

## FOREWORD

The easiest way to learn Blues piano is to learn the LEFT HAND rhythms LONG before you learn all the fancy licks in the Right Hand.

You need to be able to play these Left Hand rhythms in your sleep.

Play them over and over THOUSANDS of times. Watch TV while you play them - just get your mind and fingers used to them - build those Blues muscles!

As you work your way through the next few books play these Blues Rhythms in each practice session and then by book 8 you will be ready to add in the tricky Right Hand blues licks and patterns.

Enjoy.

RHYTHM # 1

BASIC TRIAD BLUES



# BASIC TRIAD BLUES

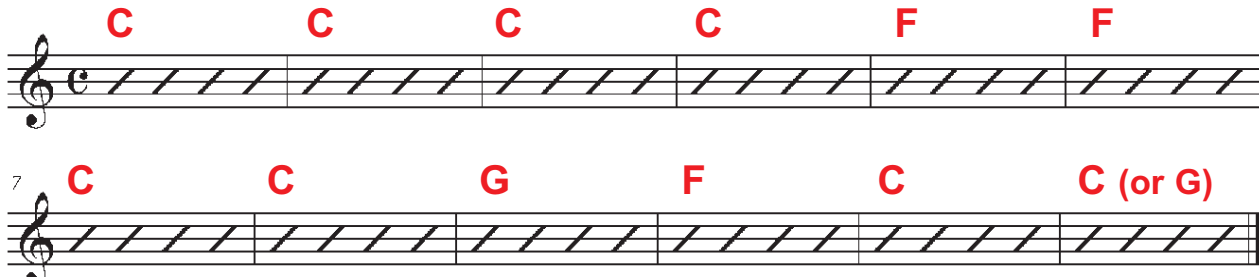


The most basic blues tune is a combination of three chords played over 12 bars.

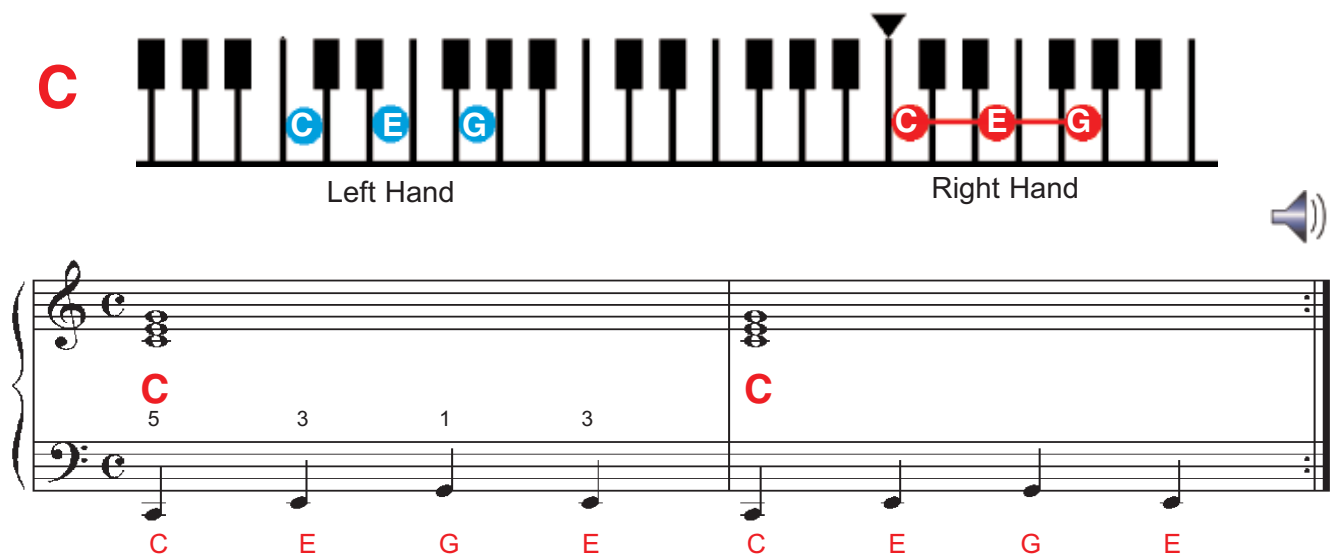
To begin with we'll use the key of C.

