



Blues

Ukulele

Workshop

Blues Ukulele Workshop

Four part workshop with songbook

1. Structure and feel of blues songs
2. Turnarounds and dominant 7ths
3. The blues scale
4. Putting it all together

A web-based listening guide is also provided

Accompanying songs for parts:

1. How Long Blues, Baby What You Want Me to Do
2. Red River Blues, Sitting On Top Of The World
3. You Got to Move, Trouble in Mind
4. See See Rider, Big Boss Man, Backwater Blues

Review quizzes for parts 1-3

Recommended from ukeeducation.org

Fingerpicking for uke

Scales and Chords

Fretboard learning tool

Material compiled and arranged by Spencer Gay

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Blues

The blues is a feelin'... a good man feelin' bad – a woman waitin' for her man – losin' your lover. Singing the blues is a good way to lose them

Also, it is the name of a common song format – whether 12 or 8 bar blues

Lyrics often are in an AAB format; the first line is repeated as the second line and the third explains or ties the thought together. Create some new lyrics to see how this works.

A If I feel tomorrow the way I feel to day From St. Louis Blues - W.C. Handy
 A If I feel tomorrow the way I feel today
 B 'Gonna pack my grip and make my getaway

Relative Chord Naming - Roman Numerals

Chords can be identified relative to the root (the key in which the song is composed.) This is the one chord, shown in roman numerals, I. If the song is in the key of C, then C is the 1 chord. Then, count out D = 2, E = 3, F = 4 and G as the 5 chord. Roman numerals I, IV and V are used, and lower case for minor chords. How can you determine the I, IV and V chords for the key of A? – Just count it out on your fingers – then check yourself on the table below. The chorded scale allows us to see the relationships of major, minor and diminished chords to the major scale. It is also very useful for transposing between keys.

Note	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chord	I	iim	iiim	IV	V	vim	vii ⁰
C chorded scale	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim
A chorded scale	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G#dim

This shows the typical chord structure of a 12 bar blues- the first 4 bars on top row ...

I	I	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
V	IV	I	V

7th chords (a.k.a. dominant 7th) are almost always played in a blues progression.

I	I	I	I7
IV	IV	I	I
V7	IV	I	V7

Most blues songs use the 7th chord form to add tension -V7 not V, so feel free to play 7^{ths}, even on the I and IV chords, particularly just before chord changes. The 7th chord is made by adding a flatted 7 note to the major 1 3 5 triad..

C major scale C D E F G A B C
 Notes numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

Major chord = 1 3 5
 C Major chord = C E G
 C 7th chord = 1 3 5 b7
 C 7th chord = C E G Bb

12 Bar Blues - use one strum for each beat

Let's play a 12 bar blues in C – C=I chord F=IV G7= V7

: C / / / /	C / / / /	C / / / /	C7 / / / /	
F / / / /	F / / / /	C / / / /	C / / / /	
G7 / / / /	F / / / /	C / / / /	G7 / / / / :	

Now, let's play it again, thinking of the relative chord in key of C

1 2 3 4
|: I / / / / | I / / / / | I / / / / | I7 / / / / ||
5 6 7 8
| IV / / / / | IV / / / / | I / / / / | I / / / / ||
9 10 11 12
| V7 / / / / | IV / / / / | I / / / / | V7 / / / / :|
turnaround

The turnaround is a musical phrase that occurs during the 11th bar to set up the 12th bar and the return to the top for the next verse. At the end of the song, play the I chord after the 12th bar. Now, let's play the 12 bar blues in the key of A. Count out the I, IV and V chords.

Key of A A=I chord D=IV E7= V7

: A / / / /	A / / / /	A / / / /	A7 / / / /	
D / / / /	D / / / /	A / / / /	A / / / /	
E7 / / / /	D / / / /	A / / / /	E7 / / / / :	

When That Evening Sun Goes Down - Blues in A

|: A / / / / | A / / / / | A / / / / | A7 / / / / ||
In the evening, in the evening, when the sun goes down
| D / / / / | D / / / / | A / / / / | A / / / / ||
In the evening, when the sun goes down
| E7 / / / / | D / / / / | A / turnaround / | E7 / / / / :|
Sure gets lonesome when your love is not around, when the sun goes down

Other examples of 12 bar blues songs - these by Robert Johnson in Uke Blues Songbook:

Sweet Home Chicago

Malted Milk

8 Bar Blues - Not all blues songs use the 12 bar format -

1	2	3	4
: I / / / /	I7 / / / /	IV / / / /	IV7 / / / /
5	6	7	8
I / / / /	V7 / / / /	I / / / /	V7 / / / / :

Play an 8 bar blues in the key of A - How Long

1	2	3	4
: A / / / /	A7 / / / /	D / / / /	D7 / / / /
How long,	how long,	has that evenin'	train been gone?
5	6	7	8
A / / / /	E7 / / / /	A / <u>turnaround</u> /	E7 / / / / :
How long,	how long	how, long?	

Examples of 8 bar blues songs in the Blues Uke Songbook:

How Long, Key to the Highway, T'ain't Nobody's Business if I Do, Trouble in Mind, Come Back Baby

Shuffle rhythm - listen to some blues to get this – Big Bill Broonzy, Leroy Carr

The blues is sometimes expressed using triplets – 12 beats per measure – we can play it that way or simplify the number of beats by dropping the middle one of each triplet 123 = 1_3

This allows us to “swing it” and gain some interesting rhythms – the shuffle is heard as:

Dah da dah da dah da dah or lum dy lum dy lum dy lum dy - tap foot on Da or lum

Play this shuffle rhythm using your right thumb on the 4th string until you feel comfortable with the rhythm. Then reach over with your long finger left hand to add the A - play that measure till you get it, then use L ring finger to add Bb

G -0-|-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-| |-0--0-2--2-0--0-2--2-|0--0-2--2-3--3-2--2-0-|

You can now feel the “boogie woogie” shuffle - play till you feel comfortable

Shuffle rhythm diagrammed

For simple strum – 1 per beat

1 + shows 2 parts for each beat

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
D		D		D		D	

For a blues shuffle, hold a C chord divide beat into 4 parts

1 e + a shows 4 parts to each beat

1e+a	2e+a	3e+a	4e+a
D D	D D	D D	D D

Could alternate D U D U D U D U

Then, try shuffle in A

Hold the A shape and play the F# alternating with the E on the second, or E string – this is used in the song Baby, What You Want Me to Do?

HOW LONG BLUES

1928 LEROY CARR

Blues shuffle feel Strum=UD or dD First note=A

A A7 D D7
 How long, babe how long, has that evening train been gone?

A E7 A E7
 How long, how, how long, baby how long?

A A7 D D7
 Went to the station, didn't see no train. Down in my heart, I have an aching pain.

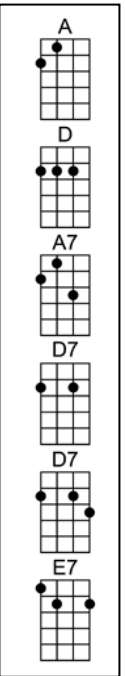
A E7 A E7
 How long, how, how long, baby how long?

A A7 D D7
 I feel disgusted, I feel so bad, thinking 'bout the good times that I once had had.

A E7 A E7
 How long, how how long, baby how long?

A A7 D D7
 You're gonna be sorry that you done me wrong, but it'll be too late, baby. I will be gone

A E7 A E7
 How long, how how long, baby how long?



Solo	A	A7	D	D7	A	E7	A	E7
A	-0---0-	--0-----	-1-2-----	-----2-	-----0-	-----0-	-----3-	-----3-0-
E	-----	-----4-3-	-----1-2-	-----	-----0-	-----	-----3-	-----3-0-
C	-----	-----	-----	-0-2\4\2-0-	-/4---4\2-2-	-0-	---0-2-0-/4-4-	-2-p0-----
G	---2---	-2---2---	-----2-	-----2-	-----	---2-	-2-----	-----0-0-

A A7
 Now I can hear the whistle blowin', but I cannot see no train,

D D7
 deep down in my heart, baby, I have an achin' pain,

A E7 A E7
 How long, how how long, baby how long?

Turnaround	E7
A	---0---0---0---0--- -2-2-
E	-3---3-2--2-1--1-0- -0-0-
C	-----1- -2-2-
G	-2-----2---2---2- -1-1-

A A7 D D7
 If I could holler like I was a mountain jack, I'd go up on the mountain; I'd call my baby back,

A E7 A E7 A
 How long, how how long, baby how long?

A A7 D D7
 My mind get to ramblin', I feel so bad. Thinkin' about the bad luck that I have had,

A E7 A E7 A
 How long, how, how long, baby how long?

INTRO	E7	A
A	---0---0---0---0--- -2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	-0-0--0
E	-3---3-2--2-1--1-0- -0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-	-0-0--0
C	-4---4-3--2-2--2-1- -2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	-1-1--1
G	-----2- -1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-	-2-2--2

A A7 D
 How long, babe how long, has that evening train been gone?

A E7 A E7
 How long, how, how long, baby how long?

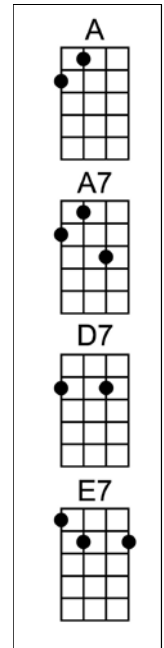
BABY, WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO

1959

JIMMY REED

First note=C #

A
 You've got me runnin'. You've got me hidin'
A7
 You've got me run, hide, hide, run, anyway you wanna
D7 A
 Let it roll. Yeah, yeah, yeah
E7
 You've got me doin' what you want me
D7 A (turnaround) E7
 Baby, what you want me to do?



