



Year 9

Music

Summer B Booklet

Band musicianship: The Blues



Name:

Form:

For all lessons go to Oak national academy_lessons_subjects_ks3_music_Band musicianship2: the blues_start at lesson 5

Lesson links:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons>

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SAL – Assessment Ladder

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Knowledge</u>	<u>Skill</u>
<u>Yellow Plus 8-9</u>	<p>Understands all the below grades plus:</p> <p>Understands how blues singers communicate emotion, and how blues lyrics are structured.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can do all the below plus: 2. Can play in a 'swung' style. 3. Can write lyrics in a blues style. 4. Is a confident and expressive performer and solo improviser. 5. Extension can write a blues melody using the blues scale.
<u>Yellow 6-7</u>	<p>Understands what makes a good blues improvisation and how to improvise for longer phrases.</p> <p>Know blues scale in G Major.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can play all the chords for the 12- bar blues fluently. 2. Can improvise confidently with all the correct notes of the blues scale. 3. Can transpose a blues baseline. 4. Can play in a 'swung' style.
<u>Blue 4-5</u>	<p>Understands tonality of the blues, flattened 3rd and 5th of the scale.</p> <p>Understand chords I, IV and V make up the 12-bar blues structure. .</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can play and transpose a baseline into a different key. 2. Can play blues chords fluently.
<u>Green 2-3</u>	<p>Understands the concept of improvisation and why performers improvise.</p> <p>Understands the cultural context of the blues.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can write lyrics in a blues scale. 2. Can play a blues baseline.
<u>White 0-1</u>	<p>Understands the 12-bar blues chord sequence.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can play the notes of the blues scale in G Major.

KO-Knowledge Organiser

Lesson 1. Learn how a blues scale is constructed and what pitches the notes are. The 3rd and 5th of the scale are lowered.

Learn about a 'head' in blues music; how it is a repeated theme that continues through the piece. Perform a famous 'head'.

Learn about swung rhythms in blues music, perform a swung rhythm.

Learn about key themes; repeated patterns, repeated pitches and create a melody for yourself

Lesson 2. Learn about baselines and walking baselines in Blues music.

Learn about transposing keys and transpose a baseline to a different key for yourself.

Perform a walking baseline. Learn the structure of the 12-bar blues and perform it.

Lesson 3. Learn about improvising and how to improvise your own baseline.

Learn about swung rhythms and perform a baseline with improvisation and swung rhythms.

Lesson 4. Learn why there is improvisation in the blues, aural tradition (learnt by ear).

Learn to improvise whole phrases.

Learn what it is to be a good blues performer.

Improvise a whole 12- bar blues arrangement.

Lesson 1

LI - To explore a blues scale through improvisation

Connect

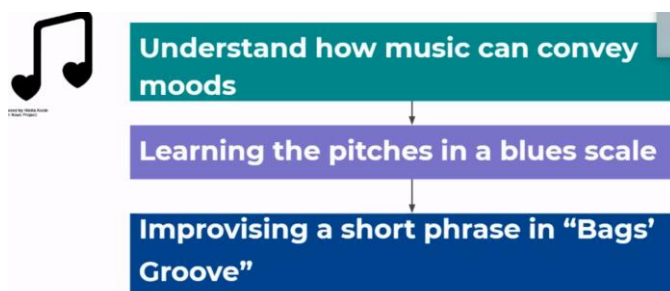
To access this lesson please follow the video lesson link:

[To explore a blues scale through improvisation \(thenational.academy\)](https://thenational.academy/lessons_music_bandmusicianship2:The%20blues%20to%20explore%20a%20blues%20scale%20through%20improvisation)

Or go to: oak national academy_lessons_music_bandmusicianship2:The blues to explore a blues scale through improvisation.

In this lesson you will need:

Lesson Structure:



-Warm up! Sing the G Major scale with Miss Friar

Activate

“Bags’ Groove” - Miles Davis

Write 5 sentences about why you think “Bags’ Groove” sounds relaxing.

