



The Blues Scale

by John Falstrom

Here's the "Blues" Scale and how it works:

The Blues Scale

Blues Scale R 2 b3 3 4 5 6 b7 7 (8)

The I7, IV7, and V7 chords contain all the notes that are in a blues scale. Here's how it works:

(Example: Key of C major.)

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Notes in Chords</u>	<u>Notes in C Blues Scale</u>
I7	C E G Bb R 3 5 b7	C E G Bb R 3 5 b7
IV7	F A C Eb R 3 5 b7	F A C Eb 4 6 R b3
V7	G B D F R 3 5 b7	G B D F 5 7 2 4

Notes in C Blues Scale C D Eb E F G A Bb B (C)
R 2 b3 3 4 5 6 b7 7 (8)

The b3rd and b7th notes are called "blue" notes.



Here's the b3rd and b7th notes and their note relationship to the roots of the I, IV, and V chords.

(Example: Key of C major.)

<u>Blue Notes</u>	<u>I Chord (C)</u>	<u>IV Chord (F)</u>	<u>V Chord (G)</u>
E \flat and B \flat b3 b7	E \flat and B \flat b3 b7	E \flat and B \flat b7 4	E \flat and B \flat b6 b3

The "blue" notes (b3, b7) can be played "against" any chord used in the standard 12 bar blues form or the 12 bar jazz blues forms.

Note: The Minor pentatonic scale (R, b3, 4, 5, b7, (8)) is used as a blues scale type for soloing and for "riffs" i.e., by starting a minor pentatonic scale on the root of a I chord, you get both "blue" notes (b3, b7) and the roots of the I, IV, and V chords (R, 4 and 5).

Play each minor pentatonic scale (as blues scale type) finger pattern on the roots of all the major scales(keys); circle of fifths order.

The above information about the blues scale should be (eventually) memorized on your bass guitar for all 15 major keys(scales), circle of fifths order.

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