The three chords from the key of C will be C - F and G (all major chords)

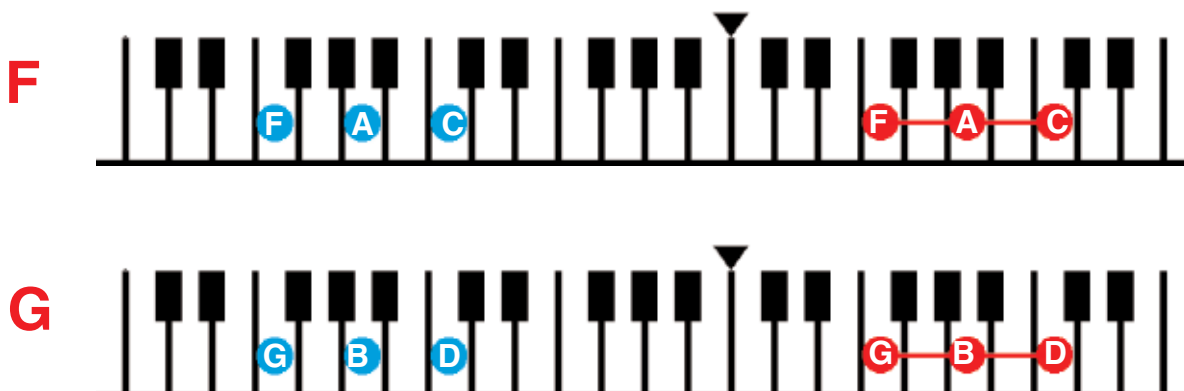
The sequence is as follows



To get you started well use a really basic left hand rhythm that uses the three notes of the basic chord. (Just HOLD a C chord in the Right Hand)



Now TRANSPOSE the pattern to the chords of F and G and try the next tune.



# BASIC TRIAD BLUES



First system of music (measures 1-3). The treble clef staff shows three chords: C major (C-E-G), C major (C-E-G), and C major (C-E-G). The bass clef staff shows the corresponding notes: C-E-G-E, C-E-G-E, and C-E-G-E. Fingerings are indicated above the first four notes: 5, 3, 1, 3.

Second system of music (measures 4-6). The treble clef staff shows three chords: C major (C-E-G), F major (F-A-C), and F major (F-A-C). The bass clef staff shows the corresponding notes: C-E-G-E, F-A-C-A, and F-A-C-A.

Third system of music (measures 7-9). The treble clef staff shows three chords: C major (C-E-G), C major (C-E-G), and G major (G-B-D). The bass clef staff shows the corresponding notes: C-E-G-E, C-E-G-E, and G-B-D-B.

Fourth system of music (measures 10-12). The treble clef staff shows three chords: F major (F-A-C), C major (C-E-G), and C major (C-E-G). The bass clef staff shows the corresponding notes: F-A-C-A, C-E-G-E, and C.

RHYTHM # 2

STRAIGHT EIGHT

BOOGIE



# STRAIGHT EIGHT BOOGIE RHYTHM **part 1**

(Jerry Lee Lewis)



Play these notes in the LEFT HAND separately from C up to Bb back down to E  
(Use the correct fingering - notice you swivel on your thumb up to the Bb back to the G)



Remember - play C, then E, then G, then A, then Bb, then A again, down to G, and E - REPEAT

Now play a RIGHT HAND C chord (at middle C) **IN BETWEEN** each of the left hand notes