Think about:

- Tempo
- Sonority (the instruments and how they are played)
- Melody
- Rhythm – lengths of notes and rests
- Any musical features that you've learnt about

Write your response here:



Now have a look at the answers and make any notes on new information you have learnt!

Answers - “Bags’ Groove” - Miles Davis

- The tempo is steady so it creates a calming mood.
- The drums are playing a simple shuffle swung repeated rhythm with brush sticks so the dynamics aren't too loud.
- The tone of the trumpet is really smooth.
- The melody is fairly stepwise, pitches are returned to; it is lyrical.
- The vibraphone has a soothing tone and is playing the same as the head but harmonising.



Demonstrate

Use your instrument to try your blues scale.

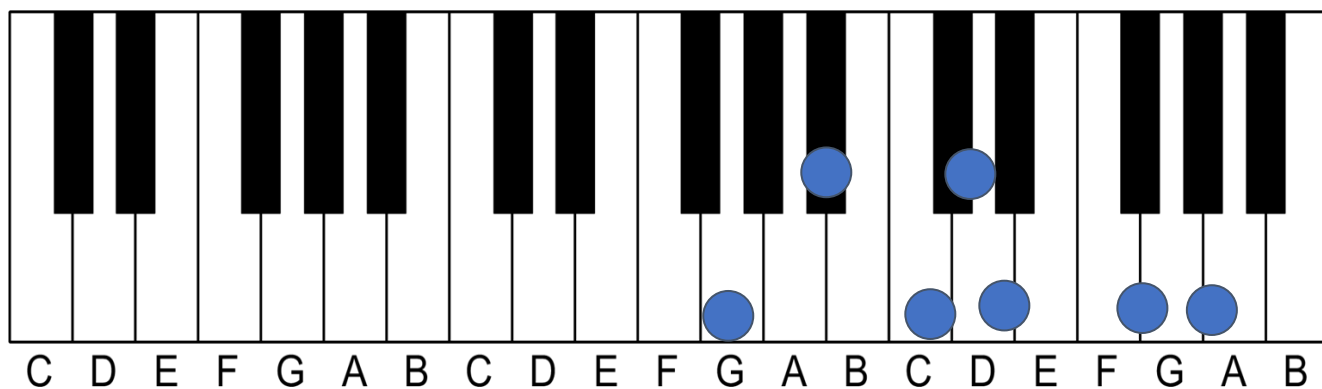
If you don't have an instrument, you can sing or access a virtual instrument with this link:

[Virtual Piano - Online Piano Keyboard | OnlinePianist](#)

Play the notes with the blues dots on them.

Too Easy? – Try some different rhythms when you play the G Major Blues scale.

Keep watching the video to learn about question and answer in Blues music



Demonstrate-Now improvise your Blues

Scale in G Major

YOU CAN USE YOUR VOICE OR VIRTUAL PIANO IF YOU DON'T HAVE

AN INSTRUMENT:

VIRTUAL PIANO - ONLINE PIANO KEYBOARD | ONLINEPIANIST

Structuring your improvisations

A	B	A	C
Head	Improvisation	Head	Improvisation
Player A	Player B	Player B	Player A
Head	Improvisation	Head	Improvisation

Your improvisation should last 7 beats!

Head		Improvisation	
G	G	G	G
C	C	G	G
D	C	G	G / D

This is the chord structure for the 12-bar blues



This is how 'the head' (repeated theme) looks in notation, you will hear it played on the video

Consolidate

Now take the quiz



The blues scale - Exit quiz

Here is your opportunity to show everything you have learned about blues head arrangements and melodies. Make sure you read the questions carefully.

* Required

Where is this famous blues artist from? *



Use this space to put the answers for the quiz and log your score here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

What went well.....

Even better if.....

