

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



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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 whole note chord in the right hand and a whole note bass note in the left hand. The chords are F major, and the bass notes are F2, F2, F2, and F2 respectively.

B \flat B \flat F F

5

Musical notation for the fifth and sixth bars of a 12-bar blues in F major. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The fifth and sixth bars each contain a whole note chord in the right hand and a whole note bass note in the left hand. The chords are Bb major and Bb major, and the bass notes are Bb1, Bb1, F2, and F2 respectively.

C B \flat F F

9

Musical notation for the seventh and eighth bars of a 12-bar blues in F major. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The seventh and eighth bars each contain a whole note chord in the right hand and a whole note bass note in the left hand. The chords are C major and Bb major, and the bass notes are C2, Bb1, F2, and F2 respectively.

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 marked with 'A' above the staff. The treble clef staff contains four whole chords (A major) in the first four bars. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes (A) in the first four bars.

5 D D A A

Musical notation for the next four bars of the 12-bar blues in A major. The fifth bar is marked with '5' above the staff. The treble clef staff contains four whole chords (D major, D major, A major, A major) in the next four bars. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes (D, D, A, A) in the next four 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 marked with '9' above the staff. The treble clef staff contains four whole chords (E major, D major, A major, A major) in the final four bars. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes (E, D, A, A) in the final four bars.