

Grams best Jams
the ultimate cookbook

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Part I

Jazz, Blues, Folk... you get
the gist

How To Blues

A very short guide to the Blues

Rooted in the African American experience, The Standard 12 bar Blues Scheme goes like:

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|| I | I | I | I |  
| IV | IV | I | I |  
| V | IV | I | I ||
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the blues is a musical odyssey that traverses the emotional spectrum. From the haunting laments of Delta blues to the electrifying rhythms of Chicago blues, this genre serves as a poignant chronicle of the human condition. If we play the blues in C major it would go like:

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|| C | C | C | C |  
| F | F | C | C |  
| G | F | C | C ||
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Add 7th and 9th to taste

As a living tradition, the blues evolves, allowing contemporary artists to add new hues to its timeless tapestry. In the blues, listeners discover a harmonious journey through the diverse and authentic shades of the human soul.

If someone speaks about a turnaround, it means the last chord in the scheme (I; in our example C), becomes two chords, I and V (C and G).// A Quickchange substitutes the second chord with the IV (F).



Sheet for the 12 Bar
Blues in C

Misirlou

by Dick Dale, but its so old it doesn't have an origin any more

an instrumental masterpiece with roots tracing back to the Eastern Mediterranean, has transcended time and cultural boundaries to become an iconic surf rock anthem. Originating from the rebetiko genre, the song found a new identity when Dick Dale infused it with his electrifying guitar work, transforming it into a sonic journey that captures the essence of both the exotic and the rebellious. The song's hypnotic opening riff immediately transports listeners to a sun-soaked coastline, where the waves crash against the shore and the scent of salt hangs in the air. Beyond its musical prowess, "Misirlou" played a pivotal role in shaping the surf rock genre. Its infectious rhythm and exotic melodies became synonymous with the surfing subculture of the 1960s, capturing the rebellious spirit and carefree attitude of the era. The song's inclusion in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" further solidified its status as a cultural touchstone, introducing a new generation to its timeless allure. In conclusion, "Misirlou" is more than a surf rock anthem; it is a cross-cultural musical odyssey that transcends geographical and temporal boundaries. Its enduring popularity lies in its ability to evoke the sun-soaked beaches of the Mediterranean and the rebellious spirit of surf culture. As the guitar notes echo like the roar of the sea, "Misirlou" continues to captivate audiences, inviting them to ride the waves of its timeless melody and revel in the fusion of musical worlds.



Many Many Sheets
(wrong QR atm)

Yorks Guitar

by Andy McKee

an instrumental tour de force by guitarist Andy McKee, unveils a mesmerizing tapestry of technical brilliance and emotive storytelling. With deft fingerstyle technique and innovative tunings, McKee's guitar becomes an extension of his soul, weaving intricate melodies that defy conventional boundaries. The song, a showcase of McKee's percussive playing style, introduces listeners to a world where the guitar transcends its traditional role. Each pluck and tap on the strings creates a rhythmic dance, conjuring a soundscape that is both percussive and melodic. The intricate fingerpicking and harmonics showcase McKee's virtuosity, painting a sonic portrait that captivates with its complexity. "York's Guitar" is not merely a musical composition; it is a testament to the expressive potential of the guitar as an instrument. McKee's innovative approach, coupled with the emotive nuances of the melody, resonates with listeners, inviting them into a realm where technical mastery becomes a vessel for emotional communication. The song stands as a reminder that, in the hands of a skilled artist like Andy McKee, the guitar becomes a source of boundless creativity and sonic enchantment.



Many Many Sheets
(wrong QR atm)

Ikarus Dream

by Yngwie Malmsteen

a neoclassical masterpiece by Swedish guitarist Yngwie Malmsteen, invites listeners on a soaring musical journey inspired by the myth of Icarus. With lightning-fast arpeggios and symphonic accompaniments, Malmsteen's virtuosity transforms the guitar into wings of ambition. The composition captures the highs and lows of Icarus' myth, creating a cinematic experience that transcends genres. "Ikarus Dream" stands as a testament to Malmsteen's ability to weave technical prowess and emotional depth into a guitar instrumental, inviting listeners to dream beyond earthly limitations. As the composition unfolds, the symphonic elements enhance the dramatic impact, creating an immersive experience that transcends conventional instrumental boundaries. The dynamic shifts in tempo and mood, from soaring highs to introspective lows, invite listeners to embark on a multifaceted journey, where technical brilliance and emotional resonance coexist.



Many Many Sheets
(wrong QR atm)

Over The Rainbow

by Harold Arlen

a timeless classic written by Harold Arlen and lyricist E.Y. Harburg, is a melody that transcends generations, weaving a tapestry of hope and longing. Sung by Judy Garland in the iconic film "The Wizard of Oz," the song transports listeners to a realm where dreams unfold against the backdrop of a radiant rainbow. It goes beyond its status as a song; it is an anthem of hope and imagination. The delicate orchestration, with strings and woodwinds delicately supporting Garland's vocals, adds layers of emotion to the composition. As the song progresses, the music swells, mirroring the crescendo of dreams and the courage to chase them.



Many Many Sheets
(wrong QR atm)

Part II

Movies and Games

Lux Aeterna

by Clint Mansell

Within this composition, repetition becomes a hypnotic force, mirroring the recurrence of emotions, akin to an impressionistic brushstroke's captivating repetition. The dynamic range, from delicate whispers to thunderous crescendos, mimics an auditory chiaroscuro, unveiling a visceral and emotional landscape. In the fluid realm of auditory abstraction, a composition emerges as a shimmering tapestry of intangible emotion. It unveils a dreamscape where nebulous soundscapes and celestial harmonies intertwine, transcending conventional musical boundaries.