A
 I'm goin' up. I'm goin' down.
A7
 I'm goin' up, down, down, up, anyway you want me,
D7 A
 Let it roll, yeah, yeah, yeah
E7
 You've got me doin' what you want me
D7 A (turnaround) E7
 Baby, what you want me to do?

Solo

A
 You've got me peepin'. You've got me hidin'
A7
 You've got me peep, hide, hide, peep, anyway you wanna
D7 A
 Let it roll. Yeah, yeah, yeah
E7
 You've got me doin' what you want me
D7 A (turnaround) E7
 Baby, what you want me to do?

Repeat first or any of verses

INTRO	E7	A SHUFFLE	D7 SHUFFLE
A 0-0--0-0--0-0---0-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-	-0-0--2-2--0-0--2-2
E 3-3--2-2--1-1---0-	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-	-0-0--2-2--0-0--2-2-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2
C 4-4--3-3--2-2-0h1-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2	-2-2--1-1--2-2--1-1-	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-
G-----0h2-	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1	-1-1--2-2--1-1--2-2-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2

You got me..

IN THE EVENING (WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN) 1935 LEROY CARR

Intro G C G D7 C G or below Shuffle strum D UD UD First note=D
 G G7

In the evening. In the evenin', mama when the sun goes down

C G
 In the evening darlin', when the sun goes down

D7 C7 G D7 G
 It's so lonesome , it's so lonesome when you love is not around, mmm, when the sun goes down

G G G7
 Last night night as I lay sleepin' and I was sleepin' all by myself

C G
 Last night night as I lay sleepin' and I was sleepin' all by myself
 D7 C G D7

Intro	D7...
A -10-8----- -3-3-	
E -----10-8----- -2-2-	
C -----10-7- -0-0-	
G ----- -2-2-	

Ain't it hard when your lover is with someone else, when the sun goes down

Instrumental
 G C G D7 C G
 Yeah Ooh

Solo					
A	---5-5-5-5-2----- ---1-----1--- ----- ---1----- -----				
E	-2-----5-2- -----3-----3- ----- -----3-1--- -----				
C	----- -2-----2----- -4b5r-2-0----- -2-----2- -2-0-----				
G	----- ----- -----3-0- ----- -----3-0-				

G G7
 In the evening. In the evenin', mama when the sun goes down ooh lord

C G
 In the evenin', when the sun goes downn

D7 C G D7
 It's so lonesome, it's so lonesome when your 're sleepin' all by yourself when the sun goes down

G C G
 The sun rises in the East and I declare it sets way over in the West

C G
 Sun rises in the East, darling and I declare it sets way over in the West

D7 C G
 Yes it's so hard, it's so hard to tell, I declare which one that'll treat you the best

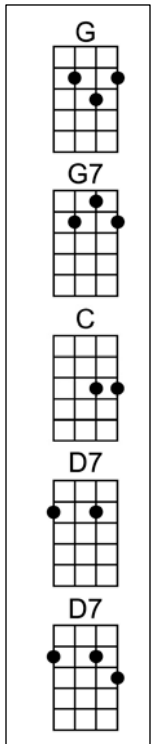
G7
 When the sun go down

G G7
 Good bye, old sweethearts and friends, I declare I'm goin' away

C G
 I may be back to see you again on some old rainy day

D7 C
 In the evenin', in the evenin' , I declare

G G7
 When the sun go down



Ray Charles
 Big Bill Broonzy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNpM4i0QU8Y>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8W7Ih7j3XA>

Blues Lesson 1 Review Questions –try without the materials, then use them

1. What is the I, IV, V7 chord progression in the key of A? _____
2. Chord progressions in blues music often use 7 (dominant 7th) chords for I, IV and V chords T F
3. What are the notes in a C7 chord? _____ C scale is C D E F G A B C
4. The best way to stay on the beat is to _____
5. The rhythm for many blues songs is called a _____ rhythm ?
6. The phrase of music used to end a verse or the song is called the _____

7. Diagram the strumming pattern for a blues feel – use D, 2 strums per beat (|1e+a| is a beat)

| 1 e + a | 2 e + a | 3 e + a | 4 e + a |
 | | | | |

8. What chords would you use to play How Long Blues in the key of C?

A scale is A B C# D E F# G# A A Bm C#m D E F#m G#dim A chorded scale (write #'s below)

C scale is _____ | _____

Chorded scale _____

Relative chord # I _____ I Now, transpose How Long into the Key of C - fill in []

A [] A7 []

How long, baby how long,

D [] D7 []

Has that evening train been gone?

A [] E7 [] A [] E7 []

How long, how how long, baby how long?

Here are the two songs we are working on:

Leroy Carr plays How Long in Eb, Pinetop in C and Jim Bruce Blues lesson is in A – play along with it in A and then try it in C with Pinetop. Baby What you .. is played by Jimmy Reed in E –You can play along with John Mayall in A

			Key
Leroy Carr	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXtvuz5S9PM	Eb
Jim Bruce	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpgOBWBdGow	A
Pinetop Perkins	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAln3RQ_joU	C
Jimmy Reed	Baby, What You Want...	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JveYg57Brxc&list=RDJveYg57Brxc	E
John Mayall & Bluesbreakers	Baby, What You Want...	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BS8nat56644	A

Right hand technique

Pinch the strings between your thumb and index finger – brush up with finger on strings 1, 2, and 3. Mostly, play 4th string with thumb. Similar to Kimo Hussey style – see this article for more information and inspiration - <https://www.theukulelereview.com/2017/08/22/kimo-hussey-styles/>

Let's try a shuffle blues in the key of C, Hold the C note on the first string with your pinky finger C. Get the first 2 bars. Then reach your long finger to play the A 4th string to get more of a shuffle feel. Once you get that, try adding the Bb on the 3rd fret as shown below.

```
A -3- | -3-3--3-3--3-3--3-3- | | -3-3--3-3--3-3--3-3- | -3-3--3-3--3-3--3-3- |
E --- | ----- | | ----- | ----- |
C --- | ----- | | ----- | ----- |
G -0- | -0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0- | | -0-2--2-0--0-2--2-0- | -0-2--2-3--3-2--2-0- |
```

Blues turnarounds are used between verses at bar 11 or as intro or outro

In the key of C, use turnaround below - a walkdown from the Bb to G on string 4

C	G7	then, begin song, or to the next verse or
A -3-3--3-3--3-3--3-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	at the end play the turnaround, G7 C
E -----	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-	
C -----	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	Note that we are not playing the G
G--3-3--2-2--1-1--0-	-----	string- use your thumb on the C string

In the key of A, the first turnaround using an A7 (G7 shape up 2 frets) to another form of A

A7	G#dim	G7	A	E7
A 4-4--3-3--2-2--0---	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-			
E -3-3--2-2--1-1--0---	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-			
C -4-4--3-3--2-2--1---	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-			
G -----2---	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-			

Let's build it from a one note run: use the index finger of your left hand to begin on the G in Example 1, add your long finger on string three for Example 2

Example 1.	A	E7	Example 2.	E7
A -----	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	-----	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	
E -3-3--2-2--1-1--0-	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-	-3-3--2-2--1-1--0-	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-	
C -----1-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	-4-4--3-3--2-2--1-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	
G -----	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-	-----	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-	

3.	A	E7	
A -0-0--0-0--0-0--0-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-		Then, include the open 1st string with
E -3-3--2-2--1-1--0-	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-		the others to get the 3 rd variation
C -4-4--3-3--2-2--1-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-		
G -0-0--0-0--0-0--2-	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-		

This clip is a great backing track to let you practice playing in A - have fun
John Mayall & Bluesbreakers Baby, What You Want... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BS8nat56644>

More Turnarounds / Intros in A

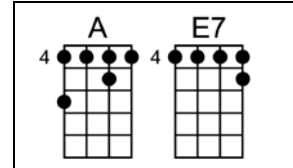
We could use the turnaround we learned in C – but we need to move it to fret XII

	E7	
A	-12-12-12-12-12-12-12-	--2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2
E	-----	--0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0
C	-----	--2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2
G	-12----11----10-----9-	--1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1

Robert Johnson used a similar Intro in Sweet Home Chicago and Malted Milk, but played the E7 chord at 4445, (like D7) instead of 1202

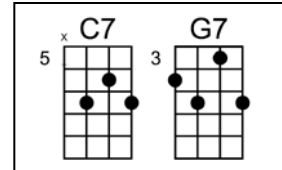
We could also walk down to the A chord found at the IVth fret, then the 4445 E7

	A	E7	
A	-----4-	-5-5--5-5--5-5--5-5-	
E	-9---9--8---8--7---7--5-	-4-4--4-4--4-4--4-4-	
C	-----4-	-4-4--4-4--4-4--4-4-	
G	-9---9--8---8--7---7--6-	-4-4--4-4--4-4--4-4-	



More Turnarounds / Intros in C -A turnarounds up 3 frets for C

	C7	C	G7	
A	7-7--6-6--5-5--3---		-5-5--5-5--5-5--5-5-	
E	-6-6--5-5--4-4--3---		-3-3--3-3--3-3--3-3-	
C	-7-7--6-6--5-5--4---		-5-5--5-5--5-5--5-5-	
G	-----5---		-4-4--4-4--4-4--4-4-	



Or let the notes move in opposite directions as in the song "It Hurts Me Too"

A	-3-3-3--3-3-3--3-3-3-3-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-
E	-0-----1-----2-----3-	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-
C	-----0-----0-----	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-
G	-3-----2-----1-----0-	-----

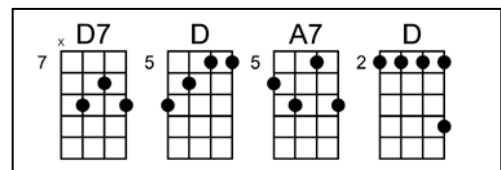
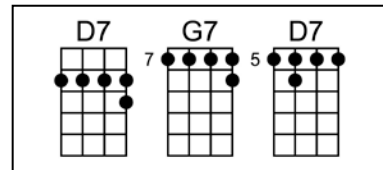
May take some work to get this one

Ascending

Descending

Turnarounds / Intros in G

	D7	
A	-----	-3-3--3-3--3-3--3-3-
E	-3---3-3---3-3---3-2-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-
C	---5-----4-----3-----	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-
G	-----3-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-
	G7	D7
A	-----	-5-5--5-5--5-5--5-5-
E	-----	-5-5--5-5--5-5--5-5-
C	--7-----7-----7-----	-6-6--6-6--6-6--6-6-
G	-7--7-6---6-5---5-4-	-5-5--5-5--5-5--5-5-



Turnarounds / Intros in D (C turnaround up 2 frets)

	D7	D	A7		D		A7	
A	-9-9--8-8--7-7--5---		-7-7--7-7--7-7--7-7-				---5-----5-----5-----	-4-
E	-8-8--7-7--6-6--5---		-5-5--5-5--5-5--5-5-				-2---2--3---3---4---4---5-	-3-
C	-9-9--8-8--7-7--6---		-7-7--7-7--7-7--7-7-				-----	-4-
G	-----7---		-6-6--6-6--6-6--6-6-	or			-2-----3---4-----5-	---

Dominant 7th chords – the soul of the blues

Review how we create a C7th chord - add that flattened 7th b7 (Bb in a C major scale) to the major chord to have a 7th chord.

