

The Blues Scale consists of the following tones:

Root, \flat 3rd, 4th, \flat 5th (\sharp 4), 5th, and \flat 7th

Example: F Blues Scale . . . F, A^{\flat} , B^{\flat} , B^{\sharp} , C, E^{\flat} , F

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

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

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^{\flat} , A^{\sharp} , 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