Lesson 2

LI-TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURE AND TONALITY OF SOME BLUES

Connect

WATCH VIDEO NUMBER 6 WITH THIS LINK:

TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURE AND TONALITY OF SOME BLUES (THENATIONAL.ACADEMY) WATCH UP UNTIL 18 MINUTES 12 SECONDS

Lesson structure, in this lesson you will learn:

The 12-bar blues bassline and chords

WARM UP!

Listen to Miss Friar play some examples and match up with the terminology here:

Match the musical idea with what you hear:

Blues scale

Head

Swung
quavers

Chords

Walking
bass

Trill

Your answers:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Activate

Play a Blues baseline with Miss Friar using a guitar.

Structure of the 12 bar blues

The diagram illustrates the structure of the 12 bar blues. It includes a piano keyboard diagram showing the notes C, F, and G. A table shows the chord progression for the 12 bars. A guitar fretboard diagram shows the notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, with the 3rd fret highlighted. A guitar icon is also present.

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C

To play the baseline you need to play the root note of the chord.

The root note is the first note the chord starts on, for example;

C Major has notes C, E, G – the root note is C so you just play C!

All the root notes are shown in the table here

Now practise on your own!

If you would like to try with a bass guitar or other virtual instruments

try this free app/site:

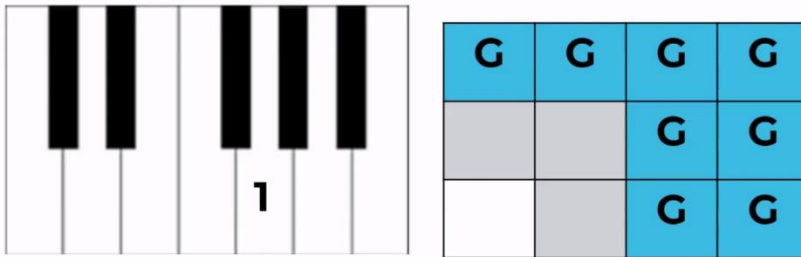
[Virtual bass guitar | Musicca](#)

Demonstrate

Transpose your baseline into the key of G Major!

If G is now chord 1 what will be chord 4 and 5 –
a clue- chord 2 is A- just count up the scale!

Transposing the 12 bar blues bass line



If G is number 1 (on the keyboard/scale), what pitches are 4 and 5?

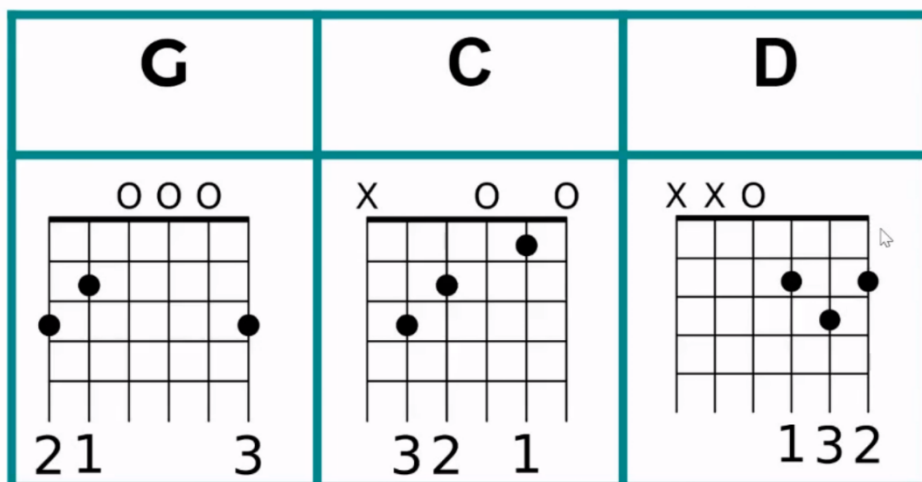
Practise your baseline

Too easy? Can you play the baseline and the chords together?

Practise the baseline and chords separately first

then try to play together

Guitar Chords



Consolidate

Perform to your partner and peer assess each other.

