

Theory Sheet 4 davejonesguitar.co.uk

The Blues Scale

The blues scale is a six-note scale, that uses notes from the major scale. The notes used are the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th. However, the 3rd and 7th degrees are lowered by one semitone, creating a b3rd and b7th degree. There is also an addition of a b5 note.

The blues scale therefore contains the following notes;- 1, b3, 4, b5, 5, b7.

It may be easier to think of this scale as a minor pentatonic with a b5.

Blues scale spelling:- 1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 8

C blues scale:- C Eb F Gb G Bb C

G blues scale:- G Bb C Db D F G

D blues scale:- D F G Ab A C D

F blues scale:- F Ab Bb Cb C Eb F

Note that the b5th degree of the F blues scale is Cb, this is another way of describing the pitch B. However, it is important to call the note Cb, not B, as C is 5 scale notes away from F and B is only 4. Therefore the b5th is Cb not B.