DREAM RESIDUAL IMPROV SERIES • LEVEL 2

Blues Scale Chart for Saxophone

Master the Blues Scale in All 12 Keys with Fingerings, Licks & Target Notes

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Master the Blues Scale in All 12 Keys

What is the Blues Scale?

The blues scale is a 6-note scale that forms the foundation of blues, jazz, and rock improvisation. It adds "blue notes" (flatted 3rd, 5th, and 7th) to create that characteristic blues sound.

Blues Scale Formula

For Concert Pitch Instruments (Piano, Guitar):

```
1 - ♭3 - 4 - ♭5 - 5 - ♭7 - 8
```

For B♭ Saxophone (Alto/Tenor):

Add 2 whole steps (major 2nd) to concert pitch

Example in **Concert B♭ Blues**:

Concert: B♭ - D♭ - E♭ - E♮ - F - A♭ - B♭

B♭ Saxophone: C - E♭ - F - F♯ - G - B♭ - C

All 12 Blues Scales for B♭ Saxophone

1. C Blues (Concert B♭)

Sax Fingerings: C - E♭ - F - F♯ - G - B♭ - C

```
Left: ●●● | ●●●
Right: ●●● | ●●○
```

Most common blues key for saxophone

2. F Blues (Concert E♭)

Sax Fingerings: F - A♭ - B♭ - B♮ - C - E♭ - F

```
Left: ●●● | ●●●
Right: ●●● | ○○○
```

Easy key, great for beginners

3. B♭ Blues (Concert A♭)

Sax Fingerings: B♭ – D♭ – E♭ – E♮ – F – A♭ – B♭

```
Left: ●●● | ●●○
Right: ●●● | ●●●
```

Common in jazz blues

4. E♭ Blues (Concert D♭)

Sax Fingerings: E♭ – G♭ – A♭ – A♮ – B♭ – D♭ – E♭

```
Left: ●●● | ●○○
Right: ●●● | ●●●
```

"Stormy Monday" key

5. G Blues (Concert F)

Sax Fingerings: G – B♭ – C – C♯ – D – F – G

```
Left: ●●● | ●●○
Right: ●●● | ○○○
```

Rock blues favorite

6. D Blues (Concert C)

Sax Fingerings: D – F – G – G♯ – A – C – D

```
Left: ●●● | ●○○
Right: ●●● | ○○○
```

Texas blues sound

7. A Blues (Concert G)

Sax Fingerings: A – C – D – D♯ – E – G – A

```
Left: ●●● | ○○○
Right: ●●● | ○○○
```

Bright blues tone

8. E Blues (Concert D)

Sax Fingerings: E – G – A – A♯ – B – D – E

```
Left: ●●○ | ●●●
Right: ●●● | ○○○
```

West Coast blues

9. B Blues (Concert A)

Sax Fingerings: B - D - E - E♯(F) - F♯ - A - B

```
Left: ●●○ | ●●○
Right: ●●● | ○○○
```

Challenging but rewarding

10. F♯ Blues (Concert E)

Sax Fingerings: F♯ - A - B - B♯(C) - C♯ - E - F♯

```
Left: ●●○ | ●○○
Right: ●●● | ○○○
```

Advanced blues key

11. C♯ Blues (Concert B)

Sax Fingerings: C♯ - E - F♯ - F*(G) - G♯ - B - C♯

```
Left: ●○○ | ●●○
Right: ●●● | ○○○
```

Professional level

12. A♭ Blues (Concert G♭)

Sax Fingerings: A♭ - C♭(B) - D♭ - D♮ - E♭ - G♭ - A♭

```
Left: ●●● | ○○○
Right: ●●● | ●●●
```

Advanced, soulful sound

Practice Exercises

Exercise 1: Up & Down (All Keys)

Play each scale slowly, up and down:

Quarter notes at 60 BPM

Eighth notes at 80 BPM

Swing feel at 100 BPM

Exercise 2: Thirds Pattern

Play scale in thirds:

```
C - E♭ - F - A♭ - B♭ - D - F - etc.
```

Exercise 3: Blues Licks

Practice these classic blues licks in C:

Lick 1 (Basic):

```
C - E♭ - F - F♯ - G - F♯ - F - E♭ - C
```

Lick 2 (Turnaround):

```
C - B♭ - G - F♯ - F - E♭ - C
```

Lick 3 (Fast):

```
C - E♭ - F - G - B♭ - C - B♭ - G - F - E♭ - C
```

Blues Scale Applications

1. **12-Bar Blues Progression**

Most common blues form:

```
I   | I   | I   | I   |
IV  | IV  | I   | I   |
V   | IV  | I   | V   |
```

2. **Target Notes**

Aim for these notes on strong beats:

Beat 1: Root or 5th

Beat 3: ♭3rd or ♭7th

Beat 4: Leading tone to next chord

3. **Bending & Expression**

Half-valve: For microtonal bends

Alternate fingerings: For smoother transitions

Vibrato: Use on long notes

4. **Call & Response**

Create musical conversations:

Call: Simple phrase (2–4 notes)

Response: Answering phrase

Space: Leave room between phrases

Backing Track Practice

Recommended Keys for Beginners:

C Blues (120 BPM) - Easiest fingerings

F Blues (100 BPM) - Comfortable range

G Blues (140 BPM) - Rock feel

Practice Structure:

5 minutes: Scale up/down

5 minutes: Thirds pattern

5 minutes: Blues licks

10 minutes: Improvisation over backing track

Common Mistakes & Fixes

1. **Playing Too Many Notes**

Problem: Overplaying, no space

Fix: Limit to 3–4 notes per phrase

Exercise: Play one note per bar

2. **Ignoring Chord Changes**

Problem: Same notes over all chords

Fix: Target chord tones

Exercise: Play only roots on beat 1

3. **Poor Time Feel**

Problem: Rushing or dragging

Fix: Practice with metronome

Exercise: Tap foot on 2 & 4

4. **Limited Dynamics**

Problem: Monotone volume

Fix: Practice crescendo/decrescendo

Exercise: Play scale soft to loud

Advanced Techniques

1. **Chromatic Approach Notes**

Add passing tones between scale notes:

```
C - B - B♭ - A - A♭ - G - etc.
```

2. **Double-Time Licks**

Play eighth-note or sixteenth-note patterns

3. **Altissimo Extensions**

Extend scale into altissimo register (advanced)

4. **Multiphonics**

Play chords on saxophone (advanced technique)

Practice Log

Date	Key Practiced	BPM	Focus Area	Time

Next Steps

Ready for More?

If you want to take your blues playing to the next level:

$2.99 Upgrade: "Blues Backing Track Pack"

- 12 backing tracks (one in each key)
- Slow, medium, and fast tempos
- Video demonstrations of each exercise
- Printable scale charts with fingerings

Or our premium offering:

$27 "Blues Mastery Course"

- 20 video lessons
- 50+ blues licks
- Interactive backing tracks
- Personal feedback option

Final Tips

Start slow - Master C blues before moving to other keys

Use backing tracks - Essential for developing feel

Record yourself - Listen back objectively

Transcribe solos - Learn from blues masters

Have fun - Blues is about expression, not perfection

Happy Blues Playing!

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