C7 notes C E G Bb 1 3 5 b7 – Below, the b7 note is made by:

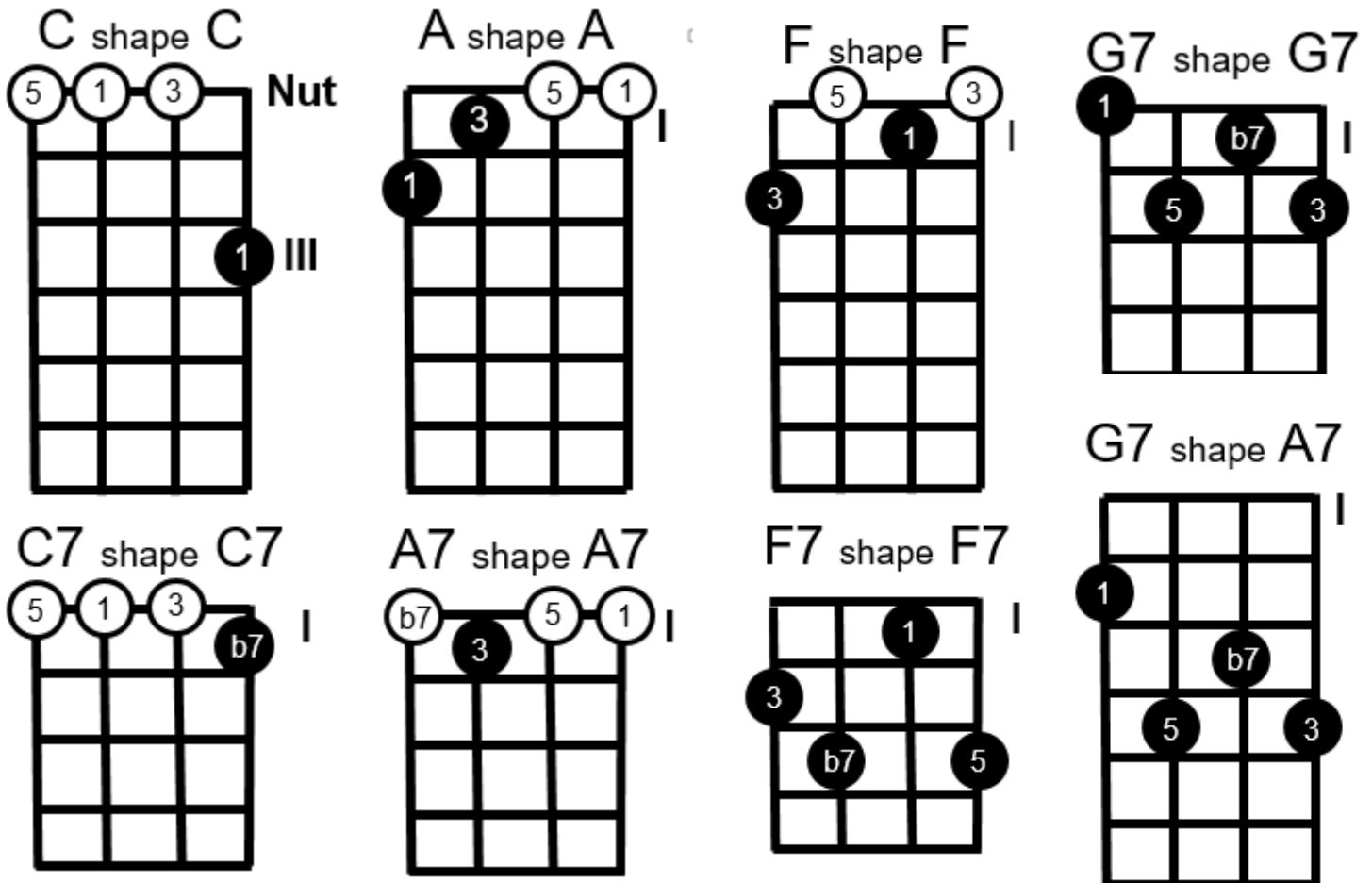
C on the first string is lowered 2 steps to Bb to create the C7

A on the 4th string is down 2 frets to G (b7)

F the 5 note C moved up 3 frets to Eb (b7)

The G7 shape is really the F shape moved up and the root lowered on the 2nd string lowered 2 frets to the b7. The root is found on the 4th string – for G, it's played open – the note can also be omitted

C major scale	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
Numbered:	<u>1</u>	2	<u>3</u>	4	<u>5</u>	6	7	1
Major chord =	1	3	5					
C Major chord =	C	E	G					
C7 th chord =	1	3	5	b7				
C7 th chord =	C	E	G	Bb				



We have encountered a 4445 – C7 shaped E7 in the Malted Milk intro and one turnaround – the root (E) is found on the 3rd string for this shape – you are already familiar with 2223 D7

The A7 shape has its root on the 1st string, so you can readily find it if you have learned the 1st string notes – a really useful thing to know about the ukulele –

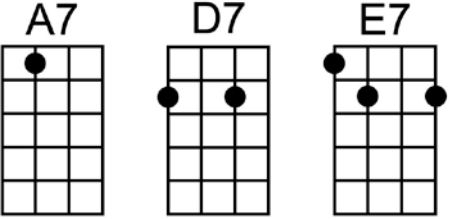
The F7 shape is also a movable chord shape that is guided by the root on the 2nd string. G7 at III, A7 is found at the V fret – we just used it in the next to last turnaround — where would we find Bb7? – This shape also gives rise to the G7 shape if the root is played on 4th string or omitted as we did while walking down the turnaround from A7 X434 to G7 X212

Think of the I chord as the “home” chord, the IV as the “away” chord and V as the “tension chord – when you change the I chord to I7, you add tension. Think tension-release.

Other chord shapes and progressions up the neck

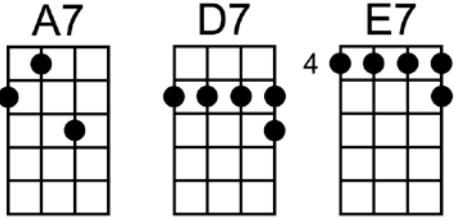
Knowing some of these can add interest to a song by moving to a different part of the fretboard to play the same chords. The location is guided by the location of the root. Certain strings are recommended to emphasize the tension in the b7-1

In the key of A



A7 **D7** **E7**

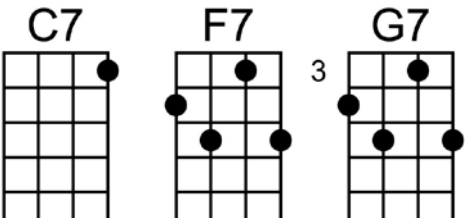
These chords you know – try others
This form of D7 lacks the D note



A7 **D7** **E7**

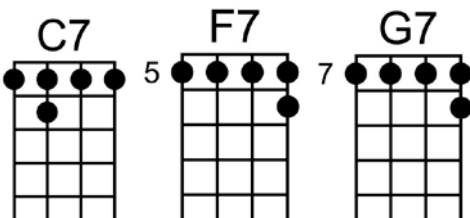
Play strings 1-2 for A7, 1-3 for D7 & E7
to emphasize the tension in the b7-1

In the key of C



C7 **F7** **G7**

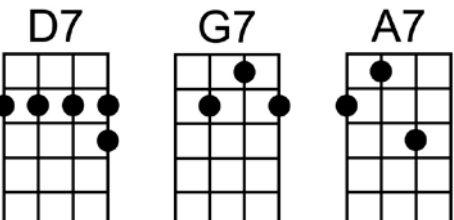
This G7 lets you walk down to F7



C7 **F7** **G7**

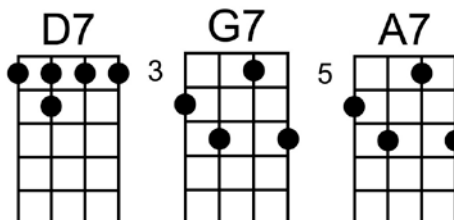
These movable chords cover all 4 strings

In the key of D



D7 **G7** **A7**

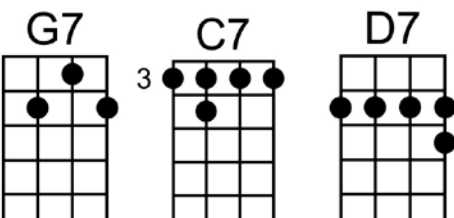
Forms at the nut, but using 2223 D



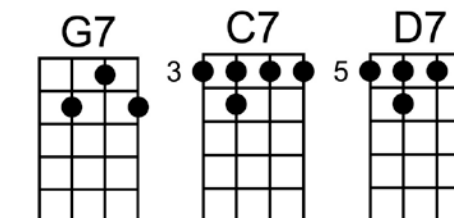
D7 **G7** **A7**

Chords used in C but 2 frets higher

In the key of G – which way of playing the chord progression works better for your ear?



