

BLUES SOLOING CHEATSHEET

How To Take A Blues Solo
And Sound Like You Know
What You're Doing.

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Blues Soloing Cheatsheet:

How To Take A Blues Solo And Sound Like You
Know What You're Doing.





Ready to start playing some killer blues solos but you don't know where to start or how to get there?

Or maybe you've tried playing some solos over some jam tracks... or maybe you're REALLY brave and you've jumped up with a band and given it the "old college try"...but it didn't work out so well.

Well none of that matters now because we're going to cut to the chase and do 2 very important things:

- 1** Get you soloing... now, not in an hour, not next week... NOW!
- 2** Open your eyes to what's out there in the soloing universe so you can choose a path that will work for you.

Now, if you've never taken a solo or tried to play a solo before in your whole life, your first solo probably won't win any guitar magazine reader's choice awards...

BUT – it won't have any clams, and it won't have any wrong notes. And it'll be yours and it'll come from you. At least you will have a great starting point and it's only going to get better from here.

And if you have been doing some soloing, but you're not really digging on what's coming out of your guitar, this will help cut through the clutter and show you those vital few things you need to be doing to improve quickly.

One last thing – there are no hard and fast rules in blues, "if it sounds good it is good." But, what you are getting here are "best practices" that are pretty much guaranteed to work. There are other options, but if you aren't sure, go with these. You have to know the rules before you can break them, right?

What You Need To Know First...

1. The 12 bar blues format
2. How to find notes on your guitar
3. How to play single notes on your guitar

What You Don't Need To Know First...

1. Any scales or patterns – seriously!
2. Any music theory.
3. Any licks or solos

Blues Soloing Levels...

Level 1 - Minor Pentatonic over all 3 chords (I, IV, and V). All blues players spend a lot of time here.

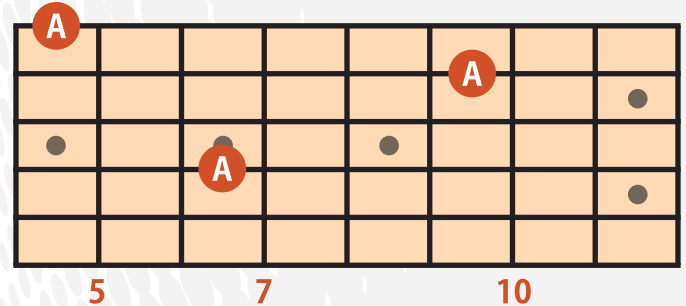
Level 2 - Major over I (at least some), Minor over IV and V. Think BB King, Eric Clapton, Hendrix. SRV and Albert King did this less.

Level 3 - Each chord is a new key. New Major and Minor Pentatonic scales for each chord. Think Robben Ford, Matt Schofield, Chris Cain.

Level 4 - Outside jazzy sounds, modes, etc. Think Larry Carlton, Robben Ford, Scott Henderson (his blues stuff). Use sparingly.

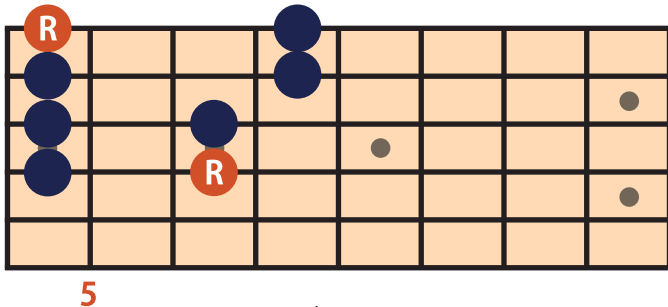
Where To Start Your Solo...

The 1st, 2nd, or 4th string, on the root.



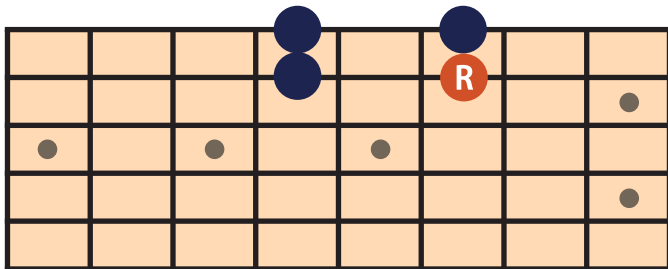
What Notes To Use For Your Solo...

From 1st or 4th string root:



5

From 2nd string root:



10

The Secret To Phrasing...

Phrasing is the “vocal” quality of your licks and melodies. There are 2 easy ways to master phrasing and always sound good:

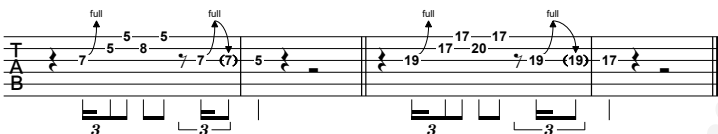
1. Never start your lick or phrase on beat 1. Start on the last half of beat 1 or later, or do a pickup into beat 1.
2. Imitate the rhythm of vocal melodies. Sing your favorite blues lyric, then play a similar rhythm (not necessarily the same notes) when you solo.

The Soloing Tripod...

1. Notes, Scales, “Theory”- Improvise, create, learn faster, recover better.
2. Licks – How we “talk” when we solo.
3. Complete Solos – Brings the intangibles into focus and gives a starting point.

Double Your Trouble...

Octaves are your friend. If you play something cool in one spot, move it up or down an octave (12 frets) and play it again!



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