Ask them to give feedback on your performance.

Here are some prompts to help (but feel free to use your own):

Peer assessment-

Did the performer play in time? How do you know?

Was the performer confident? How do you know?

Did the performer play the correct notes and in the correct order?

What did you love about the performance?

What piece of advice would you give to make it even better for next time?

LESSON 3-

LI- TO PLAY AND IMPROVISE A BLUES BASELINE IN A SWUNG RHYTHM

PLAY THE VIDEO FROM 18 MINS 12 SEC:

TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURE AND TONALITY OF SOME BLUES (THENATIONAL.ACADEMY)

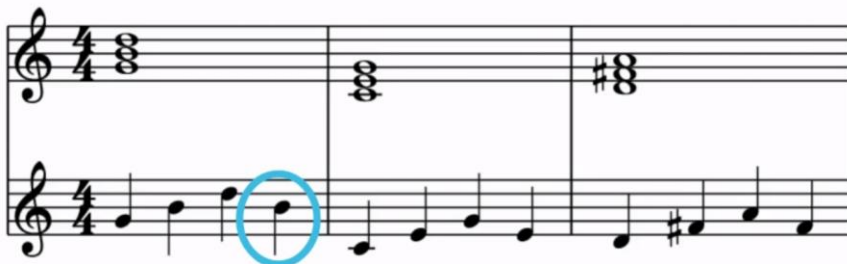
Connect

Lesson Structure:

How rhythm shows us it's the blues

Improvising using the blues scale

The walking bassline

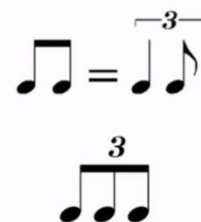


Can you spot the difference between the walking bass line and the chords above it?

But that is only three notes...where is the fourth note from?

Blues rhythms

Blues music has a 'swung feel'.



Keep watching the video
to clap back a swung rhythm
to Miss Friar.

Activate

Play through your baseline with a 'swung' feel, using the chart below for reference.

You will need an instrument or virtual one, look back to lesson 1 and 2 for links.

Miss Friar gives an example if you get stuck.

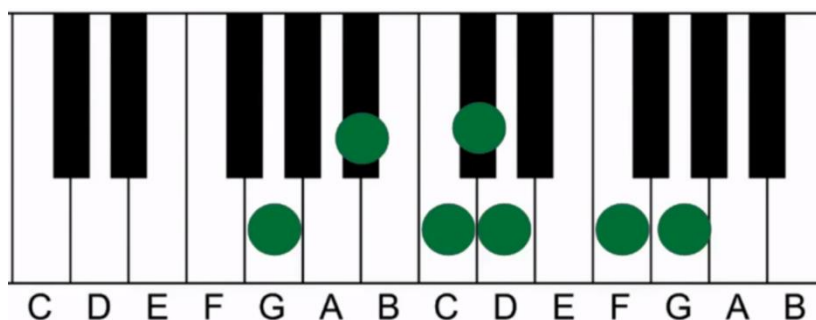
Remember you use the notes of the chord to play the 'broken' chords for the baseline,

if it's chord G, you play notes G,B,D,B one after another to get the baseline.

12 bar blues chord progression

G	G	G	G
C	C	G	G
D	C	G	G/D

Now play the Blues scale in G Major with a 'swung' rhythm!

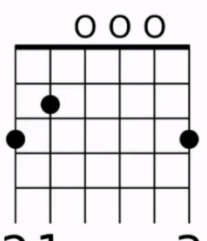
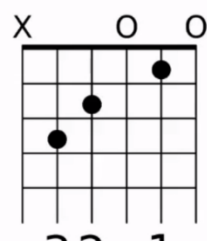
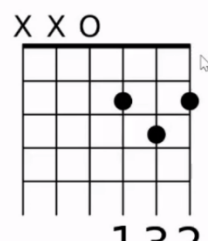


Demonstrate

“Bags’ Groove” - Structure for improvisation

Head		Improvisation	
G	G	G	G
C	C	G	G
D	C	G	G / D

Guitar Chords

G	C	D
 2 1 3	 3 2 1	 1 3 2

Ask you partner to listen to you and make some helpful comments on what went well and how you can make it better for next time.

