

QUICKSTART

Scale Fingerings for Lead Guitar

Learn how to
create exciting
solos in a
variety of
contemporary
styles!

Volume
ONE

Six essential scales for lead guitar*

- **Blues**
- **Pentatonic**
- **Dorian**
- **Mixolydian**
- **Aeolian**
- **Ionian**

By
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SHELLER**
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the **BLUES** SCALE

The Minor Pentatonic Scale

One octave Blues scale fingerings can be played in seven positions. Seven of these are in basic position on a six-string guitar. A basic position is a single 4 fret span, one fret per string. Beyond these basic positions, there are alternative extended fingerings available.

The Blues scale is the most commonly used lead scale in Rock and Blues. Blues influenced jazz players also use this scale effectively. The Blues scale is also called the Minor Pentatonic scale.

The Blues scale consists of the following intervals (based on a major scale). **Root, b3, 4, 5, b7 and octave.** A common chromatic passing tone can be played between the 4th and 5th of the scale.



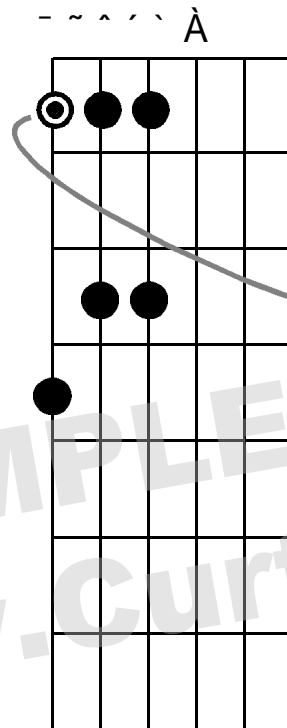
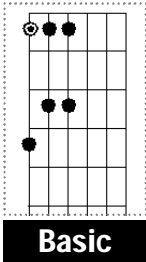


1

6

Finger 1, String ⑥ Basic

One octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 1, string ⑥



Root	Fret
F	1
F#/G ^b	2
G	3
G#/A ^b	4
A	5
A#/B ^b	6
B	7
C	8
C#/D ^b	9
D	10
D#/E ^b	11
E	12
F	13

Same scale one octave higher

Finger	1	4	1	3	1	3
T						
A						
B	5	8	5	7	5	7

*

A	C	D	E	G	A
Root	b3	4	5	b7	Octave

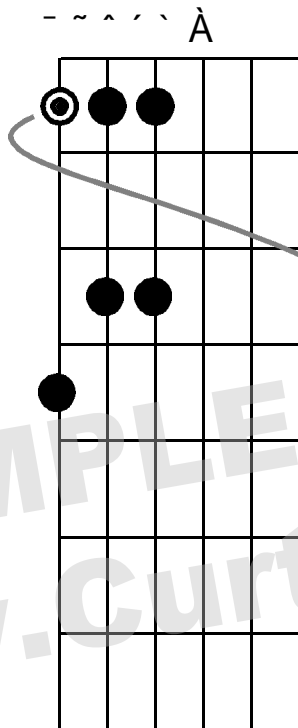
* Note: The guitar sounds one octave lower than written.



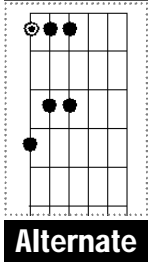
Finger 2, String ⑥ Alternate

2
⑥

One octave A Blues scale starting on finger 2, string ⑥



Root	Fret
F	1
F#/G ^b	2
G	3
G#/A ^b	4
A	5
A#/B ^b	6
B	7
C	8
C#/D ^b	9
D	10
D#/E ^b	11
E	12
F	13



SAMPLE CHAPTER
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* This fingering introduces a **mobile stretch** of the 4th finger.

	* ┌───┐					
Finger	2	4	1	3	1	3
T						
A						
B	5	8	5	7	5	7

A C D E G A`
Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave

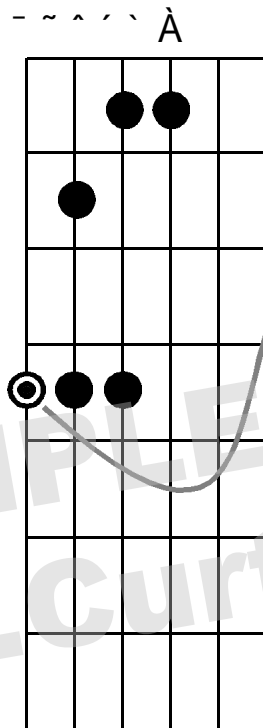
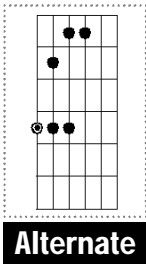


3

6

Finger 3, String ⑥ Alternate

One octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 3, string ⑥



Root	Fret
G#/A ^b	4
A	5
A#/B ^b	6
B	7
C	8
C#/D ^b	9
D	10
D#/E ^b	11
E	12
F	13
F#/G ^b	14
G	15
G#/A ^b	16

Same scale one octave higher

* This fingering introduces a contraction of the 4th finger.