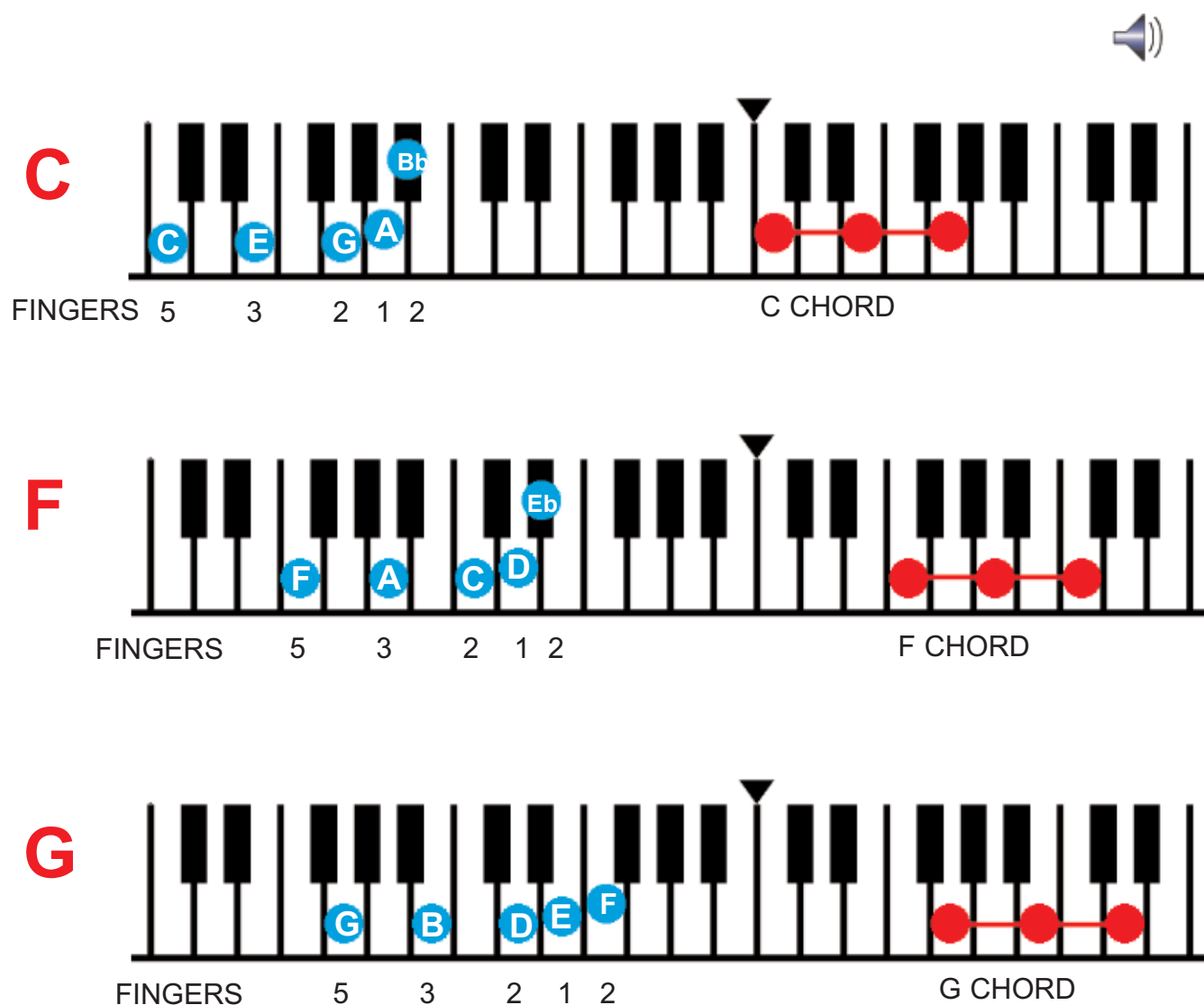
The above way is the easiest way to play this rhythm but the Jerry Lee Lewis way is to play 2 RIGHT hand chords for each left hand note. (8 HALF BEATS per bar)



## STRAIGHT EIGHT BOOGIE part 2

Now that you can play the sequence using the chord of C, try transposing it all to the chords of F and G.

