

# Beginning Blues Class

**Blues** is a vocal and instrumental form of music based on the **use of the blue notes and a repetitive pattern that most often follows a twelve-bar structure.**

It emerged in African-American communities of the United States from spirituals, praise songs, field hollers, rhymed English and Scots-Irish narrative ballads, shouts, and chants. The use of blue notes and the prominence of call-and-response patterns in the music and lyrics are indicative of the blues' West African pedigree. The blues influenced later American and Western popular music, as it became part of the genres of ragtime, jazz, bluegrass, rhythm and blues, rock and roll, hip-hop, and pop songs.

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## Blues Pattern 12 Bar Blues KEY OF C

12 Bar Blues is a universal music pattern. There are 12 measures divided into 3 chords. I suggest to memorize this pattern.

//// |  
1 2 3 4

This is a measure and contains 4 beats

1. Play C Chord for 4 measures  
C C C C  
//// | //// | //// | //// |  
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
2. Play F Chord for 2 measures  
F F  
//// | //// |  
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
3. Play C Chord for 2 measures  
C C  
//// | //// |  
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
4. Play G Chord for 1 measure  
G  
//// |  
1 2 3 4
5. Play F Chord for 1 measure  
F  
//// |  
1 2 3 4
6. Play C Chord for 2 measures  
C C  
//// | //// |  
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4



## **Beginning Blues Class**

### **Blues Pattern 12 Bar Blues**

Playing the Blues is an excellent way to practice your chords.

I have written the blues pattern in the key of F, Bb and A.

Practice this very simple at first then we will be changing patterns later.

Memorize the chord changes.

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## Practicing 12 Bar Blues

### PRACTICING THE 12 BAR BLUES:

1. Play the chord with the right hand. Play on the 1 beat and hold through the 4 beats.
2. Play the root of the chord in the left hand. The root note is the chord name. Example: Play C chord in the right hand and only the C in the left hand.

Right hand	G E C	G E C	G E C	G E C
Left hand	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4
	C	C	C	C

Right hand	A F C	A F C	G E C	G E C
Left hand	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4
	F	F	C	C

Right hand	G D B	A F C	G E C	G E C
Left hand	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4	////// 1 2 3 4
	G	F	C	C

Practice and memorize this pattern.

# 12 Bar Blues in C

C C C C C

5

F F C C

9

G F C C

12

# 12 Bar Blues in F

F F F F

Musical notation for the first four bars of a 12-bar blues in F major. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The first four bars each contain a single F major chord in the right hand and a single F note in the left hand.

B $\flat$  B $\flat$  F F

5

Musical notation for bars 5 through 8 of a 12-bar blues in F major. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. Bars 5 and 6 contain Bb major chords in the right hand and Bb notes in the left hand. Bars 7 and 8 contain F major chords in the right hand and F notes in the left hand.

C B $\flat$  F F

9

Musical notation for the final four bars (9-12) of a 12-bar blues in F major. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. Bars 9 and 10 contain C major chords in the right hand and C notes in the left hand. Bars 11 and 12 contain F major chords in the right hand and F notes in the left hand.

# 12 Bar Blues in Bb

B $\flat$                       B $\flat$                       B $\flat$                       B $\flat$

5

E $\flat$                       E $\flat$                       B $\flat$                       B $\flat$

9

F                      E $\flat$                       B $\flat$                       B $\flat$

# 12 Bar Blues in A

A A A A

Musical notation for the first four bars of a 12-bar blues in A major. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first four bars are all A major chords. The bass line consists of a single note A in the bass clef for each bar.

5 D D A A

Musical notation for the next four bars of the 12-bar blues in A major. The fifth bar is a D major chord, the sixth bar is a D major chord, the seventh bar is an A major chord, and the eighth bar is an A major chord. The bass line consists of a single note D in the bass clef for the first two bars, and a single note A in the bass clef for the last two bars.

9 E D A A

Musical notation for the final four bars of the 12-bar blues in A major. The ninth bar is an E major chord, the tenth bar is a D major chord, the eleventh bar is an A major chord, and the twelfth bar is an A major chord. The bass line consists of a single note E in the bass clef for the first bar, a single note D in the bass clef for the second bar, and a single note A in the bass clef for the last two bars.