Finger 3 1 4 1 4 1

T
A
B

5 3 5 2 5 2

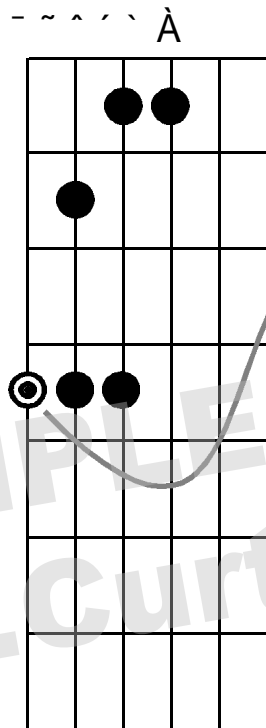
A C D E G A^ˆ

Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave



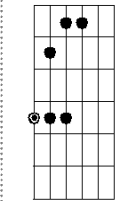
Finger 4, String ⑥ Basic

One octave A Blues scale starting on finger 4, string ⑥



Root	Fret
G#/A ^b	4
A	5
A#/B ^b	6
B	7
C	8
C#/D ^b	9
D	10
D#/E ^b	11
E	12
F	13
F#/G ^b	14
G	15
G#/A ^b	16

Same scale one octave higher



Basic

Finger 4 2 4 1 4 1

A C D E G A'

Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave

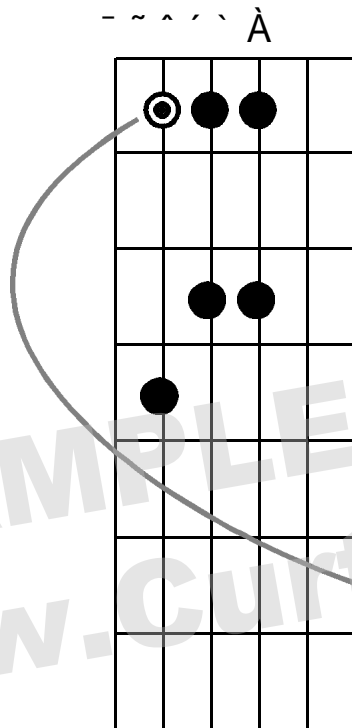
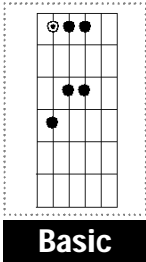


1

5

Finger 1, String ⑤ Basic

One octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 1, string ⑤



Root	Fret
A#/B ^b	1
B	2
C	3
C#/D ^b	4
D	5
D#/E ^b	6
E	7
F	8
F#/G ^b	9
G	10
G#/A ^b	11
A	12
A#/B ^b	13

Same scale one octave higher

Finger 1 4 1 3 1 3

T
A
B

12 15 12 14 12 14

A C D E G A

Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave

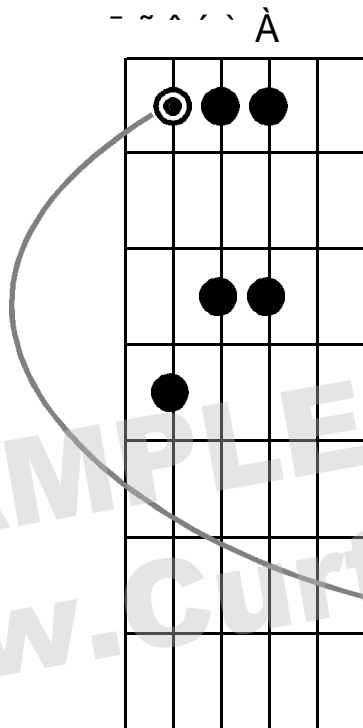




Finger 2, String ⑤ Alternate

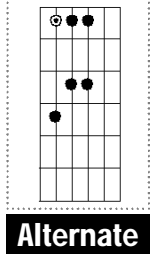
One octave A Blues scale starting on finger 2, string ⑤

2
⑤



Root	Fret
A#/B ^b	1
B	2
C	3
C#/D ^b	4
D	5
D#/E ^b	6
E	7
F	8
F#/G ^b	9
G	10
G#/A ^b	11
A	12
A#/B ^b	13

Same scale one octave higher



* This fingering introduces a **mobile stretch** of the 4th finger.

