

Ab Blues Scale

www.PianoLessons.com

The image displays two musical staves for the Ab Blues Scale in 3/4 time. The first staff shows the scale with a specific fingering: Right hand (RH) notes are Ab (2), B (1), Db (2), D (1), Eb (2), Gb (3); Left hand (LH) notes are Ab (2), Gb (1), Eb (2), D (4), Db (3), B (2), Ab (1). The second staff shows an alternate fingering: RH notes are Ab (2), B (3), Db (4), D (1), Eb (2), Gb (3); LH notes are Ab (4), Gb (3), Eb (2), D (4), Db (3), B (2), Ab (4). Both staves include chord symbols: Ab, B, Db, D, Eb, Gb, Ab, Gb, Eb, D, Db, B, Ab.

The term blues scale is used to describe a few scales with differing number of pitches and related characteristics. The more popular of the blues scales is a six note scale.

A major feature of the blues scale is the use of blue notes (flattened 3rd, 5th, and 7th notes). At its most basic, a single version of this "blues scale" is commonly used over all changes (or chords) in a twelve bar blues progression.

Make sure that you follow the fingering as written above each note. Remember, your thumbs are "1" and you number out from there to your pinky fingers which are "5".

Start with the right hand first. Once you feel comfortable with that, move to the left hand. After that play the scale with both hands.

Once you have mastered playing just one octave, move on to playing 2 octaves. Pay attention to your fingering as you move into the second octave.

Play around with this scale. The notes in this scale can give your improvising that "bluesy" sound.