

The 12 bar blues chord progression is 12 measures in length and once the end of the twelfth measure is reached the progression starts again.

Measures 1 - 12												12 Bar Blues Progression in the key of C											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	C7	C7	C7	C7	F7	F7	C7	C7	G7	F7	C7	G7
I	I	I	I	IV	IV	I	I	V	IV	I	V												

As can be seen from the above example of the chord progression, the first four measures consist of the C7 chord which is then followed by two measures of F7. The F7 is then followed by two measures of C7 leading to one measure each of G7, F7 and C7 before finishing with the G7 chord. The G7 chord is the last chord of this progression leading perfectly back to measure one, C7. To put this idea into universal terms we can identify each note of the scale as a Roman Numeral. Therefore since we are playing in the key of "C" the C7 chord would be "I", the F7 chord would be "IV" (F is four notes up from C) and G7 would be "V". This formula enables us to immediately transpose this and any other chord progression into other keys. This is very important in studying the harmony of a piece of music. Make sure you thoroughly understand and memorize this basic chord progression as there are literally thousands of songs with it, in all keys. There are variations on the blues progression but this example is probably the most common.

THE BLUES SCALE

The blues scale is a scale used frequently as the 3rd., 5th. and the 7th. of the major scale is flattened by half a step giving that "Bluesy" sound. Analyze the examples in the book to find phrases that utilize the blues scale. The blues scale combined with the major scale will generate an infinite amount of phrases commonly used in all these styles of music.

Blues Scale In The Key Of G



The Blues scale in the key of G consists of the following notes in the scale:

I - bIII - IV - bV - V - bVII - VIII
 G Bb C Db D F G

PRACTICE THIS SCALE IN ALL KEYS

When playing in a certain key, the blues scale for that key is used throughout the whole 12 bar progression even though the chords are changing. For example if you are playing a 12 bar blues progression in the key of G then the blues scale of G is used while playing the I chord (G7), the IV chord (C7) and V chord (D7).

NOTICE TO COMPUTER AND SEQUENCER USERS

This program comes with an optional MIDI file disk and loads into your sequencing program by selecting "LOAD MIDI FILE", please refer to your manual for further instructions. Load in the composition that you want to practice. Track 1 will be the piano right hand MIDI ch. 1, track 2 will be the piano left hand MIDI ch. 1 and track 3 will be the drum pattern MIDI ch. 10. A standard General MIDI drum machine was used for the drum notes.

APPLICATIONS FOR THIS PROGRAM

- * Mute one track and play the muted track live while the sequencer is playing the other parts.
- * Control the tempo to your skill level. As your skill level increases then increase the tempo.
- * Transpose the key. Practice the riffs in keys other than what is written by transposing the key of the sequencer.
- * Ear training exercises. Listen to one track at a time at a slow tempo and try to pick out the notes by ear, referring to the notes in the book only when in doubt.
- * Loop a difficult part so that you can practice it repeatedly to get it right.

The MIDI file disks are formatted for Atari, IBM, Macintosh and Amiga computers as well as General MIDI keyboards and sequencers with disk drives.

Basic Blues Riffs
1 to 33

BLUES RIFF 1

0 88 b.p.m.

1 C7

2 F7

3 C7

4

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for Blues Riff 1, measures 0 through 4. It is written in 12/8 time with a tempo of 88 b.p.m. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The notation is split into two systems. The first system covers measures 0 and 1, and the second system covers measures 2, 3, and 4. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 0 starts with a whole rest in the treble and a quarter rest in the bass. Measure 1 features a C7 chord in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 2 features an F7 chord in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 3 features a C7 chord in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 4 features a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note in the bass. Triplet markings are present in measures 0, 1, 2, and 3. Measure numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed at the beginning of their respective measures. Chord symbols C7 and F7 are placed above the treble staff.

BLUES RIFF 2

72b.p.m.

1 D7

2 G7

3 D7

4

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for Blues Riff 2, measures 1 through 4. It is written in 12/8 time with a tempo of 72 b.p.m. The key signature has two sharps (D major). The notation is split into two systems. The first system covers measures 1 and 2, and the second system covers measures 3 and 4. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 1 features a D7 chord in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 2 features a G7 chord in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 3 features a D7 chord in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 4 features a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note in the bass. Triplet markings are present in measures 1, 2, and 3. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed at the beginning of their respective measures. Chord symbols D7 and G7 are placed above the treble staff.