G7 **C7** **D7**



G7 **C7** **D7**

RED RIVER BLUES

1924

CHARLES BOOKER JR.

C C7 F F7 First note=C
 Which way, which way does that blood-red river run?
 C G7 C
 From my back window to that risin' sun.

C C7 F F7
 Lord I left her, yes I left her. She treated me so unkind.
 C G7 C
 Kept me worryin' 'bout her all the time.

C C7 F F7
 Red River, Red River, please tell me what to do.
 C G7 C
 Ohhhh, ohhhh. I feel so sad and blue.

C C7 F F7
 I'm gonna sing these blues, then I ain't gonna sing no more.
 C G7 C
 The woman I love she drove me from my door.

C C7 F F7
 Well, I gave her a nickel. Then she stole my last dime.
 C G7 C
 Not a day she'd ease my troubled mind.

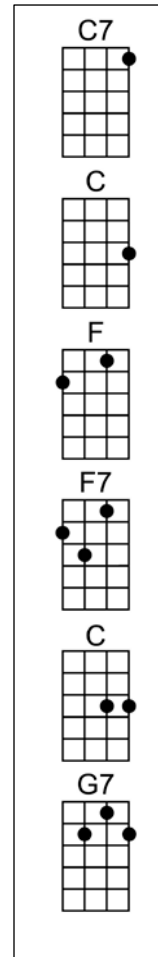
C C7 F F7
 Which way, which way does that blood-red river run?
 C G7 C
 From my back window to that risin' sun.

Intro:

C G7
 A -3-3-3--3-3-3--3-3-3--3- | -2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2- |
 E ----- | -1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1- |
 C ----- | -2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2- |
 G--3-----2-----1-----0- | ----- |

Variants for turnaround:

C C G7
 A -3---3---3---3---or---3-----3-----3----- | -2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2- |
 E ----- | -1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1- |
 C ----- | -2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2- |
 G--3---2---1---0-----3---3---2---2-----1---1---0- | ----- |



RED RIVER BLUES

1924

CHARLES BOOKER JR.

First note=A

A A7 D D7
Which way, which way does that blood-red river run?
A E7 A E7
From my back window to that risin' sun.

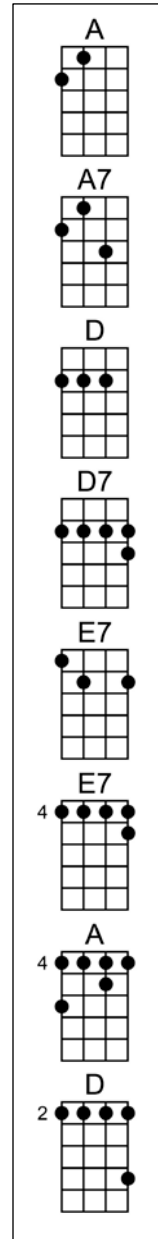
A A7 D D7
Lord I left her, yes I left her. She treated me so unkind.
A E7 A E7
Kept me worryin' 'bout her all the time.

A A7 D D7
Red River, Red River, please tell me what to do
A E7 A E7
Ohhhh, ohhhh. I feel so sad and blue.

A A7 D D7
I'm gonna sing these blues, then I ain't gonna sing no more.
A E7 A E7
The woman I love she drove me from my door.

A A7 D D7
Well, I gave her a nickel. Then she stole my last dime.
A E7 A E7
Not a day she'd ease my troubled mind.

A A7 D D7
Which way, which way does that blood-red river run?
A E7 A E7
From my back window to that risin' sun.



Intro A A E7
A -----|-----0-|-12-12-12-12-12-12-12-10-7-----|---5-5----7--5-|
E -5-7-8-9-5-|-3-2-1---0-|-----8-9---|---4-4-----4-|
C -----4-|-4-3-2-1-1-|-----9-|---4-4-----4-|
G--6-7-8-9-6-|-----2-2-|-----4-4-4-4-4-4-4-|

D7 D Turnaround
A ---3-3----5--3-|-0-----| |---4--0--2--0-|-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2|
E ---2-2-----2-|-0-3-2-3-2-1----| |---3--2--1--0-|-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0|
C ---2-2-----2-|-1-----0-1-| |---4--3--2--1--|-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2|
G -2-2-2--2---2-|-2-----2-| |-----|-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1|

SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD WALTER VINSON & LONNIE CHATMON
 Into below Strum=D DU UD 1930 First note=A

A A7
 Was in the summer one early fall

D D7
 Just tryin' to find my little all and all

A E7
 Now she's gone an' I don't worry

A E7 A E7
 Lord, I'm sittin' on top of the world

A A7
 One summer day, she went away

D D7
 She went and left me, now she gone to stay

A E7
 My baby's gone but I can't worry

A E7 A E7
 I'm sittin' on top of the world

INTRO	E7x4
A --0---0-----0-----0-----	-2-2-
E ----3---3-2---2-1---1-0-	-0-0-
C -----	-2-2-
G 2-----	-1-1-

A A7
 Worked all Summer, worked all Fall

D D7
 Had to take Christmas, in my overalls

A E7
 But now she gone and I don't gonna worry

A E7 A E7
 I'm sittin' on top of the world

A A7
 I'm going down to the station, down in the yard,

D D7
 Gonna catch me a freight train, work done got hard

A E7
 But now she gone and I don't worry

A E7 A E7
 I'm sittin' on top of the world

A
 A7
 D
 D7
 D7
 E7

Solo					
A -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
E -----	-----	-----	-----	-----8--8-----	---8--8-----
C --1-2-/4-	-4-4---0h1-	-4-4-4-4-2-2-2-2-	-4-----	---7-9--9--9-7--	-9--9--9--7-9
G 2-----	-----2-----	-----	---4b5-5-2-	-9-----9-	-----9--

The Blues Scale – for melody and improvisation

A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A - all the notes

The A major scale: A B C# D E F# G# A – use 221-2221

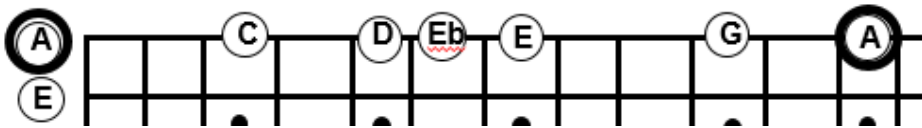
Position in major scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

Position in major scale: **1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 1 - use 3 2 1 1 3 2**

the A blues scale: A C D D# E G A

Let's find this scale on the first string – all except Eb are on the **fret markers**

Play the blues scale in a linear fashion, up the neck – begin at the nut - 1st string A- The notes are shown by the fret marker dots- the b5 added at the 6th fret. (D#=Eb)

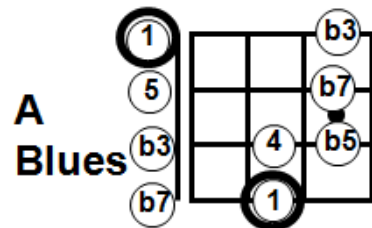
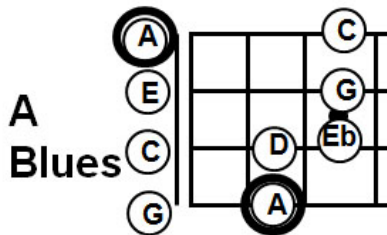


Notes



Position in scale

You can also play this scale at the nut in a more compact way, shown below. Note that the root, A is found on both the 1st and 4th strings. This pattern is sometimes called a “blues box” – you know these notes – play till you recognize the b7-1 and b3 4 b5



You can use these notes to play over blues progressions. Let's try to use this pattern in a little blues riff, or phrase.



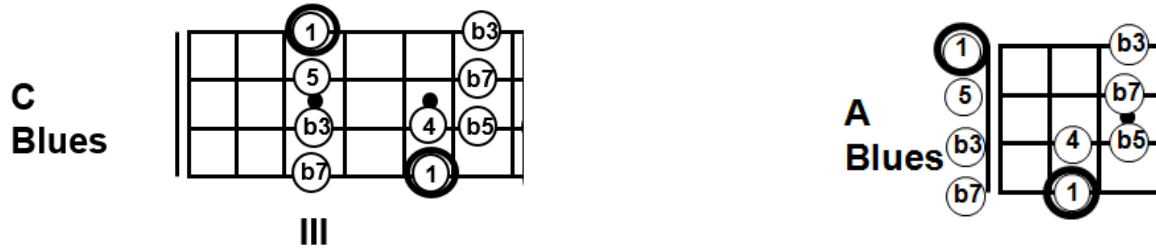
Play it and think about the notes and the number relationship of those notes
We walk up the blues scale and then back down 1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 5 4 b3 1 1 1 b7 5

However, it is more important to remember the flavor of the note – the b3, b5 & b7 are blue notes. Hear the **1-b3** interval, then the **4-b5-5** and then the **b7-1**

Now, let's look at the **C blues scale** **C Eb F Gb G Bb C** - find the scale on the 3rd string C - as with the A blues scale, starts on open C at the nut. See scale positions.



We can play the C blues scale by moving the pattern we just learned for the A scale up 3 frets – Compare it to the A blues scale at the nut. Visualize the “box”. Play this pattern until you can play it with your eyes closed – or open.



With the b3 away from the nut, we can bend this note – play with 1-b3. If we look for the blues notes below the III fret, we find a lower extension of the box that almost mirrors the first pattern. If we look at the position in the scale, the notes look like the figure on the right. Play the upper” box”, then the lower box.