Finger	2	4	1	3	1	3
T						
A						
B	12	15	12	14	12	14

A C D E G A`
Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave

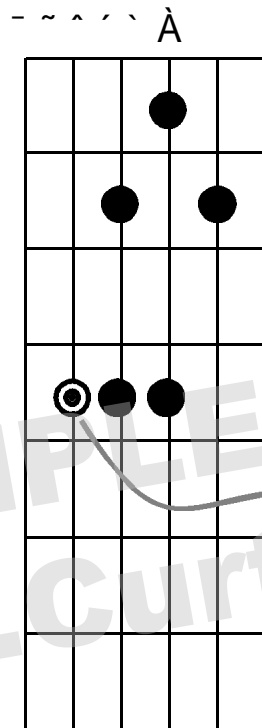
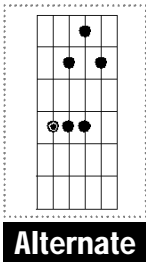


3

5

Finger 3, String 5 Alternate

One octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger **3**, string **5**



Root	Fret
C#/D ^b	4
D	5
D#/E ^b	6
E	7
F	8
F#/G ^b	9
G	10
G#/A ^b	11
A	12
A#/B ^b	13
B	14
C	15
C#/D ^b	16

Same scale one octave higher

* This fingering introduces a **contraction** of the 4th finger.

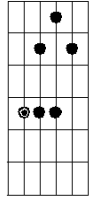
		*				
Finger	3	1	4	1	4	2
T						
A						
B	12	10	12	9	12	10

A	C	D	E	G	A ^ˆ
Root	b3	4	5	b7	Octave

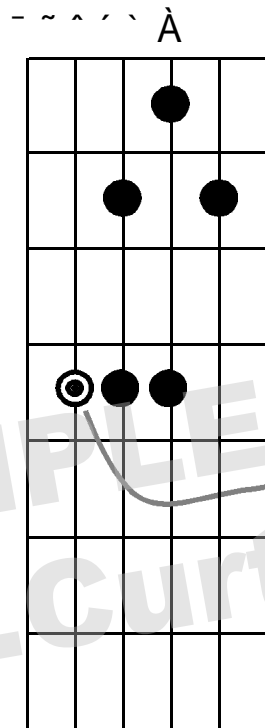


Finger 4, String 5 Basic

One octave A Blues scale starting on finger 4, string 5



Basic



Root	Fret
C#/D ^b	4
D	5
D#/E ^b	6
E	7
F	8
F#/G ^b	9
G	10
G#/A ^b	11
A	12
A#/B ^b	13
B	14
C	15
C#/D ^b	16

Same scale one octave higher

Finger 4 2 4 1 4 2

T					
A					
B	12	10	12	9	12
					10

A C D E G A^ˆ

Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave

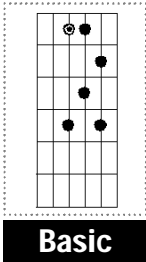


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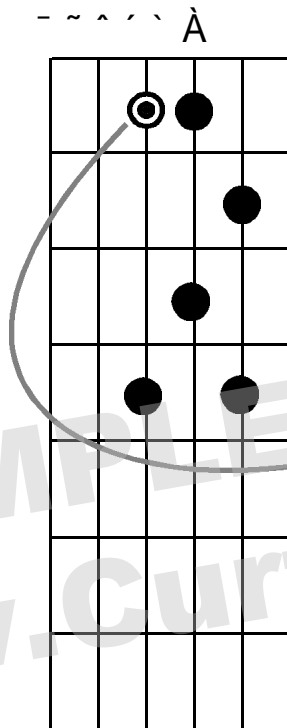
4

Finger 1, String ④ Basic

One octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 1, string ④



Basic



◎ **Root** **Fret**

D#/E ^b	1
E	2
F	3
F#/G ^b	4
G	5
G#/A ^b	6
A	7
A#/B ^b	8
B	9
C	10
C#/D ^b	11
D	12
D#/E ^b	13

