

## Singin' the Blues

The blues pattern appears all over the place in music, from "In the Mood" to "Hound Dog". It's normally a 12 bar pattern (but not always) and works on the old 1 4 5 progression. The tempo is not always strict; it's more of a "feel" than anything else.

The chords you need in the key of C you already know C F G, but if you make them 7 chords i.e. C7 F7 G7 they sound bluesier.  
Make them C7 F9 G9 and they sound even more bluesy.

## The Minor Pentatonic and Blues Scales

There is a scale that fits the blues perfectly which is very easy to play and has the same interval pattern on the fretboard whichever key you use...we will use the scale of C minor pentatonic, in which there are basically five notes

They are: C D# F G A# and back to C...five different notes, all of which are scale notes in the blues chord sequence above, you can add an F# in there for effect and make the blues scale really bluesy but only use it for effect now and then, it loses its impact if used too often, you can also bend notes in the scale for effect.

Eric Clapton has made a whole career on this scale alone; it's easy to play, not so easy to put real expression and soul into it!

Learn the pattern off by heart, so you can play it without looking at the fretboard and then try and put a feeling of sadness, pathos, anger, rebellion, resignation into it, and don't play it too fast, a nice "chugging" tempo

If you have someone at home who is a uke or guitar player, get them to play the chords as you play the scale over the top, you will see how it fits...then swap roles so they can have a go!

"I woke up this morning and the old dog done died" etc

As a matter of interest this scale will also fit over the 1m 4m 5(7<sup>th</sup>) progression in the same tonality

I.e. C minor F minor G(7<sup>th</sup>) so it is really versatile yet quite simple  
It works because again all the scale tones match the chords.