

Blues Scale

c. 2025 Chris Braun
chrisbrauntrumpet.com

The blues is an American music genre that originated in African-American communities in the south. This genre combined spirituals, work songs, and hollers, with simple rhythmic melodies. The blues often featured a sombre sound highlighted by the use of tension or blue notes including the b3, #4 and b7. These and the notes most often used by blues artists were combined into a six note scale by David Baker. The scale includes 1 b3 4 #4 5 b7 or C Eb F F# G Bb in the key of C. Use the scale on the dominant V7 chord or the related minor ii7 chord over blues progressions. Try the scale and patterns below as templates when improvising over blues progressions.

1 C7

Pattern 1

5 Pattern 2

7 Pattern 3

9 Pattern 4

13 F7

17 Eb7

21 Db7

25 B7

29 A7

33 G7