Notice that all three patterns are almost IDENTICAL but the G pattern ends on a white note instead of a black note



The image displays three piano keyboard diagrams, each showing a sequence of notes and a chord. A speaker icon is located in the top right corner.

**C:** The sequence of notes is C (blue circle), E (blue circle), G (blue circle), A (blue circle), and B $\flat$  (blue circle). The fingers are 5, 3, 2, 1, 2. The C CHORD is shown with three red circles connected by a red line.

**F:** The sequence of notes is F (blue circle), A (blue circle), C (blue circle), D (blue circle), and E $\flat$  (blue circle). The fingers are 5, 3, 2, 1, 2. The F CHORD is shown with three red circles connected by a red line.

**G:** The sequence of notes is G (blue circle), B (blue circle), D (blue circle), E (blue circle), and F (blue circle). The fingers are 5, 3, 2, 1, 2. The G CHORD is shown with three red circles connected by a red line.

Now try the Jerry Lee Lewis style blues tune on the next page.



# STRAIGHT EIGHT BOOGIE **part 3**

## 12 BAR JERRY LEE STYLE BOOGIE



Notice in bars 9 and 10 you only play half the sequence for each chord



**Chord Sequence:**

- Bar 1: C
- Bar 2: (C)
- Bar 3: C
- Bar 4: (C)
- Bar 5: F
- Bar 6: (F)
- Bar 7: C
- Bar 8: (C)
- Bar 9: G
- Bar 10: (C or G to repeat)
- Bar 11: C
- Bar 12: (C or G to repeat)

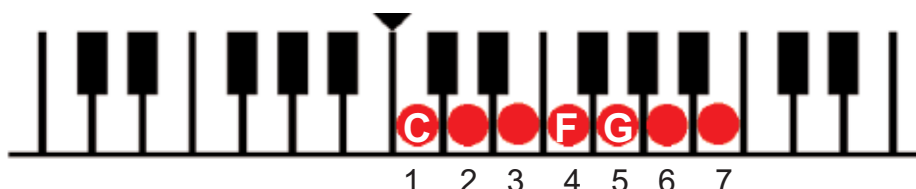
# STRAIGHT EIGHT BOOGIE part 4

## HOW TO WORK OUT A 12 BAR BLUES IN ANY KEY

The most basic 12 bar Blues only uses three chords.

For instance, in the key of C we use the chords C, F and G

If you go by the scale of C you will see that the three chords are built on the 1st, 4th and 5th notes of the scale (These chords are known as I, IV and V)



If we use this formula we can figure out the three basic Blues chords of ANY key. Here is the standard Blues progressions for the easier keys.

### 12 Bar Blues in C

C	C	C	C	F	F
C	C	G	F	C	C or G

### 12 Bar Blues in G

G	G	G	G	C	C
G	G	D	C	G	G or D

### 12 Bar Blues in F

F	F	F	F	Bb	Bb
F	F	C	Bb	F	F or C

### 12 Bar Blues in A

A	A	A	A	D	D
A	A	E	D	A	A or E

### 12 Bar Blues in C

D	D	D	D	G	G
D	D	A	G	D	D or A

# STRAIGHT EIGHT BOOGIE

## PRACTICE SONGS

Try the following songs using the STRAIGHT EIGHT BOOGIE. Remember there are two ways to play it - with the Right Hand chord inbetween each Left Hand note or using a Right Hand chord on every beat. It makes a big difference to the song!