Same scale one octave higher

Finger 1 4 1 3 2 4

T
A
B

7 10 7 9 8 10

A C D E G A`

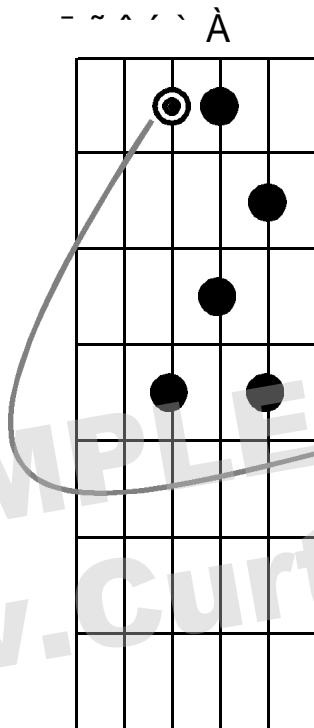
Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave



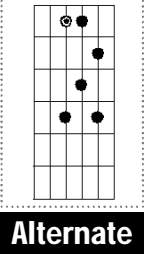
Finger 2, String ④ Alternate

2
④

One octave A Blues scale starting on finger 2, string ④



Root	Fret
D#/E ^b	1
E	2
F	3
F#/G ^b	4
G	5
G#/A ^b	6
A	7
A#/B ^b	8
B	9
C	10
C#/D ^b	11
D	12
D#/E ^b	13



SAMPLE CHAPTER
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* This fingering introduces a **mobile stretch** of the 4th finger.

Finger	2	4	1	3	2	4
T						
A	7	10	7	9	8	10
B						

A Root C b3 D 4 E 5 G b7 A^ˆ Octave

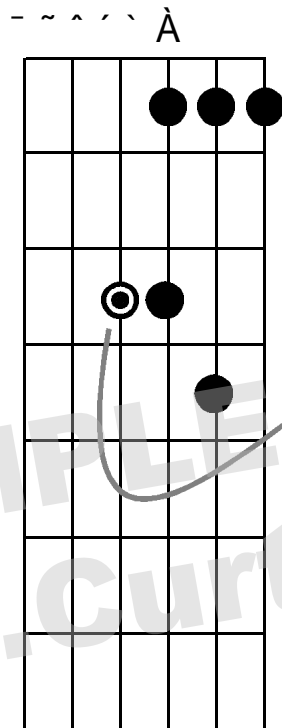
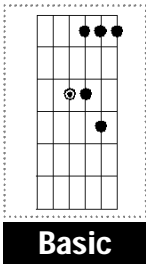


3

4

Finger 3, String ④ Basic

One octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 3, string ④



Root	Fret
F	3
F#/G ^b	4
G	5
G#/A ^b	6
A	7
A#/B ^b	8
B	9
C	10
C#/D ^b	11
D	12
D#/E ^b	13
E	14
F	15

Same scale one octave higher

Finger	3	1	3	1	4	1
T						
A	7	5	7	5	8	5
B						

A	C	D	E	G	A ^ˆ
Root	b3	4	5	b7	Octave

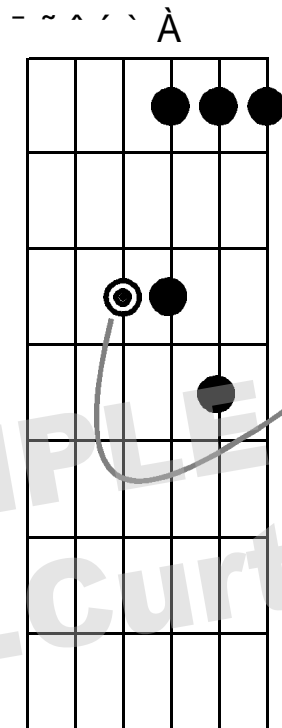




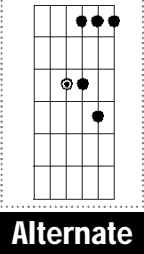
Finger 4, String ④ Alternate

One octave A Blues scale starting on finger 4, string ④

4
④



Root	Fret
F	3
F#/G ^b	4
G	5
G#/A ^b	6
A	7
A#/B ^b	8
B	9
C	10
C#/D ^b	11
D	12
D#/E ^b	13
E	14
F	15



SAMPLE CHAPTER
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* This fingering introduces a contraction of the 1st finger.

