

GUITAR ONE

Lesson Nine

The Blues

At this point you will need to print out
The Blues work sheets.

Here's your test. You have 15 seconds to play these 10 chords...

A Am B7 C D Dm E Em F G

Oh yeah...and you need to sing me Happy Birthday!
...I'm waiting...
Thank you:)

Let's talk about the Blues!

Once you know this formula, and especially if you can hear when it changes, you will be able to play hundreds and hundreds of songs...

I'M NOT KIDDING!!!

The 12 bar blues is composed of 12 BARS or MEASURES.
Each bar gets 4 beats.

We are going to save the music theory for a different lesson, but I'd like to introduce a small idea that will be invaluable once you understand it.

12 Bar Blues

12 Bar Blues progression in 4/4 time:

Staff 1 (Measures 1-4): I I I I

Staff 2 (Measures 5-8): 5 IV IV I I

Staff 3 (Measures 9-12): 9 V IV I V

I hope you know your roman numerals!!
It's a long story why we use them. Look it up if you're interested.

I	=	1
II	=	2
III	=	3
IV	=	4
V	=	5

THE 1(I), 4 (IV) AND 5 (V) CHORDS

The "Key" of the song is a road map for musicians. Once we know what "Key" the song is in, then we know what the other

chords are going to be. That is a very basic explanation, but that's all we need to know for now.

If I say the "Key" of the song is in F, then I know the 1(I) chord is an F. The 1(I) chord is the "key" of the song.

For example:

Key of A = A is the 1 chord

Key of C = C is the 1 chord

Key of G = G is the 1 chord

Now we need to find the 4 and 5 chords to complete our blues.

Hold up your hand and use your thumb as number 1.

Then count each finger 1-2-3-4-5.

4 and 5 should be your "ring" and "index" fingers respectively.



Left Hand

Let's start with the key of "A"

Thumb = 1 chord = A
Pointer = 2 chord = B
Middle = 3 chord = C
Ring = 4 chord = D
Pinky = 5 chord = E

So...in the Key of A the 1 chord is A and the 4 (IV) and 5 (V) chords are D and E.

Confused? Let's try again:)

How about the key of C?

Thumb = 1 chord = C
Pointer = 2 chord = D
Middle = 3 chord = E
Ring = 4 chord = F
Pinky = 5 chord = G

So...in the Key of "C" the 1(I) chord is C, the 4(IV) is F and 5(V) is G.

Remember for us new musicians our musical alphabet is:

A B C D E F G ...then it all starts over agin...

Here's a tricky one..

The key of "G"

Thumb = 1 chord = G

Pointer = 2 chord = A
Middle = 3 chord = B
Ring = 4 chord = C
Pinky = 5 chord = D

1(I) = G
4(IV) = C
5(V) = D

NOTES:

Sometimes the 2nd bar will be a 4 (IV) chord.
The last 5 (V) chord is called the turn around chord.

TRACK 1 - BLUES IN C

The image shows three staves of musical notation for a blues piece in C major. Each staff contains four measures of music, represented by diagonal lines. The first staff is labeled with a 'C' above the first measure. The second staff is labeled with an 'F' above the first measure and a 'C' above the third measure. The third staff is labeled with a 'G' above the first measure, an 'F' above the second measure, a 'C' above the third measure, and a 'G' above the fourth measure.

*This lessons songs will be listed by key only.
You must apply the 12 bar blues formula!*

SONG LIST

- Keep Your Hands To Yourself, Georgia Satellites
Key of A
- Lucille, Little Richard
Key of C
- Going Down, Freddy King
Key of D
- Before You Accuse Me, Eric Clapton
Key of E
- Red House, Jimi Hendrix (capo #3)
Key of G