**ALL SHOOK UP** **G** Alternating Right Hand

**BLUE SUEDE SHOES** **G** (opening riff F# on to G) Alternating Right Hand

**CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE** (Queen) **G** Alternating Right Hand

**DIZZY MISS LIZZIE** **C** Full Right Hand

**GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY** (Little Richard) **C** Full Right Hand

**GREAT BALLS OF FIRE** (Jerry Lee Lewis) Full Right Hand

**HOUND DOG** (Elvis) Alternating Right Hand

**JAILHOUSE ROCK** **G** (opening riff F# on to G) Alternating Right Hand

**JOHNNY B. GOODE** (Chuck Berry) **A** Full Right Hand

**LONG TALL SALLY** (Little Richard) **C** Full Right Hand

**LUCILLE** (Little Richard) **C** Full Right Hand

**ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN** (Chuck Berry) **G** Full Right Hand

**TEDDY BEAR** **C** Alternating Right Hand

**THAT'S ALRIGHT MAMA** **D** Alternating Right Hand

**TUTTI FRUTTI** (Little Richard) **C** Full Right Hand

**WHOLE LOT OF SHAKIN** (Jerry Lee Lewis) **G** Full Right Hand

RHYTHM # 3

BLUEBERRY HILL



# BLUEBERRY HILL RHYTHM

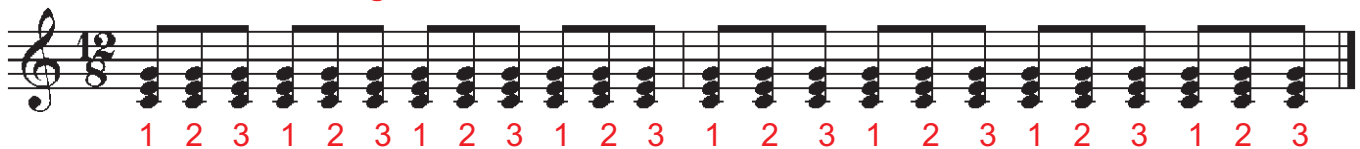


This is a rhythm known as 12/8 TIME or TRIPLE FEEL

TRIPLE FEEL means that the basic rhythm comes in GROUPS of three notes.  
In 12/8 TIME there are FOUR of these GROUPS (of 3 beats) per bar.

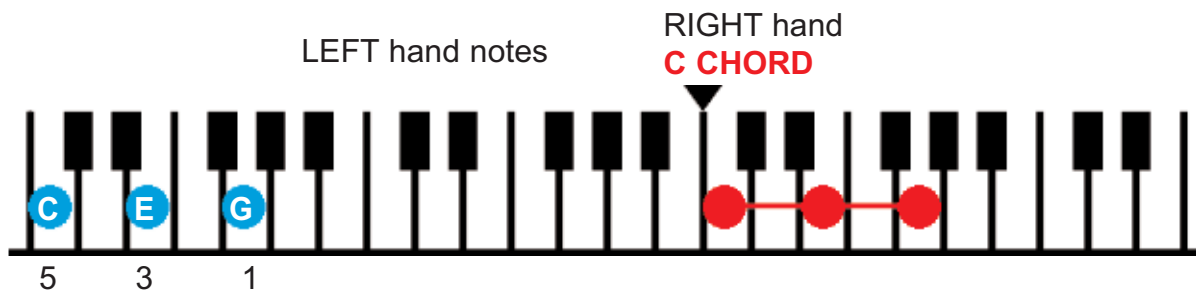
So the RIGHT hand will be playing 12 'beats' per bar. Try it now with a C CHORD.

