

Riffs for Rhythm Blues Ukulele



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Key: D

Scales: Minor Pentatonic Shape 4

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6qUZLL3gWc>

Scale Shapes:

Musical notation for measures 14 and 15. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 14 contains a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on D5. Measure 15 contains a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, and a quarter note on G5. The ukulele tablature below shows fingerings: 0-2-0-2 for measure 14 and 0-3-1-3 for measure 15.

I Chord - Replaces D7 Chord

Musical notation for measures 16 and 17. Measure 16 contains a quarter note on Bb4, a quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on D5. Measure 17 contains a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, and a quarter note on G5. The ukulele tablature below shows fingerings: 3-2-1 for measure 16 and 2-2-0-0-2-2 for measure 17.

IV Chord - Replaces G7 Chord

Musical notation for measures 18 and 19. Measure 18 contains a quarter note on Bb4, a quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on D5. Measure 19 contains a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, and a quarter note on G5. The ukulele tablature below shows fingerings: 8-7-6 for measure 18 and 7-7-5-5-7-7 for measure 19.

V Chord - Replaces A7 Chord

Musical notation for measures 20 and 21. Measure 20 contains a quarter note on Bb4, a quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on D5. Measure 21 contains a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, and a quarter note on G5. The ukulele tablature below shows fingerings: 10-9-8 for measure 20 and 9-9-7-7-9-9 for measure 21.

Full 12 Bar Blues

D7

G7 D7

A7 G7 D7 A7

Make your own

Step 1 - Pick a key

Step 2 - Practice the pentatonic. If you choose G blues, play the G minor pentatonic for example.

Step 3 - Make a riff. The riff should be one measure and finish on the root note.

Step 4 - Play the riff 4 times, this is bars 1 - 4

Step 5 - Move the riff up the fretboard 5 frets and play it twice, that is bars 5-6. Move back to the start and play it twice for bars 7-8

Step 6 - Move the riff up 7 bars and play once, down 2 bars and play once, back to the start and play once then up 7 bars and play once to cover the turnaround.

And there you have it friends, how to compose your own riff based 12 bar blues!