

IMPROVISING: 12-BAR BLUES

Rock, jazz and many contemporary styles all developed from the blues which has its roots the 19th century.

The 12-bar blues is a great place to start improvising. You can play the notes from one scale over three dominant 7 chords and all the notes will sound OK.

The blues scale in A:

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e -----  
B-----  
G-----0--2--0-----  
D-----0--1--2-----2--1--0-----  
A--0--3-----3--0-----  
E-----
```

Practice this scale until you know it from memory. Make up riffs and tunes using these notes only. Bending the strings when you play a note or sliding between notes will make it sound even more like the blues.

12-bar blues chord progression in A:

Now get a friend to play this chord sequence or record yourself playing it several times. Strum four beats to each bar. Then use the blues scale to improvise over the chords.

4	A7		A7		A7		A7	
4								
	D7		D7		A7		A7	
	E7		D7		A7		E7	