## C chord Right Hand



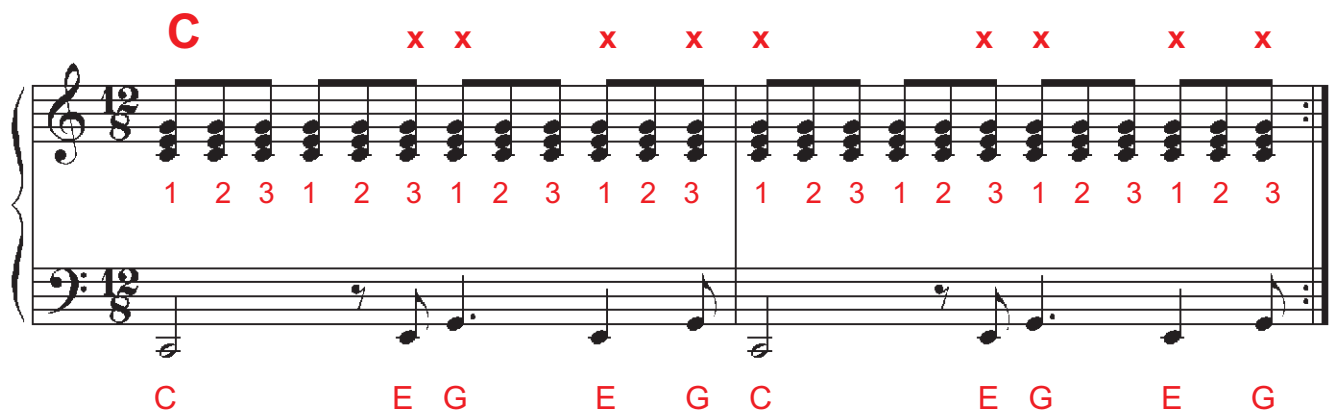
The LEFT hand plays a 3 note pattern

Like the TWIST rhythm the 3 notes of the LEFT hand 'MATCH' the 3 notes of the RIGHT hand chord



Practise it SLOWLY at first.

Look carefully where the left hand notes come in (x)



Now TRANSPOSE this rhythmic pattern to the chords of F and G (below mid C)  
and you'll have the 3 main chords for BLUEBERRY HILL

RHYTHM # 4


12/8 BOOGIE SHUFFLE



# 12/8 BOOGIE SHUFFLE RHYTHM

Remember how you counted 12 beats in each bar in BLUEBERRY HILL?

Count the same TRIPLE FEEL rhythm (4 groups of three beats)  
and TAP out a rhythm on the 1st and 3rd beats ONLY (leave out the 2nd beat)





TAP	•		•		•		•		•		•	
COUNT	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

Notice how it 'SHUFFLES' along




Now find these '2-note' chord shapes with your LEFT hand.


C<sup>5</sup>


C<sup>6</sup>


Try the rhythm using the two chord shapes

(C)

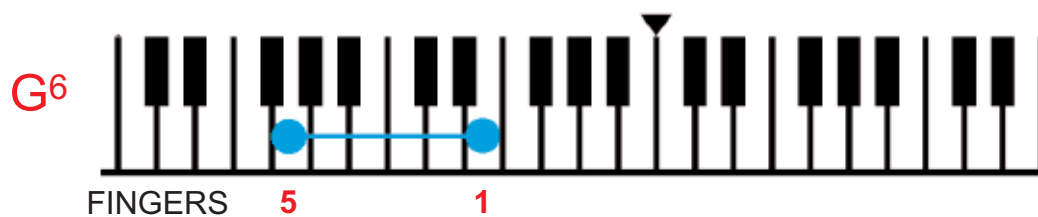
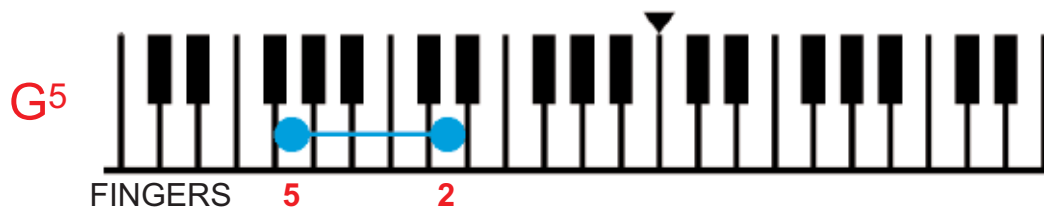
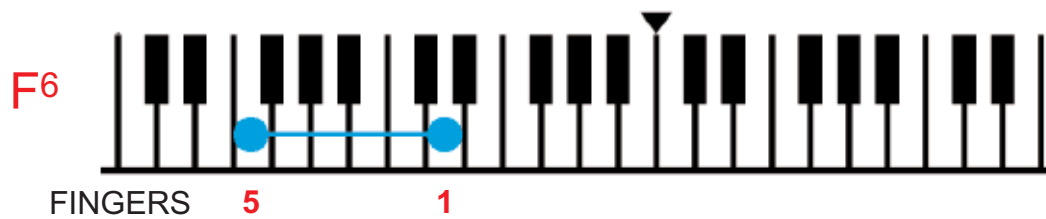
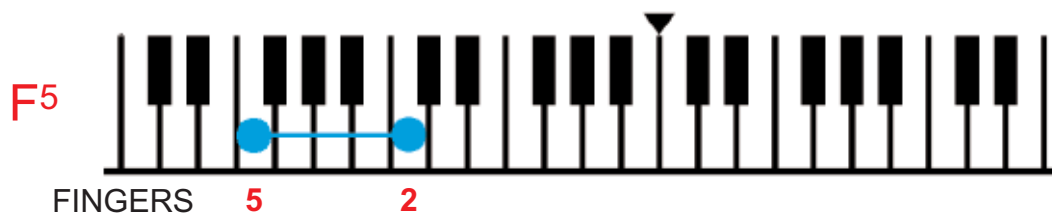