Repeat Gm Gm | Eb D | for ever and ever and ever.

It is a nameless masterpiece that paints with sound, capturing the essence of eternal light, leaving an indelible imprint on the soul, free from the constraints of traditional musical expression. If you wonder how Gm and D fit together, I dunno. Somehow it works.

Like an unveiling chords connecting ones mind to the galaxy, this piece pulls the senses out of ones body and leaves one wandering the endless expanses of the universe.



Cheat Sheet for C tuned
Instruments



If you need some help
with the chords, here
they are in Staff Notation.

Part III

Pop and Rock

Hit The Road Jack

by Percy Mayfield, but everyone knows the version by Ray Charles

Lets play it in A minor, so everyone has a great time :-)

In the annals of musical history, "Hit The Road Jack" emerges as an enchanting rhythmic odyssey that takes its listeners on a journey through the sultry depths of jazz and blues. Ray Charles, the maestro behind this timeless composition, weaves a tale of departure and defiance, encapsulating the essence of the human experience with unparalleled vocal prowess and musical finesse. The very heartbeat of this composition lies in its infectious rhythm, a syncopated dance that mirrors the unpredictable twists and turns of life. From the moment the first notes hit the air, the listener is



Chords and Lyrics for C tuned Instruments

drawn into the pulsating cadence, echoing the footsteps of a protagonist bidding farewell to a chapter of their life. Charles' gravelly yet soulful voice serves as a guide through this sonic adventure, expressing the raw emotion of a farewell with a playful defiance that is both poignant and irresistible. **The Progression stays Am, G, F, E7 for the whole Song.** The call-and-response dynamics within "Hit The Road Jack" are reminiscent of a lively conversation between vocalist and instrumentalists, each playing their part in a musical dialogue that mirrors the tumultuous exchanges within a strained relationship. The backing vocalists serve as the chorus of unsolicited advice or perhaps the echoing thoughts of a departing lover, adding a layer of complexity to the narrative. Meanwhile, the instrumentalists, with their nuanced interplay, contribute to the emotional landscape, creating a sonic atmosphere that captures the essence of heartbreak.

Notes in A minor:

A, B, C, D, E, F and G (the white keys)

Sixteen Tons

by Merle Travis

You remember Hit The Road Jack? It's the same, but a bit different

"Sixteen Tons," a classic folk song written by Merle Travis and popularized by Tennessee Ernie Ford, stands as a poignant testament to the struggles and hardships faced by the working class, particularly those in the coal mining industry. With its gritty lyrics and soulful delivery, the song encapsulates the gritty reality of a life spent toiling away in the unfor-giving depths of the earth.

lets go Am, G, F, E7 (2x)

Am, G, Dm, F and Am, Am E, Am for Verse and Chorus.

Make a short break after the Chorus and start the next workday. The title itself, "Sixteen Tons," refers to the immense burden carried by the coal miner—both in terms of the tonnage of coal extracted and the weight of the oppressive working conditions. The opening line, "Some people say a man is made out of mud," sets the tone for the narrative, highlighting the dehumanizing nature of the labor and the toll it takes on the miner's body and spirit.



Chords and Lyrics for C
tuned Instruments, The
Johnny Cash Version

Notes in A minor:

A, B, C, D, E, F and G (the white keys)

Feed The Machine

by Poor Man's Poison

The song emerges as a potent anthem, weaving a narrative of defiance and resilience against the backdrop of haunting melodies and visceral lyricism. This alternative rock masterpiece encapsulates the raw energy of a generation grappling with the complexities of a mechanized society, where individuality clashes with conformity. Repeat Em and B7, except when not. Bridges are just Em The arrangement, marked by dynamic shifts between melodic verses and powerful crescendos, mirrors the ebb and flow of the struggle for autonomy. The juxtaposition of delicate instrumentation against the anthemic chorus creates a tension that encapsulates the dichotomy of vulnerability and strength inherent in the human experience.



Chords and Lyrics for C
tuned Instruments

Notes in E minor:

E, F#, G, A, B, C and E (one #)

Ultimately, the song becomes a testament to the indomitable human spirit. It encourages listeners to question societal norms, challenge the status quo, and embrace their authentic selves. "Feed the Machine" is more than a song; it is a cathartic expression of individuality, a battle cry for those seeking to break free from the relentless grind of conformity and reclaim their autonomy in the face of an unforgiving machine-like world.

Sultans Of Swing

by Dire Straits

It stands as a timeless musical masterpiece that paints a vivid picture of urban life during the enchanting moments of twilight. Mark Knopfler's masterful guitar work, akin to strokes on a canvas, captures the essence of a bustling cityscape coming to life after the sun sets. The repetition within the composition creates a captivating rhythm mirroring the pulse of city streets, while the dynamic interplay of delicate plucks and robust strums mirrors the vibrant lights and shadows of the urban landscape.

Notes in F major:

A, A#, C, D, E, F and G

This classic piece invites listeners to explore the nuanced beauty of city life, offering a melodic journey that transcends the boundaries of traditional musical expression. It is a nameless masterpiece that evokes the spirit of urban existence, inviting all who listen to immerse themselves in the magic of its rhythmic pulse and timeless melodies.



Bass and Chords for C
tuned Instruments

Chords in F major:

F, Gm, Am, Bb, C, Dm and Edim

Average Progression:

Dm Dm | C Bb | A A | A A | (2x)

F F | F F | C C | C C |

Bb Bb | Bb Bb | Dm Dm | Dm Bb |

then either: C C | C C | (yes, only 2 bars)

or: C C | C Bb | C C | C C | Dm C | Bb Bb |

C C | F C | Dm C | Bb Bb | C C | C C |

