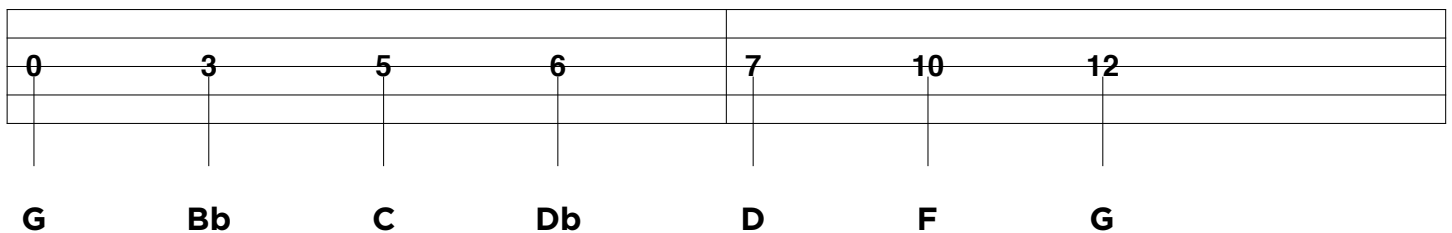


1 The Blues Scale

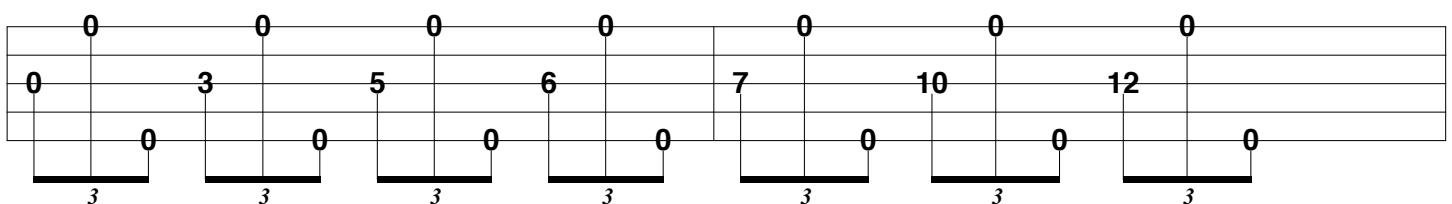
To begin our journey we will play the blues scale up single strings. If you remember nothing else from this book, you can remember this scale as the key to unlock the sound of the blues.

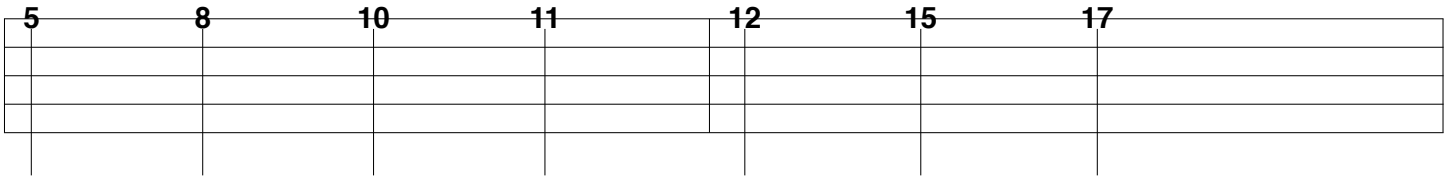
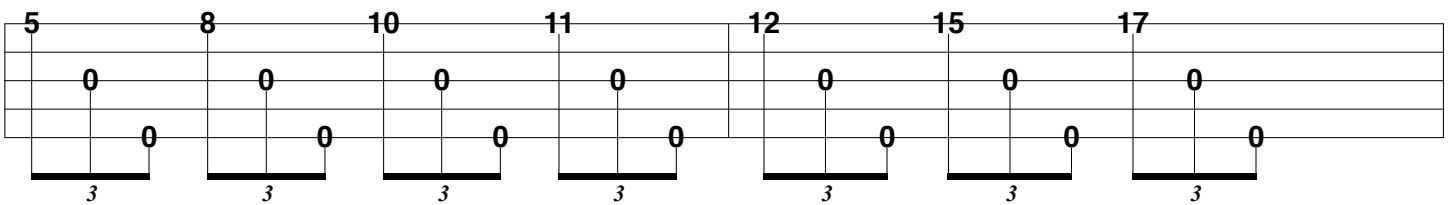
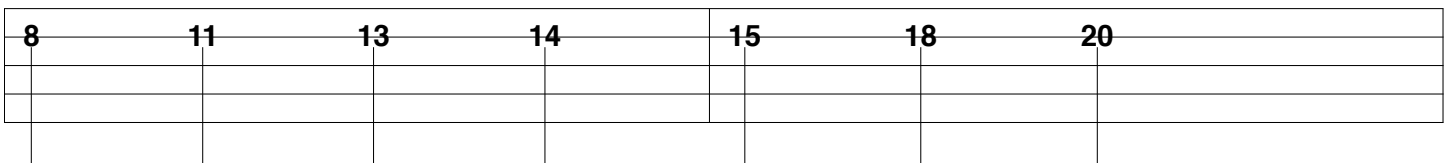
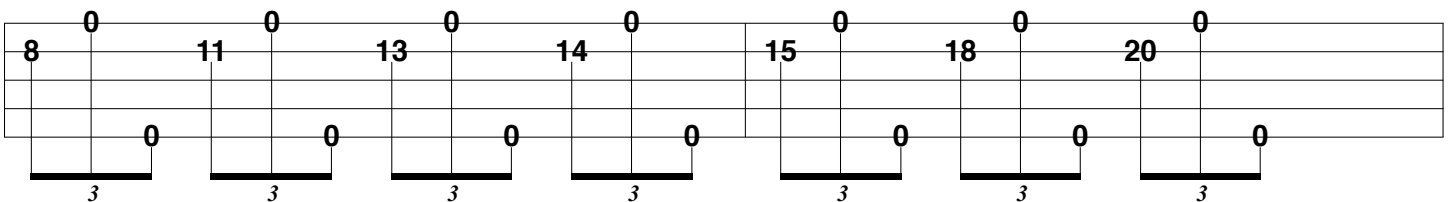
While there is no strictly defined “blues scale” per se, this variation is the most well-known. It is a **minor pentatonic scale with an added flattened 5th**. (Don’t understand what that means? Don’t worry, just play it!)