Finger	4	1	3	1	4	1
T						
A	7	5	7	5	8	5
B						

A	C	D	E	G	A
Root	b3	4	5	b7	Octave

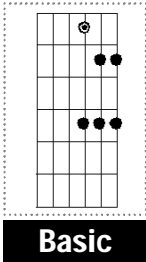


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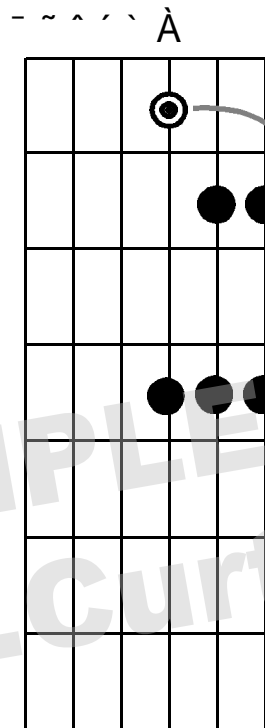
3

Finger 1, String ③ Basic

One octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 1, string ③



Basic



Root	Fret
G#/A ^b	1
A	2
A#/B ^b	3
B	4
C	5
C#/D ^b	6
D	7
D#/E ^b	8
E	9
F	10
F#/G ^b	11
G	12
G#/A ^b	13

Same scale one octave higher

Finger 1 4 2 4 2 4

T
A 2 5 3 5 3 5
B

A C D E G A^ˆ
Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave



Finger 2, String ③ Alternate

2
③

One octave A Blues scale starting on finger 2, string ③

Root	Fret
G#/A ^b	1
A	2
A#/B ^b	3
B	4
C	5
C#/D ^b	6
D	7
D#/E ^b	8
E	9
F	10
F#/G ^b	11
G	12
G#/A ^b	13

Same scale one octave higher

Alternate

* This fingering introduces a **mobile stretch** of the 4th finger.

Finger 2 4 2 4 2 4

T 2 5 3 5 3 5

A C D E G A

Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave

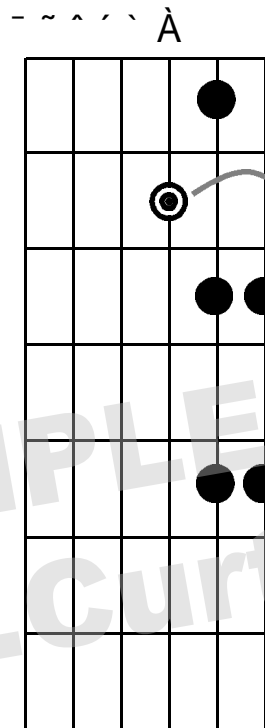
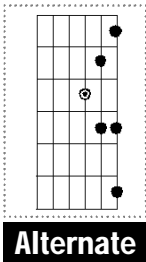


3

③

Finger 3, String ③ Alternate

One octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 3, string ③



Root	Fret
A	2
A#/B ^b	3
B	4
C	5
C#/D ^b	6
D	7
D#/E ^b	8
E	9
F	10
F#/G ^b	12
G	12
G#/A ^b	13
A	14

Same scale one octave higher

* This fingering introduces a **slide** of the 4th finger.

Finger 3 2 4 4 2 4

T A B

2 1 3 5 3 5

A C D E G A

Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave



Finger 4, String ③ Alternate

One octave A Blues scale starting on finger 4, string ③

4
③

Root	Fret
G#/A ^b	1
A	2
A#/B ^b	3
B	4
C	5
C#/D ^b	6
D	7
D#/E ^b	8
E	9
F	10
F#/G ^b	11
G	12
G#/A ^b	13

Same scale one octave higher

Alternate

* This fingering introduces a slide to the 4th finger.

