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Electric Blues Essentials

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills



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Dirty Blues

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Lesson notes

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Diagrams

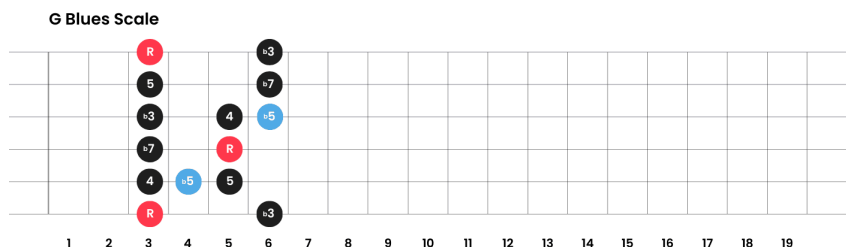
The Riff Part 1

Let's get started with the main riff, and the concept of the blues scale. First up, the blues scale, as this is the core scale we are using for this particular riff. The blues scale is simply the minor pentatonic with an additional flattened 5th note. This creates a 6 note scale that looks like this:



The only difference between the standard minor pentatonic and the blues scale is this b5th note!

When you apply this to the fretboard, and in the key of G, we can build our G blues scale. This can be played all over the neck, but to start with, let's play it from the first shape, down on the 3rd fret. Here is that shape with the b5th highlighted:



UNIT 1

Dirty Blues

 0% ^

Welcome to level one of our Electric Blues Essentials series! In this course we will be taking you through the beautiful world of electric blues guitar, covering lead, rhythm and the theory to help you play like The Greats!

Lessons:

- The Riff Part 1
- The Riff Part 2
- The Solo Part 1
- The Solo Part 2
- The Solo Part 3
- Moulding The Licks

UNIT 2

7th Chords &
The 12 Bar 0% v

UNIT 3

Major & Minor
Scale 0% v

UNIT 4

Keys &
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UNIT 5

"Motivational
Blues" 0% v

“

The “blues note” (flat 5) is very much a passing note, and is not a nice place to land or end any of your licks. Consider it an “out” note that adds colour and extra flavour to your soloing or riffs, rather than a key note in the scale.

Dan

”

The riff

With the scale learnt, let's apply it to the first part of the riff we are learning. Try to visualise it as you work through this opening section:

$\text{♩} = 80$

Lead Guitar

This first fret is simply the b3rd that is usually on the E string played on the A string instead. As shown below in the diagram:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

Your first job is to work through this main riff section, also remembering to pay close attention to the subtiles of the sound, especially using those quarter bends within this riff. Those finer details make all the difference when it comes to getting the blues sound bang on! Best of luck and see you in the next lesson.

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