Now, let's use this pattern to play the same blues riff, now in the key of C

Listen and think about the position in scale for these notes – walk up the scale: 1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 and back down 5 4 b3 1, and ending with the octave to 1 b7 5

What if we began at the open third string and used the lower part of the pattern

This allows the end of the riff to be played an octave lower - has a stronger sound. Try this blues riff using only the third string – improvise, using the same notes

Play any of the blues songs in C and find the melody in this scale – try improvising, just stay in the scale. We can play through all chords without any dissonant notes.

Let's play the bass riff in Muddy Water's song - Hoochie Coochie Man
 This uses C, Eb (D#), and F - the root (1), the flatted 3rd and the 4th.

The blues scale pattern can be used to play blues in any key – moving the root (C in this example) on the 1st string. Move up to the fifth fret and you are in D. Up 2 more frets and you're in E. As long as you play notes in this pattern, you won't hear any dissonance. You may find yourself bending the b5 up to the 5 note. Make up some small segments - just stay in the pattern and noodle around - have fun.

Let's try **Spoonful** by Willie Dixon sung by Howlin' Wolf. This uses notes from the C blues scale only - "It could be a spoonful of..." Initially, it stays in the higher part of the scale, starting on the 5th -G (to root 1-C). Listen to the recording.

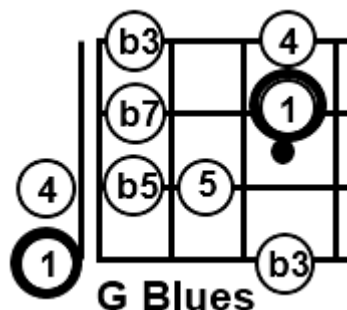
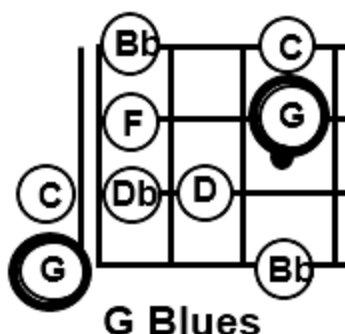
Then the melody walks down the blues scale and finally it plays the root 1-b3 spoonful C-Eb lick

If you want to play along with the recording, Howlin' Wolf plays it in E, not C. No problem, just move the pattern from the 3rd to the 7th fret (1st string E) – you can play any licks you want as long as you follow this pattern – try bending some notes by pushing the string to increase pitch – on “blue” notes – b3, b5, and b7. Improvise – then come back to the melody using the blues scale.

Another song that illustrates the blues scale for melody is “You Got to Move” – this begins on the root and moves to b3, 4,5. The end of the verse is found at the b7 to 1 and then repeated. Work to get the blues scale in your “ear”.

The first instrument for improvisation was a “diddley bow” – made of wire from an old broom, nailed on the barn. A bottle might be wedged beneath it to create tension in the string and notes played using a glass bottleneck slide. This freed the musician to find the note that best fit the feeling or song by having an instrument without frets like a fiddle. This needn't change with another stringed instrument. The blues scale is available and some notes will sound better over some chords than others. Players may choose to add the 2,3 and 6 to the six note blues scale for more freedom of expression. This also may lead to dissonance. When this happens, resolve to the note in the blues scale. Take “You Got To Move” and improvise different variations of the melody staying in the blues scale. Experiment with the 2,3 and 6 to see how they might be used as a note in passing. Mississippi Fred McDowell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtlVSedpIRU>

Finally, let's look at playing some **blues in G**. The best way to see this is just to move the form we used in the key of A down two steps. Play the melody line to Big Road Blues. You will need the 6 note, E, to make it work. You could record yourself and play solo over the chords or ask someone else to accompany you. or Big Bill Broonzy Key to the Highway https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN_f0WVSHuw in G



Remember, that you have the G blues scale in a linear fashion on the 4th string. Run the scale up the 4th string and play Big Road blues – bend some notes too.

The Blues Scale – how to find it for any key using a formula for steps moved

We can find the C major scale using 221-2221 for the number of steps moved

C Db D Eb E F Gb G Ab A Bb B C - all of the notes

C 2 D 2 E 1 F 2 G 2 A 2 B 1 C - applying the 221 2221

C D E F G A B C - C major scale is C D E F G A B C

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 - relative position in scale

A B C# D E F# G# A -A major scale is A B C# D E F# G# A

For the blues scale, let's use a different formula than 221 2221...

Use : **3 2 1 - 1 3 2** (steps) - Let's start with the key of C

First, write all possible notes C Db D Eb E F Gb G Ab A Bb B C

use the formula: **C 3 Eb 2 F 1 Gb 1 G 3 Bb 2 C**

C blues scale is **C Eb F Gb G Bb C**

position in major scale: 1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 1

Therefore, the C blues scale is **C Eb F Gb G Bb C**

This method will work for the blues scale in any key – try it for the the key of A

Find the A blues scale: write all of the notes A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A

use the formula for the blues scale 32-11-32 **A 3 C 2 D1D# 1E 3 G 2 A**

A blues scale is **A C D D# E G A**

Position in major scale: 1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 1

Therefore, the A blues scale is **A C D D# E G A** – let's look for it on the first string.

Listen for the root note in a blues song and find the blue note **1-b3** – then the **4-b5-5** and finally the **b7-1**. You may want to bend these flatted notes for effect.

Position in major scale: **1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 1**

Deriving the scale can also be very useful if you want to transpose

Transpose a song from one key to another – let's say it is in C and you'd like it in A

C D E F G A B C - C major scale is C D E F G A B C

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 - relative position in scale

A B C# D E F# G# A -A major scale. Now, it's like a code, just substitute the corresponding note for note – for chords, you need the chorded scale – see page1

YOU GOT TO MOVE

1940

UNKNOWN

C
C7
 You got to move, you got to move
F
C
 You got to move child, you got to move
 C
 G7
C
 Cause when the Lord gets ready, you got to move.

C
C7
 You may be high, you may be low
F
C
 You may be rich child, you may be poor
 C
 G7
C
 Cause when the Lord gets ready, you got to move.

C
C7
 You see that woman, who walks the street
F
C
 You see that police, upon his beat
 C
 G7
C
 Cause when the Lord gets ready, you got to move.

Solo

C
C7
 You got to move, you got to move
F
C
 You got to move child, you got to move
 C
 G7
C
 Cause when the Lord gets ready, you got to move.

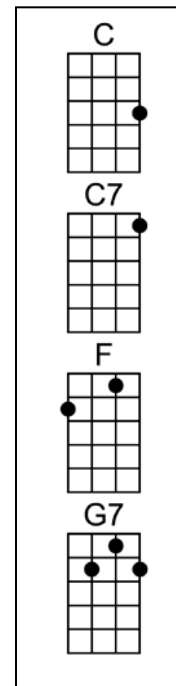
Intro- also at end of verse

A	-3-3-3-3-1-	-----	
E	-----3-2-1-	-----	
C	-----3-0-	-----	
G	-----3-0-0-	-----	

Solo over melody below

A	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	
E	-----1-3-		-3-3-	-----		-3-3-3-3-1-		-3-	-----	
C	-0-3b4-	-----		-----0-3b4-	-----		-----3-3-0-	-----		-----0-3b4-3-0-
G	-----		-----		-----		-----0-2-	-----		-----3-0-
										-----3-3-

First note=C



TROUBLE IN MIND

1924

RICHARD M. JONES

First Note=A

D A7 D G
 Trouble in mind, I'm blue, but I won't be blue always,
 D A7 D A7
 You know the sun's gonna shine in my backdoor some day.

D A7 D G
 I'm all alone at midnight and my lamp is burnin' low
 D A7 D A7
 I ain't never had so much trouble in my mind before.

D A7 D G
 Trouble in mind, it's true I have almost lost my mind,
 D A7 D A7
 When I get a little up front, I always end up behind.

D A7 D G
 I'm goin' down to the river, I'm gonna take my rockin' chair
 D A7 D A7
 And if the blues don't leave me, I'm gonna rock away from there.

Solo

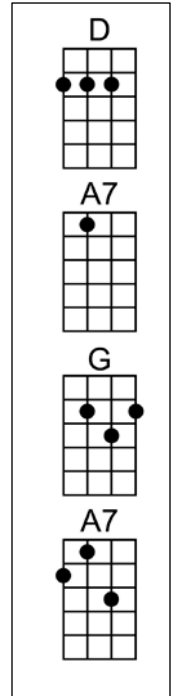
D A7 D G
 Yeah I got trouble, trouble, oh trouble, I got trouble on my weary mind,
 D A7 D A7
 When you see me laughin', I'm laughin' just to keep from cryin'.

