

# How To Play Thousands Of Blues Songs...

## Even If You've Never Heard Them Before.

### The 5 Components Of A Blues Tune:

1. The Feel
2. The Key
3. The Form
4. The Beginning
5. The End

### The Feels:

1. The Shuffle (Sweet Home Chicago, Tore Down, etc.)
2. The Slow Blues (Texas Flood, Red House, Stormy Monday, etc.)
3. The Straight Feel (Johnny B. Goode, Thrill Is Gone, etc.)
4. "Other" (Crosscut Saw, All Your Love I Miss Lovin', etc.)
5. You must ask or hear it, you can't just know

### The 12 Bar Blues Form

The 12 Bar Blues Form is represented by three staves of music, each containing four bars of rhythmic notation (diagonal lines). The chord progressions are indicated by Roman numerals above the staves:

- Staff 1: Bar 1 (I)
- Staff 2: Bar 5 (IV), Bar 9 (I)
- Staff 3: Bar 9 (V), Bar 10 (IV), Bar 11 (I), Bar 12 (V)

### The Rhythm Figure

The Rhythm Figure is shown in a 4/4 time signature. The treble clef staff contains a melody starting with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, and a quarter rest. The guitar fretboard diagram below shows the corresponding chords: A7 (open strings), A7 (2nd fret), A7 (open strings), and A7 (2nd fret).

**12 Bar Blues In A, Shuffle Feel (Blues Rhythm):**

Musical notation for the first system (measures 1-4) of a 12-bar blues in A major, shuffle feel. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody starts with a triplet of eighth notes: A4, B4, C#5. The harmony is A7. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for the bass strings (T, A, B).

T							
A	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
B	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

Musical notation for the second system (measures 5-8) of the 12-bar blues. The melody continues with a triplet of eighth notes: D5, E5, F#5. The harmony changes to D7 for measures 5-6 and A7 for measures 7-8. The guitar tablature shows the fretting for the bass strings.

T							
A	5	5	5	5	6	6	6
B	4	4	4	4	5	5	5

Musical notation for the third system (measures 9-12) of the 12-bar blues. The melody concludes with a triplet of eighth notes: G5, A5, B5. The harmony changes to E7 for measures 9-10, D7 for measure 11, and A7 for measure 12. The guitar tablature shows the fretting for the bass strings.

T							
A	7	7	5	5	6	6	7
B	6	6	4	4	5	5	6

**12 Bar Blues In A, Slow Blues Feel (Blues Rhythm):**

Musical notation for the first system (measures 1-3). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 12/8. The first system consists of three measures. Above the staff, the chords are labeled A<sup>7</sup>, D<sup>7</sup>, and A<sup>7</sup>. The notation shows a blues rhythm with eighth notes and rests. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings T, A, and B. The fingerings are: Measure 1: A<sup>7</sup> (6-5), A<sup>7</sup> (6-5); Measure 2: D<sup>7</sup> (5-4), D<sup>7</sup> (5-4); Measure 3: A<sup>7</sup> (6-5), A<sup>7</sup> (6-5).

Musical notation for the second system (measures 4-6). The second system consists of three measures. Above the staff, the chords are labeled D<sup>7</sup> and A<sup>7</sup>. The notation shows a blues rhythm with eighth notes and rests. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings T, A, and B. The fingerings are: Measure 4: D<sup>7</sup> (6-5), D<sup>7</sup> (6-5); Measure 5: D<sup>7</sup> (5-4), D<sup>7</sup> (5-4), D<sup>7</sup> (5-4), D<sup>7</sup> (5-4); Measure 6: A<sup>7</sup> (6-5), A<sup>7</sup> (6-5).

Musical notation for the third system (measures 7-9). The third system consists of three measures. Above the staff, the chords are labeled E<sup>7</sup> and D<sup>7</sup>. The notation shows a blues rhythm with eighth notes and rests. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings T, A, and B. The fingerings are: Measure 7: E<sup>7</sup> (6-5), E<sup>7</sup> (6-5); Measure 8: E<sup>7</sup> (7-6), E<sup>7</sup> (7-6); Measure 9: D<sup>7</sup> (5-4), D<sup>7</sup> (5-4).

Musical notation for the fourth system (measures 10-12). The fourth system consists of two measures. Above the staff, the chords are labeled A<sup>7</sup> and E<sup>7</sup>. The notation shows a blues rhythm with eighth notes and rests. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings T, A, and B. The fingerings are: Measure 10: A<sup>7</sup> (6-5), A<sup>7</sup> (6-5); Measure 11: E<sup>7</sup> (7-6), E<sup>7</sup> (7-6).

**12 Bar Blues In A, Straight Feel (Blues Rhythm):**

A<sup>7</sup>

T	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
A	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
B							

5

D<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup>

T	5	5	5	5	6	6	6
A	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
B							

9

E<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> E<sup>7</sup>

T	7	7	5	5	6	6	7
A	6	6	4	4	5	5	6
B							