

Improvisation Part 2 Introducing Blues Notes

Lesson Objectives

- Learn the sound of and be able to play **Blues Notes**.
- Introduce **Blues Notes** into Improvisation.
- Continue to apply Lead Guitar Techniques to Scales and build soloing and improvisational skills.

The Blues Scale and the Blues Note

In lesson 22 we played the minor pentatonic scale extended position which we added to pattern 1 minor pentatonic. In this lesson we will enhance both of these scales by adding the Blues Note.

The Blues Note, despite it's name is used in all forms of lead guitar playing from Blues through Jazz to Rock and Metal. It is certainly not just Blues music as you may at first have thought.

Let's start by finding the Blues Note and getting used to its sound.

Finding the Blues Note on the Fingerboard

In Fig 1 below we have the pattern for the first position of the Blues Scale. Notice how this is identical to pattern 1 of minor pentatonic, with the addition of the blues notes now marked on the fretboard with a blue dot.

Play the scale up and down to familiarize yourself with the sound of the additional notes. You can hear the extra 'colour' added by these notes.

Use the multi media files as always.

Exercise 1

lesson023.igsilp2.01

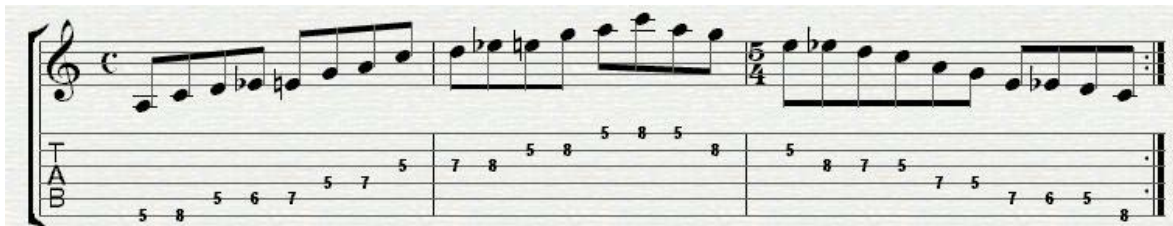
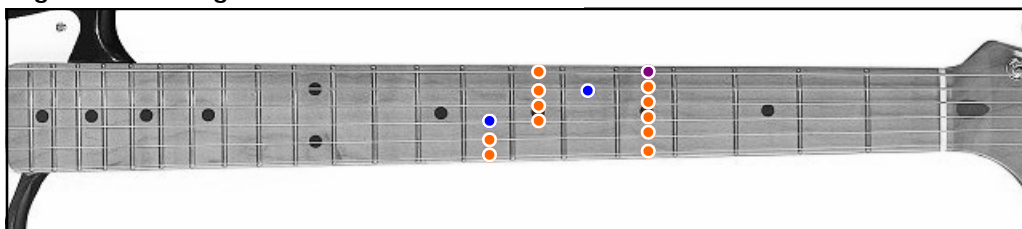



Fig 1. Introducing Blues Notes with Pattern 1



Key Code	
Scale Notes	●
Root Notes	●
Blues Notes	●
Common Notes	●

One of the interesting things about the Blues Note is that if you stop on it, it sounds terrible! It is in effect a wrong note which only sounds good if you run through it without stopping. Try improvising over the next multi media file occasionally stopping on any of the marked Blues Notes. Notice how strange it sounds!

Once you have done that try and play the following lick and you will notice how good it sounds!

Blues Lick One

Let's now try the Blues note in a lick to see how good it sounds.

Exercise 2 lesson023.igsilp2.02



Sliding into the Blues Note.

Sliding into the Blues Note is really effective.

Exercise 3 lesson023.igsilp2.03



Bending into the Blues Note

Another very interesting way to play the Blues Notes is to Bend into them.

In lesson 19 we introduced string bending where we worked on bending the string so that it's pitch was raised by the equivalent of two frets (one tone).

In the case of the Blues Note we are bending into the note from only one fret below and consequently the string must only be bent half as far (semi-tone).

Try the following lick.

Exercise 4 lesson023.igsilp2.04



Introducing the Blues Note into our Improvisation

Below is the Extended Blues Scale.

This is in fact the Extended Minor Pentatonic scale learned in lesson 22 with the Blues Notes added. Remember that a Blues Scale is merely a Pentatonic Scale with Blues Notes added.

Fig 2. Extended Blues Scale

Key Code	
Scale Notes	●
Root Notes	●
Blues Notes	●
Common Notes	●

In lesson 22 we saw how three different areas of this scale could allow us to play the same licks albeit in different octaves. Exactly the same principle applies here.

In the following two examples we have Lick No 1 from this lesson but played in the two other areas of the scale pattern.

Exercise 5
lesson023.igsilp2.05

TAB: 10 8 10 11 10 8 10 10

Exercise 6
lesson023.igsilp2.06

TAB: 5 3 5 6 5 3 5 5

Now try the other two licks in this lesson in the other two areas of the extended scale.

Exercise 7
lesson023.igsilp2.07

TAB: 10 8 11 10 8 10 10

Exercise 8
lesson023.igsilp2.08



Musical notation for Exercise 8. The top staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature with fret numbers: 5, 3, 6, 5, 3, 5, 5. Chords B and C are indicated above the 3rd and 5th frets respectively. A vibrato line is shown under the final two notes of the melody.

Practise does makes perfect, so let's finish off with two more examples of licks with the blues notes.

Exercise 9
lesson023.igsilp2.09



Musical notation for Exercise 9. The top staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature with fret numbers: 10, 8, 10, 10, 8, 10, 10. Chords B and C are indicated above the 10th and 8th frets respectively. A vibrato line is shown under the final two notes of the melody.

Exercise 10
lesson023.igsilp2.10



Musical notation for Exercise 10. The top staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature with fret numbers: 5, 3, 5, 5, 3, 5, 5. Chords B and C are indicated above the 5th and 3rd frets respectively. A vibrato line is shown under the final two notes of the melody.

Applying all our Lead Guitar Technique

As with the minor pentatonic scale in lesson 22, move around the neck connecting each area of the scale to the other. Use all the following techniques and notes which are at your disposal.

1. Pattern 1 and Extended Minor Pentatonic scale.
2. Blues Notes.
3. Vibrato.
4. Hammering On Pulling Off.
5. Slides.
6. String bends.