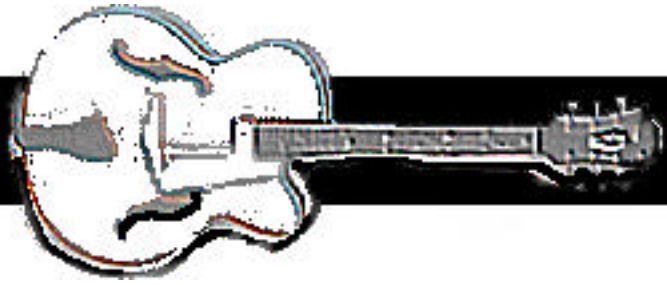
Finger 4 4 2 4 2 4

T 2 5 3 5 3 5

A C D E G A

Root b3 4 5 b7 Octave

Blues



One Octave Scale



CD
Tracks 2-5

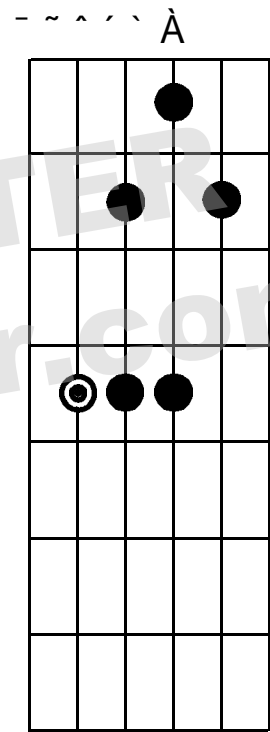
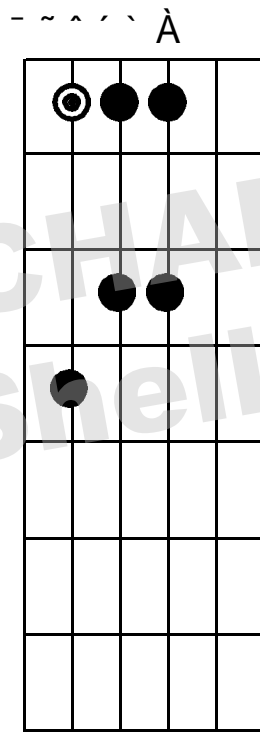
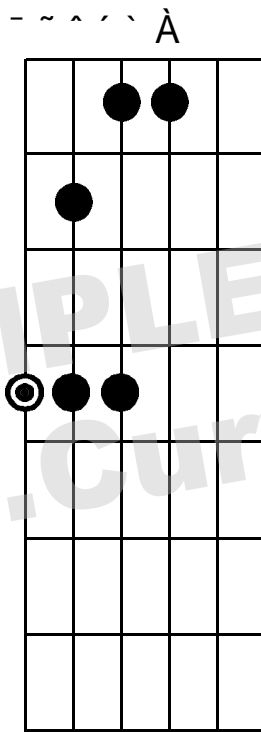
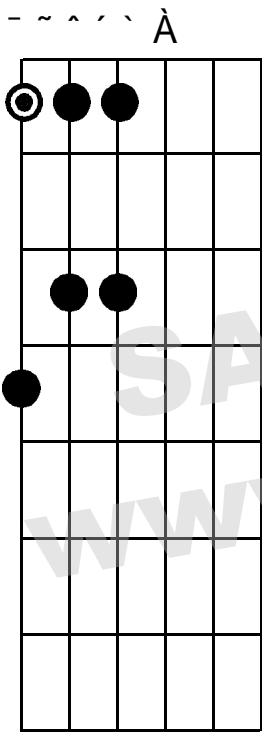
Blues Shapes

Finger: 1,2
String: ⑥

Finger: 3,4
String: ⑥

Finger: 1,2
String: ⑤

Finger: 3,4
String: ⑤





Blues

One Octave Scale

Blues Shapes

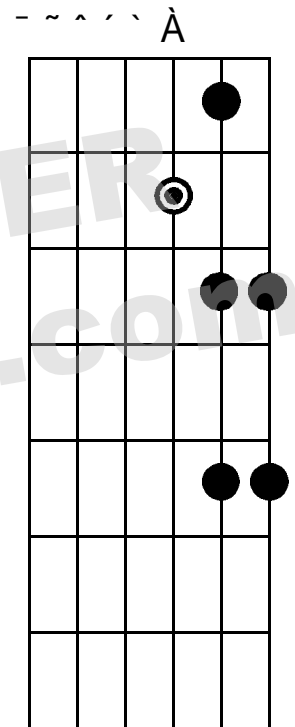
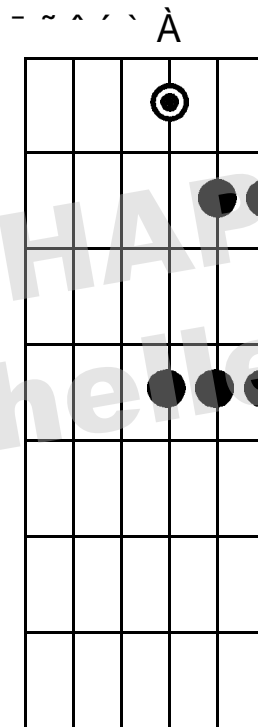
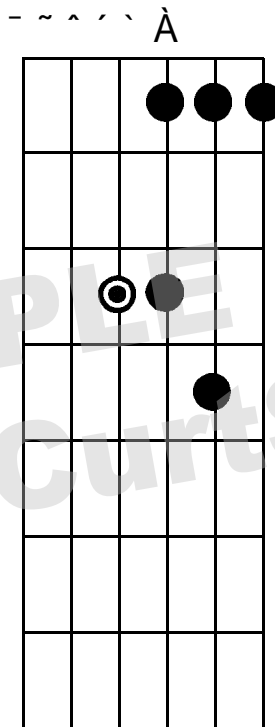
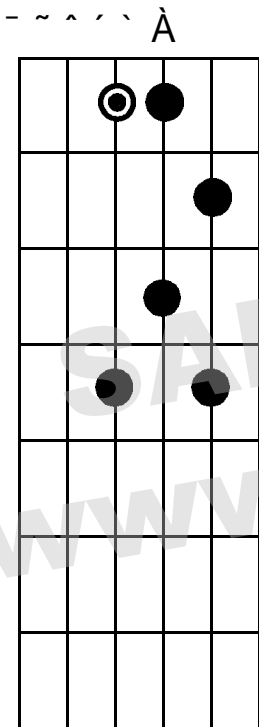