Would you make any adjustments? Write here anything you would change or focus on for your next practice:

Consolidate

Take the exit quiz

Use this space to put the answers for the quiz and log your here:

Q1. If you are playing a 12 bar blues in G, what would the I, IV, and V chords be?

- ☐ G, C and D
- ☐ C, E and G
- ☐ G, F and A

Q3. What is a 'turn around' chord in the blues structure?

- ☐ Where a band repeats the same chord over again.
- ☐ Where the band plays a chord in a different key.
- ☐ Where the last chord in the structure is chord (V) instead of chord (I).

Q5. What types of instruments were used in early blues music?

- ☐ Percussion and guitar.
- ☐ Brass and woodwind,
- ☐ Concertina and vocals.

Q7. Which pitches are heard in the G major blues scale?

- ☐ G A B D E G
- ☐ G A B C D E F# G
- ☐ G Bb C Db D F G

Q2. If we transpose the 12 bar blues structure to F, what three pitches would we play?

- ☐ F Bb and C
- ☐ F E and D
- ☐ F G and A

Q4. How is a walking bass line created from chords?

- ☐ A walking bass line is the notes of the chords 'broken' into an ascending and descending pattern.
- ☐ A walking bass line is the notes of the chords played together at the same time.
- ☐ A walking bass line is the notes of the chords played an octave apart.

Q6. What is a blues 'head'?

- ☐ The 12 bar blues arrangement.
- ☐ A main melody or theme that will repeat throughout a blues song.
- ☐ A solo improvisation.

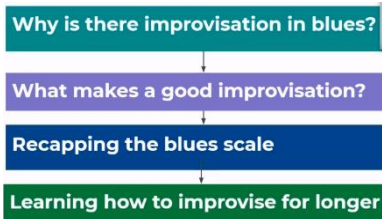
Q8. What is improvising?

- ☐ Following a score.
- ☐ Copying another musician.
- ☐ Making up the music on the spot.

Connect

Lesson 4

LI- To understand how to improvise phrases



In this lesson, we will understand why improvisation in blues music is so important. You will learn how to improvise confidently in longer musical phrases

Blues Music

K Z K G M N C I M P R O V I S A T I O N S S C M
V X A K J V J D P I C W M B O V H L R D A Q X Z
B B O W X D N C G H T I M S E I S S E B H I S D
W F L Q R Y Y M W Q S M Q S Z S X L N U X B X L
T F E U M R S U H Q U D J J X Z C X Q G G U L P
Z E Q U E Z F L A T T E N E D T H I R D J E T S
I S O O G S E D D S C I R Y L D E T A E P E R N
G N E X B D S A L A P C K Z I Y B S B N D Z O L
A O N F I A J C E V T A L Z U X F G H W Y C K P
F P S F B C A V A X V N W L U U N A Z T D S K K
M S N E L M X F F L S M E B V I C R T H O H I I
F E Z E U X Z D W L E P B M D M P C P J B R W L
R R T Z Q L X Y H O Z R G I I W C B J F E N Z G
W D E T V I B Z S Q R M L A Y N L X U C R A Q C
Q N L K L S D R A U H S F G J D A Z K I E K R V
N A B O W B D X A T M M D N U G O P R B F P T Q
J L D P X D F J Y B N N N K L Q H H M V W H J A
B L R P X B H H E G E H A J H R D E X O E J E J
W A B G E A R Y E F K V A U G A I D J A C U N Q
M C N Y G G B X R Y W N L B K Q U J V T T C E N
E P T A N Q O C M B K F N E X U L Y G Z P I A T
I T G U O Y Z U M G B S A O W U L E I N B K Z W
P H W J R S Y O D M Y I W W O T W G Q R Z F F Y
G S X K X J G H T F I F D E N E T T A L F O A J

accompaniment improvisation sliding repeated lyrics flattened third flattened fifth
swung rhythm call and response twelve Bar Blues Bessie Smith Blues scale

Activate

See if you can answer the questions underneath:

Why is there improvisation in blues?

