

Name	
Instrument	Tenor Sax/Trumpet

Bb Blues

The Blues is a very famous form for writing and improvising music. It dates back to the early 20th century and is a great starting point for improvisation because of its use of only 3 chords (although many variations of Blues progressions exist and are used).

The Blues is 12 measures long. This is divided into 3 four measure sections, with each section resolving to the tonic or root chord.

Roman Numerals

In order to transpose quickly and discuss music, Jazz Musicians use Roman Numerals to talk about Chord Progressions.

I7	∕∕	I7	∕∕
IV7	∕∕	I7	∕∕
V7	IV7	I7	∕∕

Chord Changes

Using the above Roman Numerals, we can apply a “home key” to base our blues from. We’ll use concert Bb and substitute the Chords for the Roman Numerals. Because this is a Blues in Bb, Concert Bb would be the Roman Numeral I.

C7	∕∕	C7	∕∕
F7	∕∕	C7	∕∕
G7	F7	C7	∕∕

Scales

C7 (Concert Bb) Scale (I7)

F7 (Concert Eb) Scale (IV7)

G7 (Concert F) Scale (V7)

C (Concert Bb) Blues Scale

The scales are written in treble clef with a common time signature. The C7 scale starts on Bb and follows a 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-1 pattern. The F7 scale starts on Eb and follows a 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-1 pattern. The G7 scale starts on F and follows a 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-1 pattern. The C Blues Scale starts on Bb and follows a 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-1 pattern with a flat 9th and a sharp 9th.