D A7 D G
 I'm gonna lay my head, on some lonesome railroad line
 D A7 D A7
 And let that 2:19 pacify my mind

Intro: A7
 5-5-5-5-5-5-5-5- | -0- |
 ----- | -3- |
 ----- | -1- |
 --5---4---3---2- | -2- |

D A7 D G
 Trouble in mind, I'm blue, but I won't be blue always,
 D A7 D
 Cause you know the sun's gonna shine in my backdoor someday

D A7 D
 I said the sun's gonna shine in my backdoor someday



Solo: D		A	D6	D	G	A7	D
-----	-----	-0-	-0-0-2-0-	-----	-2-	-----	-----
-----2-	-2-2-2-	-0-	-----2---	-2-0-----	-3-	-----	-5-4-5-3---
-----	-2-2-2-	-1-	-----2---	-2---2-2-	-2-	-----2-----	-----1-1-
-2-4-2--	-2-2-2-	-2-	-----2---	-2-----	-0--	-4-4-2---	-2-2-2-2-2-

Blues Lesson 3 Review Questions –try without the materials, then use anything you need

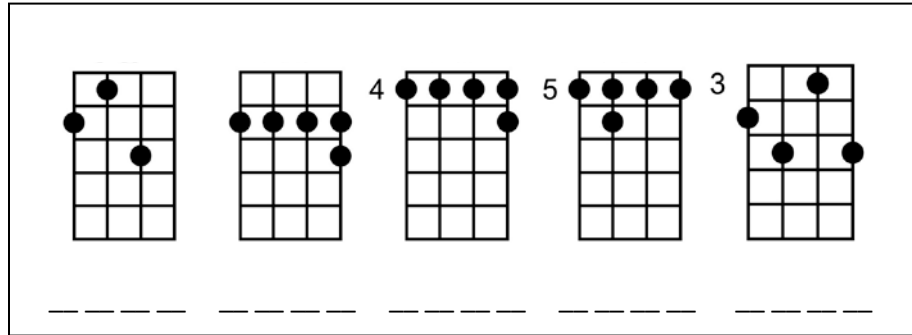
1. If you play the C blues scale up the neck on the 3rd string, what frets are you using? _ _ _ _ _

2. The numbers of the notes of the blues scale are: _ _ _ _ _

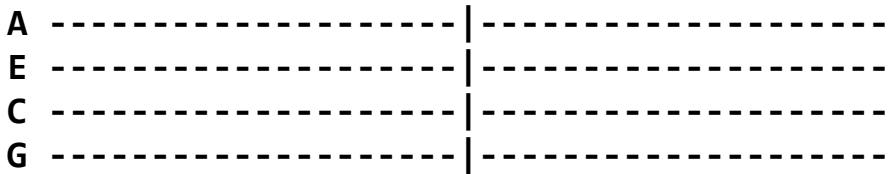
3. Apply the blues scale to the key of C _ _ _ _ _

4. Apply the blues scale to the key of G _ _ _ _ _

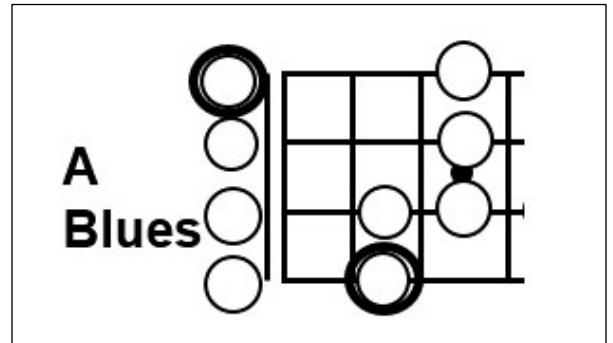
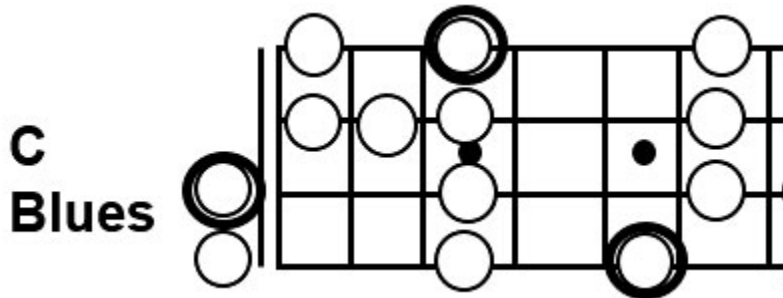
5. Identify the notes in each chord –



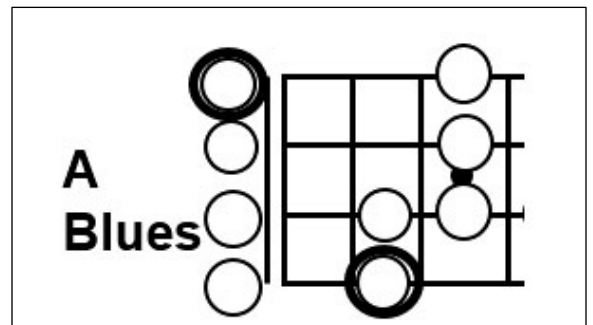
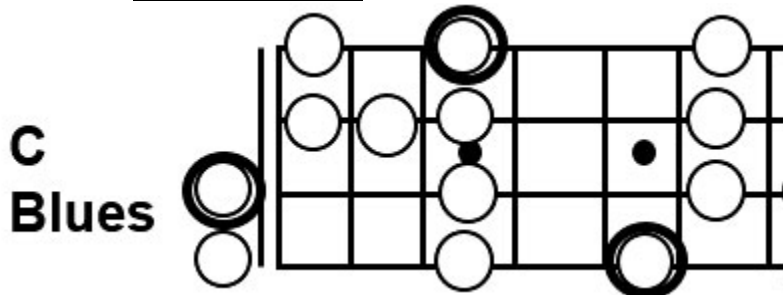
6. Tab out a blues phrase using the C blues scale starting on the open 3rd string – try playing it



7. Show the numbers of the notes in the C and A blues scales



8. Show the names of the notes in the C and A blues scales



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER - now that you have the skill set, put together a performance.

Pick a song

Pick a song that resonates with you and that you can sing. It doesn't need to tell your life's story, but a song you could feel comfortable singing. Let's take for example See See Rider.

Get off book

Play through the song, and feel the chord changes. Learn these so that you don't need the lead sheet to play the song. Then, verse by verse, memorize the lyrics. It may help to create a visual picture to help you remember them. You may need to create one picture or phrase for each verse so that you will get to the next. Remember that you don't have to use all of the verses - write one of your own if you want. Old Crow Medicine Show plays a version that substitutes Hey, hey, hey, hey for the last line of the verse. Recite the words while you are working out or in the car. Fit the words to you, gender wise. Now, you've got a story to tell. spots. Sing them out. Verse 1 – you made me love you, now your man... Verse 2 - Goin' away baby...won't be back. Surely there was a time you felt that your love was not truly appreciated.

Learn the melody

If you aren't clear on the melody, listen to it by several artists until you have it. Then find the melody in the key provided to make sure that you can sing those notes. It would be useful to know the highest note you can comfortably sing. If the key is one that your voice will match, learn the melody on the uke and sing along until you know the melody. If you can't hit some of the notes, you may have to transpose the piece to another key. We learned to do this in the first session – it is shown again on the previous page. See See Rider works for me in C - also, the b3 [Eb] falls on the 3rd string, 3rd fret. It might be better in the key of F – Work out the chords for F using the relative chords I =F, IV=Bb, V7=C7. Then, play through the song with the new chords, and get the melody under your fingers in the new key. Make sure that the melody fits your vocal range.

I	I	I	I7
IV	IV	IV	I
V7	IV	I	V7

Develop a Solo

Using the melody line and the blues scale, decide where in the song you want to play a solo, or even if you want to have a solo. It adds variety, and allows you to grow as a player. Try it out anyway. Often, the notes of the solo follow the melody line and allows you to have some fun with it - stay in the blues scale while elaborating on the melody. Find the especially the b3, but also the b5 and b7. Try bending these notes as you play them in your solo, particularly if they fall on an emphasized word, like the last word of a line. You don't want to be bending everything, but a little will really put some soul in your solo. You may want to try some non-blues scale notes such as the 6 and 2 of the scale in places. Some songs are well suited to you fingerpicking your way through the chord progression for a solo that adds variety and a lot of sound. Listen to how others have approached this solo – like Freddie King in this nice rendition in the key of C on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wj5qXe1fAFk>. Play along and rock out.

Develop an intro and outro and decide on turnarounds

You could use a turnaround as an intro - perhaps up the neck for added interest. You could also just use a straightforward turnaround that you've already mastered. Think about how you'd like to end the song. You could play the final verse turnaround, followed by the V7 chord, then the I chord. You could then play the IV and I chords as an concluding phrase. You could choose to slow down the final turnaround, followed by a single V7 I – or add a IV I at the end to let it resolve. You also need to play through the song and decide if you want to play a turnaround for each verse. That would be traditional, but it's your song. Play what you want.

Strumming/picking pattern

This is something that the song will "tell" you. Try playing it using the pinch blues shuffle, maintaining the beat with your thumb - perhaps adding some syncopation between your thumb and fingers for added interest. Let your thumb pick the downbeat and your fingers the upbeat, then let them come back together. It may be that the song would sound better with fingerpicking - try it out. A bluegrass type "boom chick" strum pattern may also work best for some songs – Folsom Prison Blues, for example. Use the 4th string for the “boom” and the rest of the strings for the “chick”. Strum this with the back of your index fingernail or a pick.

Put it all together

How does it work when it is all together? Play it for others - with others. Record yourself and listen for parts that could be improved. Take 2 - repeat. Once you have a final version, repeat the song multiple times that day until you have all parts happening without written support. Then, repeat this the next day, again in a week and again in 2 weeks. It should be yours. When you play your song with others, trade off playing the solo and turnarounds versus the chords till you can put them together. If you are playing chords behind a solo, you are responsible for the melody, so sing the song silently to yourself while playing the chords so that you give the soloist the correct chord timing. Start with a slow cadence, then find the best

Develop a set

Why stop with one? Once you have one song together, use the same process with another until you have three anyway. In this way, you can play these songs at an open mic if there is an opportunity. Put something up on YouTube if you want. Playing a song can be different when you are sitting on your couch versus playing the same song with others versus in front of a mic or with an audience. Good to get those experiences too – but best to be ready.

Practice

Plenty of different ways to practice –directed practice with a plan – you are not just playing. You could try this: Play the chord progression for A with intro and turnaround. Then find it at another spot on the neck. Play arpeggios – sequential notes of chords to ensure clarity. Play the blues scale for the key of A in two places – improvise over a melody in A. Then move to C. Practice what you can't play - Practice until you can't get it wrong - Practice slow, then faster Congratulate yourself for your discipline and creativity...and your heartfelt interpretations.

