

# THE TWELVE BLUES SCALES

The image displays the twelve blues scales, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar fretboard diagram below it. The scales are: C, D<sup>b</sup>, D, E<sup>b</sup>, E, F, G<sup>b</sup>, G, A<sup>b</sup>, A, B<sup>b</sup>, and B. Each scale is shown in a 12-bar format, with the first three bars of each system corresponding to the scale notes. The fretboard diagrams show the fingerings for each note on the strings.

**The Blues Scale Formula:** Root,  $b3$ rd, 4th,  $b5$ th, 5th,  $b7$ th.

**Example:** F Blues Scale - F, A $b$ , B $b$ , B $\natural$ , C, E $b$ , F

When playing a 12 bar blues progression in the key of A, use the A Blues scale (and respectively for other tones).

The blues scale will also work in minor blues and over minor chords in general.

It is common to alternate between the blues scale and the Dorian mode over minor chords.