From the beginning, the blues has been a largely improvised music.
After the abolition of slavery, poor African American farmers would often gather together on each other's porches and in churches and homes to 'jam' for hours.

What is 'jamming'?

At the time they didn't have printed scores, so how do you think they played music together?



Watch the video of performers improvising
and write down your thoughts on their performance

What makes a good improvisation?



Watch and listen to the second trumpet improvisation:

1. What do you think was successful about his improvisation?
2. How could he have improved his solo?

Try to think of key blues musical features.

Why is there improvisation in blues?

From the beginning, the blues has been a largely improvised music.
After the abolition of slavery, poor African American farmers would often gather together on each other's porches and in churches and homes to 'jam' for hours.

What is 'jamming'?

Where musicians would get together and spontaneously play music; more of a social gathering.

At the time they didn't have printed scores, so how do you think they played music together?

They would make up tunes and lyrics on the spot. Early blues musicians couldn't always read and write music, so they developed amazing listening skills by learning traditional songs from other musicians.



Answers:

Demonstrate

First Practise your Blues scale in G Major from last lesson-

Take 10 minutes. The notes of the scale are in Lesson 3

Improvising for longer

1. **Use the notes of the blues scale** - run up and down if you are unsure.
2. **Use swung notes and triplets** - like the drum shuffle we learned.
3. **Build it up** - start with 2 bars, then 4 bars, then 8 bars.
4. **Repeat ideas** - it is ok to repeat but just not all the way through.
5. **Mirror phrases** - create call and response.
6. **Take it - slow** - turn the tempo down so you have the time to think about it and then increase the tempo when you are ready.



G Maj Hexatonic Blues	G		Bb	C	Db	D	F	G
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Now try as part of a band if you have someone in your household to team up with, they could play a baseline, drum part or chords. Remember you can also sing these parts if you have trouble with instruments.

If you have no-one to partner with follow the link below to a backing track or type 'blues backing track in G major' into youtube.:


[Easy | Medium 12 Bar Jazz blues in G Major | Backing Track/Jam Track/Play-Along | 120 BPM - Bing video](#)

Improvising within the 12 bar blues arrangement in G

Longer Improv WITH

- Shuffle drum
- Walking bass line
- Chord progression

1. Pair or group performance.
2. You play live with a recorded part.

 **Resume once you're finished**

Consolidate

Q1. What is 'jamming' in music?

- ☐ Where musicians would get together and spontaneously play music; more of a social gathering.
- ☐ When people would make jam in a factory.
- ☐ A performance in a concert hall.

Q2. In the early blues of the 1900's, musicians did not have printed scores, how did they play together?

- ☐ They would only play songs they already knew.
- ☐ They would copy one another.
- ☐ They would make up tunes and lyrics on the spot.

Q3. Which of these descriptions talks about a successful improvisation?

- ☐ The notes were clear, you can hear phrases in swung rhythm and there are repeated musical ideas.
- ☐ The notes were too long, they rhythms are slow and a lot of the pitches are the same.
- ☐ The notes are the same as the blues head melody.

Q4. What is this grid showing you?

G		Bb	C	Db	D	F	G
---	--	----	---	----	---	---	---

- ☐ Bb major scale
- ☐ G pentatonic scale
- ☐ G blues scale

Q5. Why does a good blues improvisation use swung rhythms?

- ☐ Blues music has a swing feel, which you can hear in the drum shuffle.
- ☐ Blues music has changed and moved from straight to swung rhythms.
- ☐ Blues improvisations only include quaver notes.

Notes:

Congratulations you have completed your music Summer
Term B booklet!