SEE SEE RIDER

1924

MA RAINEY & LENA ARANT

First note=E

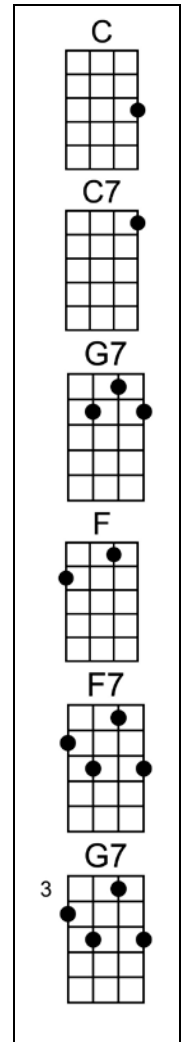
C **C7**
 See see rider, see what you have done
F **C**
 See see rider, see what you have done
G7 **F** **C** **G7**
 You made me love you, now your man has come

C **C7**
 Well, I'm going away, baby, I won't be back 'till fall
F **C**
 I'm going away, baby, I won't be back 'till fall
G7 **F** **C** **G7**
 If I find me a good girl, I won't be back at all

 Solo

C **C7**
 See see rider, where'd you stay last night?
F **C**
 See see rider, where'd you stay last night?
G7 **F** **C** **G7**
 Your shoes ain't tied and your clothes don't fit you right

C **C7**
 See see rider, the moon is shinin' bright
F **C**
 See see rider, the moon is shinin' bright
G7 **F** **C** **F** **C**
 Just might find me a good girl an' everything will be alright



Intro/ turnaround

Intro/ turnaround		Alternate	
C	G7	C	G7
A -3-3---3-3---3-3---3-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	---3-----3-----3---3-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-
E -----	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-	-0---0-1---1-2--2-3-	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-
C -----	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	-----	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-
G--3-3---2-2---1-1---0-	-----	-0-----2-----1-----0-	-----

Solo - work from melody line

A -----	-----	-----
E -0-----0-----	-----	--0-----0-----
C ---2-0-----2-0-----	-----2-0-2-3-2-0-----	---2-0---3---0-2-0-
G -----0-----0-3b4-	-0-1-2-----0-2-0-	-0-----2-----

BIG BOSS MAN

1960

LUTHER DIXON & AL SMITH D

Intro: uke below

First note=E

A A7
 Big boss man, can't you hear me when I call?
 D A
 Big boss man, can't you hear me when I call?
 E7 D7 A E7
 You ain't so big, you just tall, that's just about all.

A
 You got me working boss man, a-workin' around the clock,
 A A7
 I want a little drink of whiskey, you sure won't let me stop.
 D A
 Big boss man, can't you hear me when I call?
 E7 D7 A E7
 You ain't so big, you just tall, that's just about all.

Solo - harp

A
 I'm gonna get me a boss man, one gonna treat me right,
 A A7
 I work hard in the daytime, sure get stoned at night.
 D A
 Big boss man, can't you hear me when I call?
 E7 D7 A
 You ain't so big, you just tall, that's just about all.

Uke outro

INTRO

A	----	4-----	4-----		-----	4-----	4-----	0-		--0-2-0--		-----	0-		-2-2-2---		
E	-----	-----	-----		-----	-----	-----	-----		-2----	0--		-3-3-2-2-1-1-0-		-0-0-0---		
C	-2h4---	4--4--	4--4-2--		-2h4---	4--4--	4----	----		-----	1--		-4-4-3-3-2-2-1-		-2-2-2---		
G	-----	-----	-----		-----	-----	-----	-----		-----	2--		-----	2-		-1-1-1---	

A shuffle

A	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-	
E	-0-0--2-2--3-3--2-2-	
C	-2-2--1-1--2-2--1-1-	
G	-1-1--2-2--1-1--2-2-	

D shuffle

A	-0-0--2-2--3-3--2-2-	
E	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	
C	-0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0-	
G	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-	

E7 lick

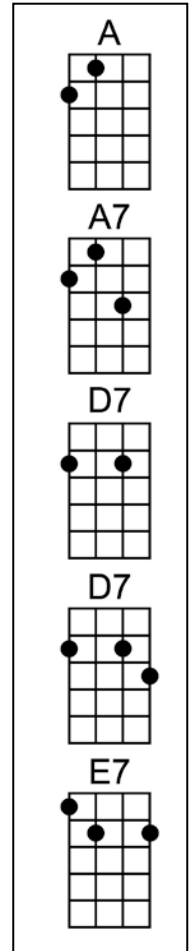
A	-2-----3-0-----	
E	-0-3b4-0--0--2---3-0-0-----	
C	-2-----2---0-----2-0--	
G	-1-----2-----2-----2	

Turnaround

A	-4----0----0-2--0- -2-
E	-3----2-2--1-1--0- -0-
C	-4----3-3--2-2--1- -2-
G	-----2- -1-

Alternative turnaround

A	-4-----
E	----5---5-7-5-----
C	-----6-----6-4-4-
G	-----



BACK-WATER BLUES

1927

BESSIE SMITH

First note=E

A D A A7
When it rains five days and skies turn dark as night

D A A7
When it rains five days and skies turn dark as night

E7 D7 A E7
There's trouble's takin' place in the lowlands at night

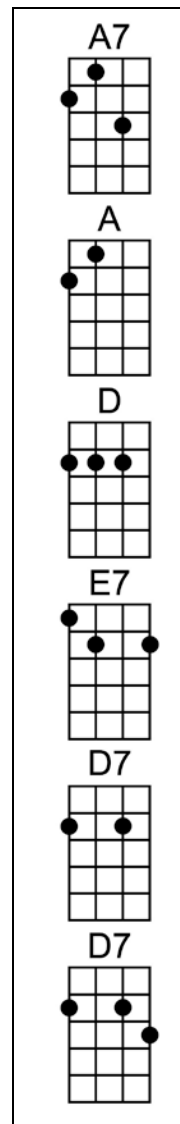
I woke up this mornin', can't even get out of my door
I woke up this mornin', can't even get out of my door
There's been so much trouble, make a poor girl wonder where she wanna go

When it thunders and lightnin' and the wind begins to blow
When it thunders and lightnin' and the wind begins to blow
There's thousands of people ain't got no where to go

The backwater blues done call me to pack my things and go
The backwater blues done call me to pack my things and go
'cause my house fell down, can't live there no more, no more

Oh, the rain's pourin' baby, yes I went out to the lonesome
High old lonesome hill I went out, high old lonesome hill
I looked down on that place where I used to live

When it rains five days and skies turn dark as night
When it rains five days and skies turn dark as night
There's trouble's takin' place in the lowlands at night



INTRO WALKDOWN

E7

A7

A

A	---	12-12-12-12-12-12-12-12-		-----	2--2-2--2-2--2-2		-0--0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0			
E	---	-----		-----	0-0--0-0--0-0--0-0		-3--3-3--3-3--3-3--0-0			
C	---	-----		-2-3--	2--0-2--2-2--2-2		-1--1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1			
G	-2---	12----	11----	10----	9-		-----	1--1-1--1-1--1-1		-2--2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2

...

E7 bend

D7

A

TURNAROUND

OR

ALTERNATIVE

E7

A	-0-2-----		---0-0-----		-0-		--0---0---0----		---0---0---0-----		-2-
E	---0-3b4-0-		-2---2-3b4----		-0-		-3-3-2-2-1-1---		-3-3-2-2-1-1----		-0-
C	---2-----		-----0-----0-2-		-1-		-4---3---2---1-		-----h1-		-2-
G	---1-----		-----2-----		-2-		-----2-		-2---2---2---h2-		-1-

Listen and Learn

Listening is the best way to get the sound in your “ear” – and rhythm in your foot

Some great examples – explore the net to find others

Songs in the Book

			Key
Bob Dylan	Baby Let me Follow You Down	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgJ9oUX1pbA	E
Blind Boy Fuller	Baby Let me Lay it on You	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRaMIK89-NA	Bb
Pink Anderson	Baby Please Don't Go	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QjTGFSa97M	G
Lightnin' Hopkins	Baby, Please Don't Go	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lK5zYI86wIw	F#
Jimmy Reed	Baby, What You Want...	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JveYg57Brxc&list=RDJveYg57Brxc	E
John Mayall & Bluesbreakers	Baby, What You Want...	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BS8nat56644	A
Bessie Smith	Back Water Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gXShOJVwaM	A
Jerry Garcia	Been All Around This World	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFxyjaH4fM0	E
Jimmy Reed	Big Boss Man	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-61BuUZGSOY	E
Grateful Dead	Big Boss Man	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqhemmeAZAA	E
Tommy Johnson	Big Road Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5oVMdQW_x0	D
Jim Kweskin	Blues In The Bottle	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29kpPcga_uk	A
Mance Lipscomb	Come Back Baby	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hLlkrqSWw8	Bb
Dave Van Ronk	Come back baby	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjzripSkJf8	A
Blind Willie McTell	Come on Down to My House	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtC3tZga3hs	G
Robert Johnson	Come on In My Kitchen	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vdDGV_6Ueo	Bb
Bob Dylan	Corrina, Corrina	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r57LWTBZDE	F#
Sonny Terry & Brownie	Crow Jane/ Red River Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLKvn6WRwQM	F
Grateful Dead	Deep Elem	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qx1LqnJLj8	E
Tommy Emmanuel	Deep River Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q316r10jT8	A
Bob Dylan	Delis'a Gone	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55_XV28ci8o	C
Johnny Cash	Folsom Prison Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xyp63MaSBs	E
Elizabeth Cotten	Freight Train	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43-UUeCa6Jw	F
Grateful Dead	Goin' Down the Road	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCAMsqx3q3M	E
Doc Watson	Honey Babe Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWTVGWPfMvg	D
Big Mama Thornton	Hound Dog	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxoGvBQtjPM	Eb
Leroy Carr	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXtvuz5S9PM	Eb
Jim Bruce	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpgOBWBdGow	A
Pinetop Perkins	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAln3RQ_joU	C
Otis Rush	I Can't Quit You Baby	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy2tEP3I3DM	Bb
Ray Charles	I Got a Woman	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bbqks4aGOM8	A
Freddie King	I'm Tore Down	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJvpWZeg_NM	D
Eric Clapton	It Hurts Me Too	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBrvdQuBWTM	D
Big Bill Broonzy	Key to the Highway	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN_f0WVsHuw	G
Sonny Terry Brownie McGhee	Key to the Highway	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_xnOhXIpHg	F
Eric Clapton	Key to the Highway	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRleIS1E6Vk	A
Robert Johnson	Kind Hearted Woman	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82yNxiF-T4A	B
Eric Clapton	Kind Hearted Woman	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmoRtWq5CrQ	G
Mississippi John Hurt	Louis Collins	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGpm6cmknOA	A
Jerry Garcia & David Grisman	Louis Collins	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgTDhoZZrX8	C
Robert Johnson	Love in Vain	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BkPm8JIJJQ	A
Robert Johnson	Malted Milk	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEVsDuv1Upl	Eb
Eric Clapton	Malted Milk	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngNUNi94gVA	E
Mississippi John Hurt	Make Me A Pallet	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39RBm4tH9cA	C
Leadbelly	Midnight Special	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hNNYETOofQ	A
Grateful Dead	New Minglewood Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zq_FhPSDIEQ	E