Finger: 1,2
String: ④

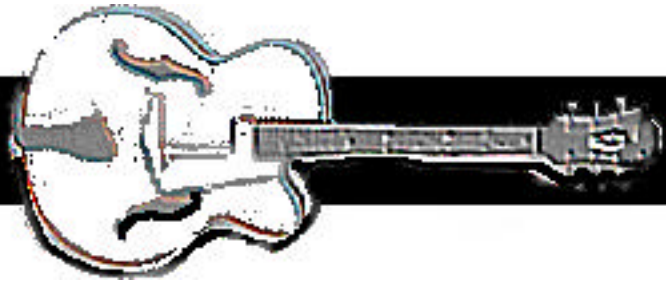
Finger: 3,4
String: ④

Finger: 1,2,4
String: ③

Finger: 3
String: ③



Blues



Two octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 1, string ⑥

2 Octave Scales

Two octave scale fingerings are created by connecting one octave scale fingerings. Here is an example of connecting the finger 1, string ⑥ basic fingering to finger 3, string ④ basic fingering.

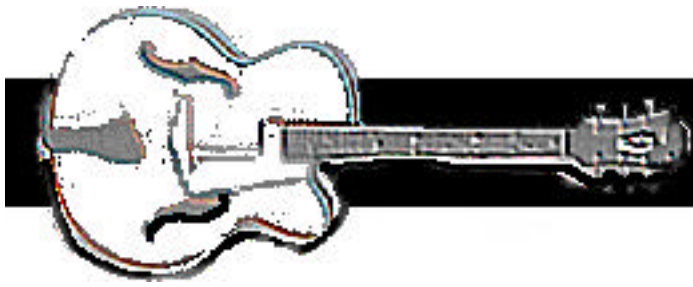
Finger String

Finger	1	4	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	4	1
T											
A											
B	5	8	5	7	5	7	5	7	5	8	5

A C D E G A C D E G A

NOTE: These 2 octave fingers are movable up and down the neck.

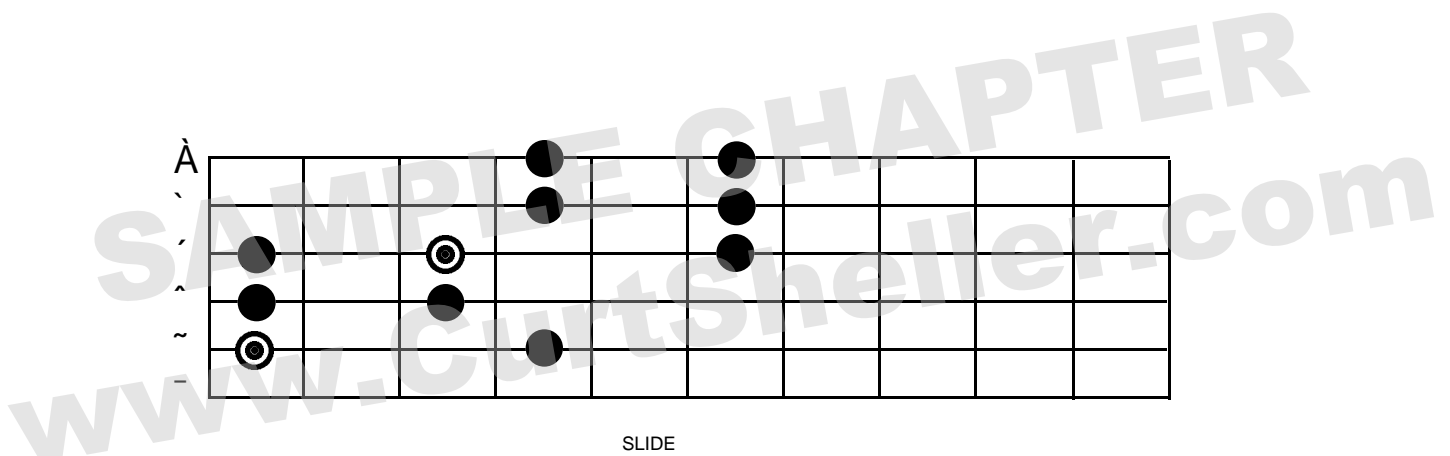




Two octave **A** Blues scale starting on finger 1, string ⑤

2 Octave Scales

Two octave scale fingerings are created by connecting one octave scale fingerings. Here is an example of connecting the finger 1, string ⑤ basic fingering to finger 1, string ③ alternate fingering using a slide on the 1st finger.



