



THE BLUES SCALE AND ITS MANY USES



The above example is the **Blues Scale**. This scale is a note scale (thus it is a hexatonic scale). You can think of this scale as a minor pentatonic with an added flat 5th. Play the scale on a keyboard and sing along until you can imagine its sound even when you are not playing. The

intervallic scale formula for the A Minor Pentatonic Scale
Root, m3, P4, d5, P5, m7, Octave.

Blues scale has many uses. It can be played over a minor 7 chord just like the minor pentatonic but with a blue note twist (b5). It can also be played over a dominant 7 chord. Even though the scale's m3 will clash with the M3 third of the dominant 7 chord, the dissonance makes some cool music. You can also go down a m3 from a dominant chord and use that note's blues scale. For instance, if you play over A7, try F# Blues.

Try these ideas over minor 11 backing tracks and dominant 7 backing tracks.