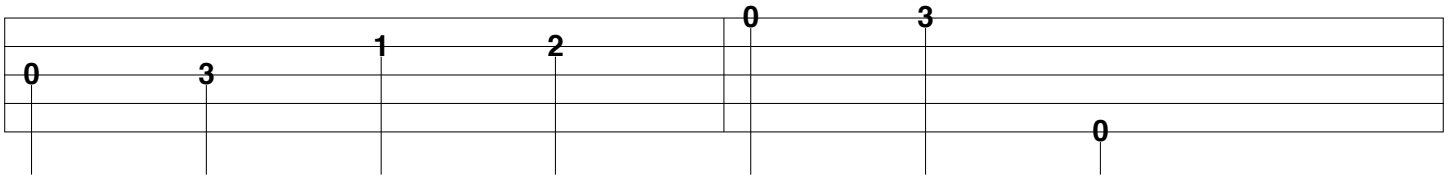
G Blues Scale (played up the center G string)



G Blues Scale (played up the G string with a forward roll)



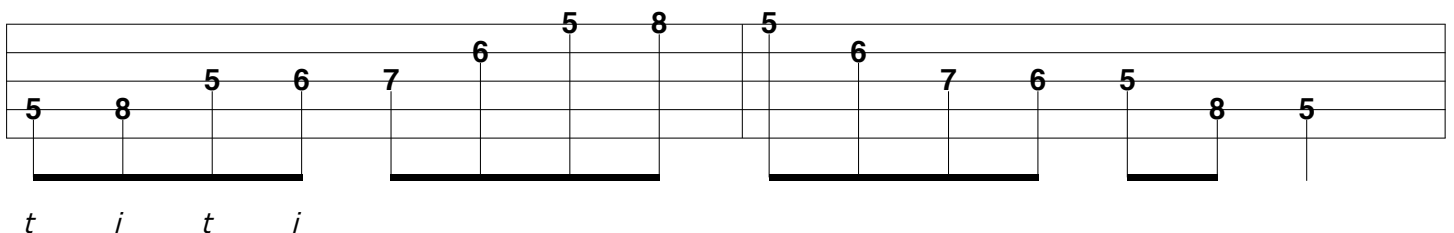
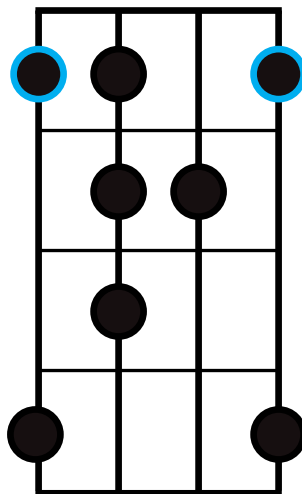
G Blues Scale (played up the bottom D string)**G Blues Scale** (played up the D string with a backward roll)**G Blues Scale** (played up the B string)**G Blues Scale** (played up the B string with a forward roll)

G Blues Scale (played in open position)**Closed Position Blues Scale Patterns**

Just like the major scale, we can play blues scale in a closed position (a moveable pattern using no open strings). Here are two easy shapes to get you started.

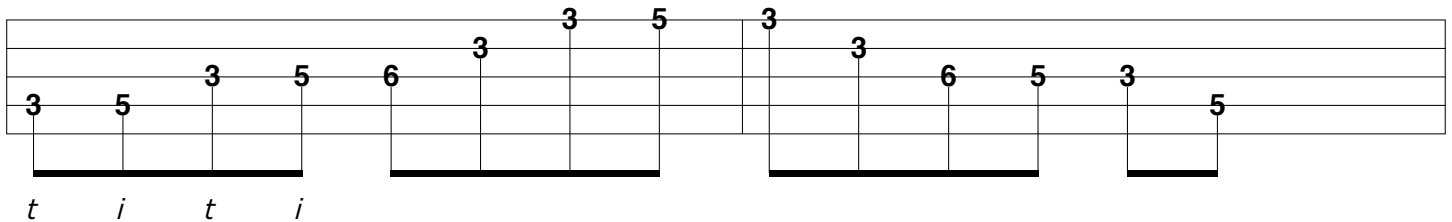
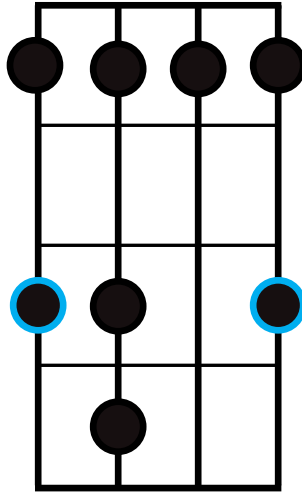
**Closed Position
Blues Scale Pattern**

*(Index Finger
On Root Note)*



Closed Position Blues Scale Pattern

*(Ring Finger
On Root Note)*



Finally, here's the blues scale played in melodic style. Once you have all of these scales under your fingers, try to alternate between all of them while improvising a blues solo.

G Blues Scale (played in melodic style)