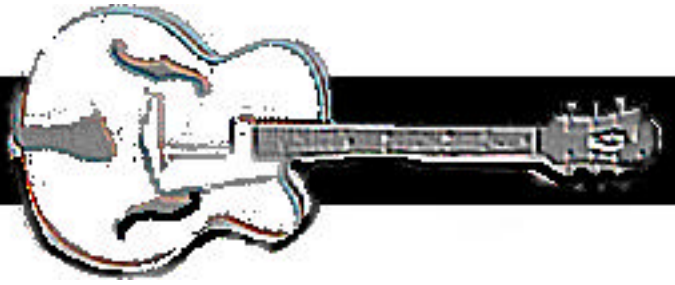
Finger	1	4	1	3	SLIDE		3	2	4	2	4
T					12	14	17	15	17	15	17
A	12	15	12	14							
B											

A C D E G A C D E G A

NOTE: These 2 octave fingers are movable up and down the neck.



Blues



SAMPLE CHAPTER
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Blues Scale Chord Chart

The Blues scale can be used over the following chords.

Scale Key	Chords												
C	C	Cm	C7	F	Fm	F7	G	Gm	G7	Ab	A ^b maj7	B ^b	E ^b
G	G	Gm	G7	C	Cm	C7	D	Dm	D7	E ^b	E ^b maj7	F	B ^b
D	D	Dm	D7	G	Gm	G7	A	Am	A7	B ^b	B ^b maj7	C	F
A	A	Am	A7	D	Dm	D7	E	Em	E7	F	Fmaj7	G	C
E	E	Em	E7	A	Am	A7	B	Bm	B7	C	Cmaj7	D	G
B	B	Bm	B7	E	Em	E7	F [#]	F [#] m	F [#] 7	G	Gmaj7	A	D
F[#]	F [#]	F [#] m	F [#] 7	B	Bm	B7	C [#]	C [#] m	C [#] 7	D	Dmaj7	E	A
C[#]	C [#]	C [#] m	C [#] 7	F [#]	F [#] m	F [#] 7	G [#]	G [#] m	G [#] 7	A	Amaj7	B	E
F	F	Fm	F7	B ^b	B ^b m	B ^b 7	C	Cm	C7	D ^b	D ^b maj7	E ^b	A ^b
B^b	B ^b	B ^b m	B ^b 7	E ^b	E ^b m	E ^b 7	F	Fm	F7	E ^b	E ^b maj7	A ^b	D ^b
E^b	E ^b	E ^b m	E ^b 7	Ab	A ^b m	A ^b 7	B ^b	B ^b m	B ^b 7	C ^b	C ^b maj7	D ^b	G ^b
A^b	A ^b	A ^b m	A ^b 7	D ^b	D ^b m	D ^b 7	E ^b	E ^b m	E ^b 7	F ^b	F ^b maj7	G ^b	B
D^b	D ^b	D ^b m	D ^b 7	G ^b	G ^b m	G ^b 7	A ^b	A ^b m	A ^b 7	A	Amaj7	B	E
G^b	G ^b	G ^b m	G ^b 7	C ^b	C ^b m	C ^b 7	D ^b	D ^b m	D ^b 7	D	Dmaj7	E	A
C^b	C ^b	C ^b m	C ^b 7	F ^b	F ^b m	F ^b 7	G ^b	G ^b m	G ^b 7	G	Gmaj7	A	D



Blues



Chord Progressions



CD
Track 6

Progression 1

A7 D7 A7

& C

1

D7 A7

5

E7 D7 A7 D7 A7 E7

9

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Chord Progressions



CD
Track 7

Progression 1

Am Dm Am

1 & C

Dm Am

5

Fmaj7 E7 Am Dm Am E7

9

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Blues



Chord Progressions



CD
Track 8

Progression 3

Am F

& C

1

Am Dm G

5



CD
Track 9

Progression 4

A C

& C

1

D E

5

