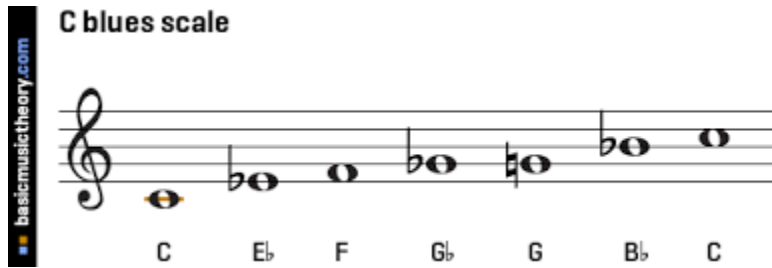


Blues Scale



- Repeat
 - Above is the C blues scale. The blues scale has its origins in the American south, created by African Americans. The scale is commonly used today in many blues and jazz styles. Learn the scale above and start thinking about the sounds you hear. Do you enjoy the sound? What does this scale make you think of?
 - *For the teacher: Teach the student the C blues first. If the student appears to be understanding this quickly, perhaps introduce the formula for a blues scale (1 b3 4 b5 5 b7). Perhaps introduce the 12-bar blues form and how this scale works in that context.*
- Respond
 - “Johnny B Goode” - Chuck Berry
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uf4rxCB4lys>
 - “Hound Dog” - Elvis Presley
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eHJ12Vhpyc>
 - These are all examples of 12-bar blues. The blues scale is used in these examples and fits very well with the form of these songs. Think about the scale and these songs when answering these questions:
 - Does this sound similar to anything you have heard before?
 - How does the scale compare to the major scale? Minor scale?
 - Can you try to make a similar sounding scale, but start on a different note?
- Reuse
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6aZZFnZUVk>
 - Here is a backing track of a 12-bar blues. Try playing the blues scale in time over this track. From there, start to take away some notes. Try improvising melodies with the blues scale on top of the track. Maybe add some notes from the chromatic scale or other scales you know. Can you try to emulate some of the rhythms you hear in the track?
 - Without the track: Can you try to combine some other scales you know with this one? Can you play the blues scale as if you were in a relaxing hotel lobby? What about an upbeat, exciting club?
 - *For the teacher: If the student is uncomfortable improvising, try playing with them! Or play first then have them follow. Emphasize that there is no wrong way to improvise and that there are no “wrong notes”. Perhaps discuss the swing rhythms heard in the backing track and incorporate them into the scale.*