1   2   3   1   2   3   1   2   3   1   2   3

## 12/8 BOOGIE SHUFFLE part 2

NOW TRANSPOSE the chord shapes to F and G and then play the 12 bar blues on the next page





# 12/8 BOOGIE SHUFFLE 12 BAR BLUES



Notice that the RIGHT hand plays and HOLDS the relevant C, F or G chord on the first beat of each bar



The musical score is written for piano in 12/8 time, featuring a boogie shuffle feel. It consists of four systems, each with two staves (treble and bass clef) joined by a brace. The right hand (treble clef) plays and holds the relevant chord (C, F, or G) on the first beat of each bar. The left hand (bass clef) plays a continuous eighth-note shuffle pattern. Chord names are written in red above the treble staff, and specific voicings (C5, C6, F5, F6, G5, G6) are indicated in red above the bass staff. The score is divided into four systems of three bars each, with bar numbers 1, 4, 7, and 10 marked at the beginning of each system. The final bar of the fourth system is labeled 'C (or G to turnaround)'.

**System 1 (Bars 1-3):** Chord C. Bass line: C5, C6, etc.

**System 2 (Bars 4-6):** Chord C7, F, F7. Bass line: F5, F6, etc.

**System 3 (Bars 7-9):** Chord C, C7, G. Bass line: G5, G6, etc.

**System 4 (Bars 10-12):** Chord F, C, C (or G to turnaround). Bass line: F5, F6, etc; C5, C6, etc.

# SONGS FOR 12/8 BOOGIE SHUFFLE PRACTICE

**BE BOP A LULA** (Gene Vincent) **C**

**GET BACK** (Beatles) **F**

**FOR YOU BLUE** (Beatles)

**YER BLUES** (Beatles) **C**

**NO PARTICULAR PLACE TO GO** (Chuck Berry) **G**

**BRAND NEW LEOPARDSKIN PILLBOX HAT** **G** (Bob Dylan)

**MEET ME IN THE MORNIN'** (Bob Dylan) **G**

**BEEN DOWN SO LONG** **G** (Sting)

**ANY WAY YOU WANT - LET IT ROLL** (Elvis)

**GOT A WOMAN MEAN AS SHE CAN BE** **G**

**HONKY TONK WOMAN** (Stones) **G**

**IN THE SUMMERTIME** (Mungo Jerry) **C**

**AIN'T THAT A SHAME** (Fats Domino) **C**

**I'M WALKIN'** (Fats Domino)

**THE WANDERER**

**CARS HISS BY MY WINDOW**  
**ROADHOUSE BLUES** (Doors)

RHYTHM # 5

BLUES BROTHERS



# BLUES BROTHERS RHYTHM

This is a fun rhythm which reminds me of the Blues Brothers theme but is also used in the chorus of 'I'm A Believer' by The Monkees. See if you can also work out the theme tune for The Odd Couple and Sesame Street. Have fun!

