BLUES SCALE AND ITS USE

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The Blues Scale consists of the following tones:

Root,  $b_3$ rd, 4th,  $b_5$ th ( $\#4$ ), 5th, and  $b_7$ th

Example: F Blues Scale . . . . F,  $A^b$ ,  $B^b$ ,  $B^{\natural}$ , 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,  $D^b$ ,  $D^{\natural}$ , F, G.

When playing a twelve bar blues in the key of  $B^b$ , you may use the  $B^b$  Blues Scale exclusively:  $B^b$ ,  $D^b$ ,  $E^b$ ,  $E^{\natural}$ , 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,  $A^b$ ,  $A^{\natural}$ , 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 displays twelve blues scales, organized into two groups of six. The first group (top) is written in treble clef, and the second group (bottom) is written in bass clef. Each scale is represented by a single staff of music with a specific key signature indicated above the staff. The scales are: C,  $D^b$ , D,  $E^b$ ,  $A^b$ , A,  $B^b$ , B,  $C$ ,  $D^b$ , D,  $E^b$ ,  $E$ , F,  $G^b$ , G,  $A^b$ , A,  $B^b$ , B,  $C$ ,  $D^b$ , D,  $E^b$ ,  $E$ , F,  $G^b$ , G,  $A^b$ , A,  $B^b$ , B. The notation uses eighth and quarter notes to represent the scale intervals, with some notes beamed together. The scales are arranged in a 2x4 grid within each group.