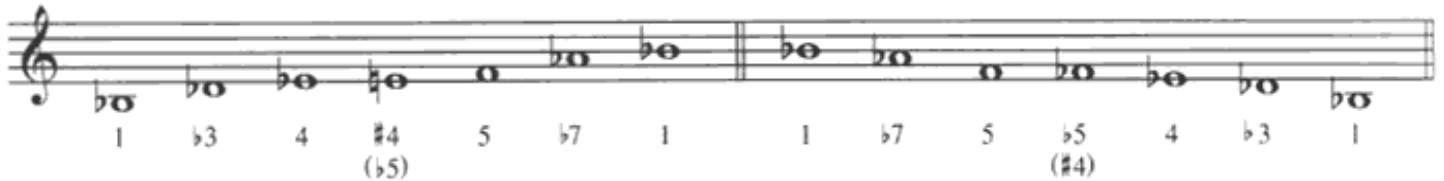


There are Two "Blues Scales!"

The solution to the puzzle is that there are really **two** basic Blues Scales that are commonly used by jazz improvisers, rather than one single scale. One is the Blues Scale we already looked at. Because of its $b3$ rd, this scale has a decidedly minor sound, so from now on we will refer to it as the "Minor Blues Scale."

B \flat Minor Blues Scale



The second Blues Scale has a decidedly major sound because of the inclusion of the major 3rd (even though it also contains the minor 3rd as well). We will call this scale the "Major Blues Scale." In the key of B \flat , it looks like this:

B \flat Major Blues Scale



Practicing the Scales

EXERCISE #2

First you need to thoroughly learn and memorize the notes in these two scales, including the whole range from the lowest to the highest notes you can play on your instrument. As one method of really learning the scales inside-and-out, we encourage you to compose scalar exercises that both rehearse the scale notes and simultaneously have a satisfying melodic contour. For example, try this one-and-a-half octave version of the B \flat Major Blues Scale:



EXERCISE #3

Here is a sample way to practice the B \flat Minor Blues Scale, again with a line that has some melodic interest:

