



THE BLUES, THE BAR AND THE SQUARE NECK

Abstract

This workshop is the first of 5 installments of The Blues, The Bar and The Square Neck workshops, with a deep dive into the Blues and the Dobro pitch set in GBDGBD tuning. The workshop is targeted to low intermediate players per the following:

Assumptions

1. Familiar with basic music theory;
2. Can read sheet music or tablature. Preferably both;
3. Familiar with basic scale theory i.e. the chromatic scale, enharmonic notes, major and minor scales, pentatonic scales and their respective intervals;
4. Familiar with the dobro fretboard and note locations in open G tuning;
5. Familiar with “**movable**” chord forms and “Major” scale shapes up and down the fretboard;
6. You dig the blues.

Workshop #1 is the foundation and prerequisite for the workshops to follow. Additionally, this workshop will focus on using the ¹12 frets of the dobro fretboard as the note palette. Specifically, the key of A minor will be the focus and the basis for expanding to all other keys using the same concepts learned and applied in this workshop. Also, there are many other ways to organize the fretboard. What I present in the visual aids herein, is only 1 of many options. The intent is to “bring out” scale shapes at different positions on the fretboard to facilitate and enhance your music. If you discover a better way in the process, excellent! You will remember your discovery long after you’ve forgotten what I’ve shared. Make a note of it and work with it.

Learning Objectives

1. To introduce the learner to 4 useful pentatonic/Blues shapes that can be used individually or combined. The shapes layered over the fretboard, include all of the notes of the A Minor and Blues pentatonic scales.
2. The learner will also use the shapes, intervals and concepts to play Blues style music, and create Blues music based on standard principals of music theory.

¹ I do go beyond the 12th fret working with strings 1, 2, & 3. You can skip over the scale pattern as it is included in previous shapes and come back to these later.



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Revision	Document	File Format
2.5	Presentation/Speaker Notes	.pdf/.ppt
1.0	The A Minor Pentatonic Fretboard	.pdf
2.0	A Minor Fretboards vs. C Major	.pdf
2.1.3	The A Minor Pentatonic Shapes	.pdf
1.0	Am Pentatonic Scales - Notes & Tab	.pdf/.musicXML
2.0	A Minor "Blues" Fretboard	.pdf
3.5	A Minor "Blues" Fretboard Shapes	.pdf
2.1.1	5 Keys in 1 Position	.pdf
2.0	5 Keys in 1 Position Workout	.pdf/.musicXML
2.3.1	5 Keys in 1 Position - Blues Scale	.pdf
2.2	5 Keys in 1 Position - Blues Scale Workout	.pdf
2.0	The Mixolydian Scale	.pdf
1.0	Summary	.pdf

Learning Strategies

1. Learn the scales forward and backward using both the fretboard visual aids and the scale exercise / tablature.
2. Connect the shapes up and down the fretboard.
3. When working with your fretboard, always think "*efficiency*" and "*tonal quality*".
4. Also, pick a song in the minor pentatonic scale and play it by ear on each string and in each shape.
5. Using the Single String fretboard file, print it out and use a highlighter pen to mark up the shapes. Discover some of your own!
6. Use a metronome.



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References and Works Cited

Guitar Scale.org. <https://www.guitarscale.org>

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