Play each RIGHT HAND chord TWICE - Keep repeating

**G note** **G Chord**

1

Twice

2

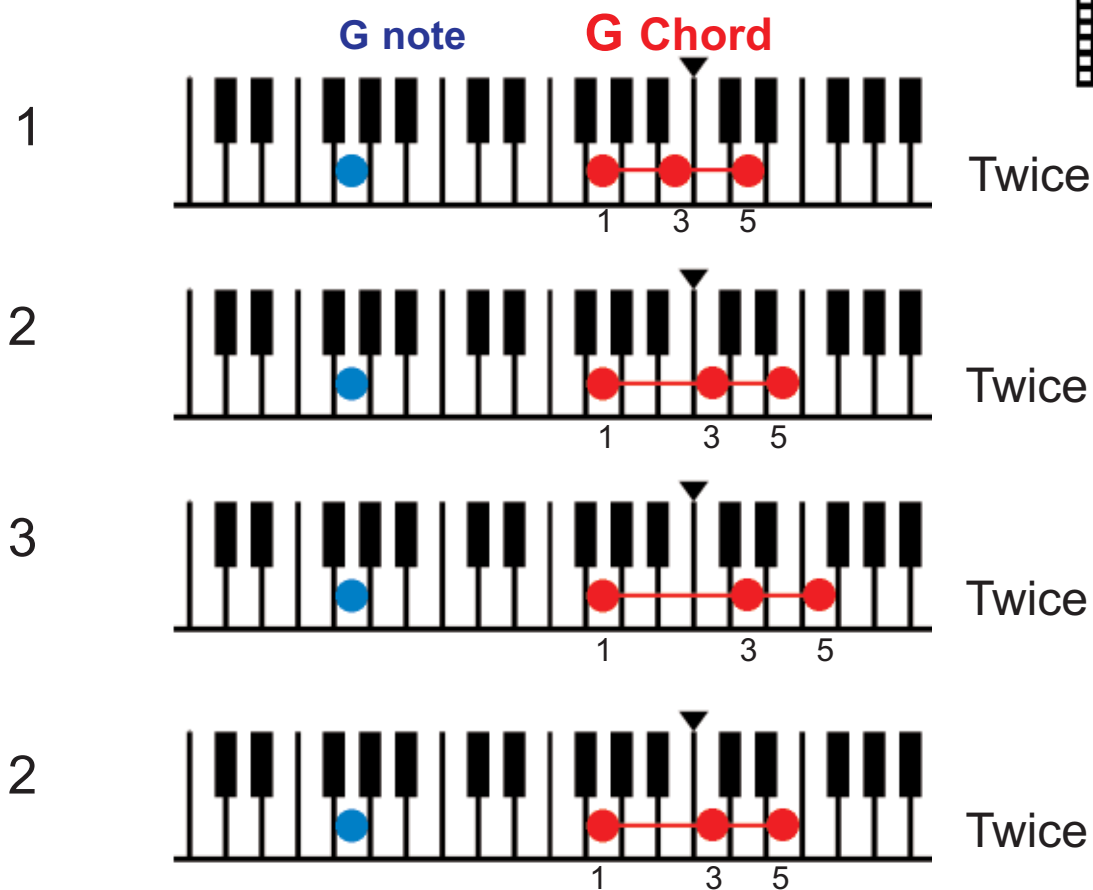
Twice

3

Twice

2

Twice



Repeat

1 2 3 2



Bring the BASS note (Left hand) in slightly before the RIGHT hand chord

You can now try  
Book 3