Scrapper Blackwell	Nobody Knows You	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=626pNZB8xXE	C
Fred Neil	Other Side of this Life	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cnk7mc9m1oo	E
Stevie Ray Vaughan	Pride And Joy	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfjXp4KTTY8	E
John Jackson	Red River Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OT_aaAtFr0	A
W. C. Handy	St. Louis Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSuTTSOctGw	Bb
Doug Duffey	St. James Infirmary	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kY4sqoUBeM	D
Jesse Fuller	San Francisco Bay Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBME_J0pf3o	E
Eric Clapton	San Francisco Bay Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKi3ruCmZxk	C
Freddie King	See See Rider	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wj5qXe1fAFk	C
John Mayall & all stars	See See Rider	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcBrSa7ypL8	C
Blind Lemon Jefferson	See That My Grave Is Kept..	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pX3mxiptyBc	E
The Mississippi Sheiks	Sitting on Top of The World	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqeW7-tmVU4	G
Memphis Jug Band	Stealin'	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzTcl8PtjrQ	G
Mance Lipscomb	Sugar Babe	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pbrHNDyjl8	F
All Stars	Sweet Home Chicago	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEmvBdRLg4k	E
Billie Holiday	T'aint Nobody's Business	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4FsxtlGi3k	B
B.B King	Thrill is Gone	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPIsqo2bk2M	Dbm
Richard m. Jones	Trouble in Mind	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrF8HVrt2os	D
Robert Johnson	Walkin' Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEsQikthT3Q	B
Roy Rogers	Walkin' Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW08Rc802MQ	D
Blind Boy Fuller	Weeping Willow	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_MzmRRVB2w	C
Leroy Carr	When the Sun Goes Down	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYVZ1-tuka8	Eb
Big Bill Broonzy	When the Sun ..	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fpdBHMo_VM	G
Buddy Guy & Eric Clapton	Worried Life Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvablVB5Ee4	C
Big Maceo Merriweather	Worried Life Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UQfavAQZQI	C
Mississippi Fred McDowell	You Got To Move	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtlVSEdPIRU	Eb

Other great stuff

Big Bill Broonzy	3 Songs	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-pShRISHnQ	E
Howlin' Wolf	Spoonful	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykb4TPIH6Ow	E
Sonny Boy Williamson I	Sugar Mama	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htKDQTPllHw	A
Taj Mahal	Blues ain't Nothin'	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ztzt4T80Fk	G
Koko Taylor	Wang Dang Doodle	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBsrX40fiX0	D
Willie Dixon	Spoonful	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HMafOfhAus	G
Blind Boy Fuller	Step It Up And Go	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbQa-SsjD0A	G
Howlin' Wolf	Back Door Man	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVIA1n5ng4Y	G
Muddy Waters	Got My Mojo Workin'	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gNs-29s-0Q	E
Howlin' Wolf	Smokestack Lightnin'	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTDjD_UdJYs	D
Big Mama Thornton	Let's Go Get Stoned	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spkcAjt-TKU	Bb
Elvis Presley	That's Alright Mama	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCP_g7X31nI	A

I have done my best to pull the key played off the YouTube clip using my uke. The artist may have tuned down a step or two, or capoed up to get that sound. There may be links that are not current. We are fortunate to have any of these.

Blues Lesson 1 Review Questions –try without the materials, then use them

1. What is the I, IV, V7 chord progression in the key of A? A D E7 A scale is A B C# D E F# G# A
2. Chord progressions in blues music often use 7 (dominant 7th) chords for the I, IV and V chords T
3. What are the notes in a 7th chord? 1 3 5 b7
 What are the notes in a C7 chord? C E G Bb C scale is C D E F G A B C
4. The best way to stay on the beat is to Tap your foot (best concept in the course)
5. The rhythm for many blues songs is called a shuffle rhythm ?
6. The phrase of music used to end a verse or the song is called the turnaround

7. Diagram the strumming pattern for a blues feel – use D, 2 strums per beat (|1e+a| is a beat)

| 1 e + a | 2 e + a | 3 e + a | 4 e + a |
 | D D | D D | D D | D D |

8. What chords would you use to play How Long Blues in the key of C?

A scale is A B C# D E F# G# A A Bm C#m D E F#m G#dim A chorded scale (write #'s below)
 C scale is C D E F G A B C I ii iii IV V vi viidim I
 Chorded scale C Dm Em F G Am B⁰
 Relative chord # I IIm ii iim IV V vim vii⁰ I Now, transpose How Long into the Key of C - fill in the []

A [C] A7 [C7]

How long, baby how long,

D [F] D7 [F7]

Has that evening train been gone?

A [C] E7 [G7] A [C] E7 [G7]

How long, how how long, baby how long?

Here are the two songs we are working on:

Leroy Carr plays How Long in Eb, Pinetop in C and Jim Bruce Blues lesson is in A – play along with it in A and then try it in C with Pinetop. Baby What you .. is played by Jimmy Reed in E –You can play along with John Mayall in A

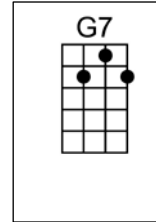
			Key
Leroy Carr	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXtvuz5S9PM	Eb
Jim Bruce	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpgOBWBdGow	A
Pinetop Perkins	How Long Blues	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAln3RQ_joU	C
Jimmy Reed	Baby, What You Want...	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JveYg57Brxc&list=RDJveYg57Brxc	E
John Mayall & Bluesbreakers	Baby, What You Want...	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BS8nat56644	A

Blues Lesson 2 Review Questions –try without the materials, then use anything you need

1. Name 3 places to use a turnaround ___Intro ___end of verse_____ ___end of song_____

2. The numbers of the notes from a major scale in a 7th chord are: _1_ _3_ 5 _b7_

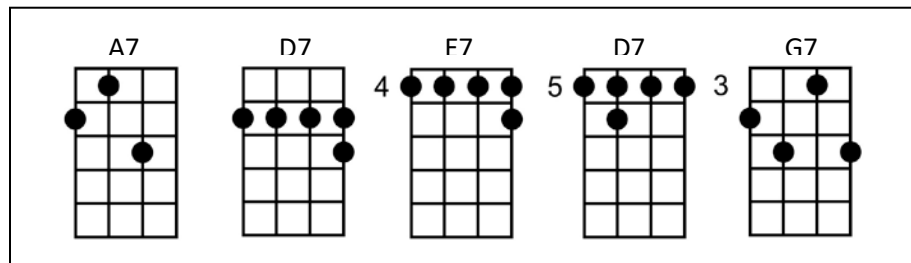
3. The root (1 note) for the indicated shaped chord is on what string?



4 (G string)

4. A chord shape that covers all 4 strings is considered movable T F

5. Identify each chord:



6. Tab out a turnaround in C

C

G7

```
A -3 -3 ---3 -3 ---3 -3 ---3- | -2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2- |
E ----- | -1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1- |
C ----- | -2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2- |
G--3 -3 ---2 -2 ---1 -1 ---0- | ----- |
```

7. Transpose See See Rider to the Key of A

Numbered scale 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

C major scale is : C D E F G A B C

A major scale is :A B C# D E F# G# A

Chorded Scale in C is: C Dm Em F G Am Bdim C

Chorded Scale in A is: _A_ _Bm_ _C#m_ _D_ _E_ _F#m_ _Gdim_ _A

C [A]

C7 [A7]

See see rider, see what you have done

F [D]

C [A]

See see rider, see what you have done

G7 [E7]

F [D]

C [A]

G7 [E7]

You made me love you, now your man has come

Blues Lesson 3 Review Questions –GCEA Answers

1. If you play the C blues scale up the neck on the 3rd string, what frets are you using? 0 3 5 6 7 10 12

2. The numbers of the notes of the blues scale are: 1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 1

3. Apply the blues scale to the key of C C E_b F G_b G B_b C

4. Apply the blues scale to the key of G G B_b C D_b D F G

5. Identify the notes in each chord –

	A7	D7	E7	D7	G7
	A C# G A	A D F# C	B E C# D	C F# A D	B F G D

6. Tab out a blues phrase using the C blues scale – try playing it

A	--3-3--3-3--3-3--3-	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-
E	-----	-1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-
C	-----	-2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-
G	--3----2----1----0-	-----

7. Show the numbers of the notes in the C and A blues scales

C Blues

A Blues

8. Show the names of the notes in the C and A blues scales

C Blues

A Blues