

# 50 Blues Jam Tracks Soloing Suggestions

by Griff Hamlin

## ***bluesjazzgrooveing.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic/blues, G major pentatonic/blues, G Mixolydian, G Dorian

This track is mostly based on a G7 chord with an additional 13th note. The Mixolydian and Dorian mode are very close, the only note that makes them different is the 3rd. Try to blend both together for a great bluesy feel. It's very similar to the approach of blending the major and minor blues scales.

## ***britbluesboominG.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Dorian

Although the minor third can't be heard in the chord, the feel of this track is very minor blues. You can try the Mixolydian mode to open up the track a bit, but I recommend staying with a G minor pentatonic and a G Dorian scale. To go further in the improve, you could try to play over the arpeggios of the different chord played: G min 7, C7 and D7.

## ***hi\_howlong\_cmin.mp3***

recommended scales: C natural minor scale, C minor pentatonic

Staying in C minor (C Aeolian) through the whole track will work. You can also use C minor pentatonic in here. At 1:26, the track stays on a repetitive C minor bass groove. You could experiment with the C Dorian scale on that part to add some interesting color to the lead. But make sure to get back on the C minor scale after that repetitive section.

### ***JAZZY BLUES Jamming Track 4.mp3***

recommended scales: A Major, A minor, D Dorian #11, E Mixolydian

This track uses many different scales as the backing changes keys a lot during the song.

The first 16 measures will modulate between A Major 7 and A minor 7. The chord will change every 2 measures. Use the A Major scale on the Major chord, and A minor on the minor chord...

The next part will modulate to an E/D which means an E chord over a D bass. This creates a D(#11) sound which is always the Lydian scale. Then it moves to D minor 7 which I would use D Dorian or D Aeolian over (depends on your taste.)

### ***JAZZY BLUES\_G Pentatonic and G Mixolydian.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Major pentatonic, G Mixolydian, G Dorian

This groove in G will work with a Major and minor pentatonic in G. It will also be very appropriate for a G Mixolydian mode. You can try the Dorian mode in there as well, the minor third of the Dorian mode will blend quite well with the major groove and give it a nice bluesy flavor.

### ***JAZZY BLUES\_Jamming Track 2.mp3***

recommended scales: E minor scale, E minor pentatonic/blues

This track is great to work on your minor phrasing. The E natural minor scale (Aeolian mode) and pentatonic/blues scales will work great.

### ***JAZZY BLUES\_Jamming Track 3.mp3***

recommended scales: E Dorian, E minor pentatonic, F# Dorian, F# minor pentatonic, C Mixolydian, D Mixolydian

This track contains several key changes.

The first 8 measures can be played in E Dorian and E minor pentatonic. The next 4 measures can be played with F# Dorian and F# minor pentatonic, or F# Mixolydian would sound good here. The next 2 measures will be in C Mixolydian(F major) followed by 2 measures of D Mixolydian (also G major). You can also play C major pentatonic over the C11 chord, and D major pentatonic over the D9 chord.

### ***JAZZY BLUES\_Jamming Track 5.mp3***

recommended scales: C# minor, C# minor pentatonic, A Dorian, A minor pentatonic, B Mixolydian, E minor, E Major

The first 8 measures will be in the key of C# minor so you can use C# minor pentatonic or C# natural minor (aeolian.) At the A minor chord, you can use A natural minor (aeolian) or minor pentatonic, and on the B7 try either a B mixolydian (e major) or B Phrygian Dominant (E harmonic minor). The last 4 bars you switch between E major over the E chords, and C major or C Lydian over the C chords. You can also use E major pentatonic over the E and C major pentatonic over the C.

### ***soulkeyofD.mp3***

recommended scales: D Mixolydian, D minor pentatonic, D Major pentatonic

This track will work with any of the suggested scales, but I recommend trying to blend those scales together. Blending the Major pentatonic with the minor pentatonic will give this a wonderful blues-fusion flavor.

### ***uptempo16barbluesrockkeyofa.mp3***

recommended scales: A minor pentatonic, A dorian

In this track, you can use the Dorian scale along with an A minor pentatonic. This is a great track to build your blues chops.

### ***12 Bar Blues Groove.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Dorian, G Mixolydian

This 12 bar blues in G could be played in minor (Dorian + minor pentatonic) or Major (Mixolydian). But for best effect, try to blend all these scales together.

### ***2 Beat Swing.mp3***

recommended scales: G Major, G Major pentatonic, G chromatic

To really nail this tune, you'd have to be on your toes! There are so many chords here, that you may want to just skip some of them in your soloing.

Over the intro I would use G major blues because it will blur the lines of the diminished 7<sup>th</sup> chords which can be hard to solo over. Starting at the repeat dots, use G major blues, possibly dipping into G mixolydian over the G7. Over the B7, E7, A7, and D7, you play "follow the chord" with the major blues/mixolydian scale of each chord!

### ***Slow Blues in A.mp3***

recommended scales: A minor pentatonic, A Major pentatonic, A Mixolydian, A Dorian

Although the primary key for this track is A Mixolydian, you can also play it with a Dorian scale. It will give it more character as the minor 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Dorian mode will clash with the Major 3<sup>rd</sup> of the chord giving it a raw bluesy feel. For best effect, try to blend all these scales together. Of course, you can also use A major and minor blues scales in the same fashion.

### ***SlowBlues in E 70.mp3***

recomended scales: E minor pentatonic, E Dorian E Major pentatonic, E Mixolydian

This slow blues in E is perfect to get into phrasing and experiment combining Major scales (Major pentatonic and Mixolydian) with minor scales (minor pentatonics with Dorian). Try to improvise as you would with your voice, it will make your licks breathe and give your lead a more organized feel.

### ***Soul\_Funk Jam in C Minor 120bpm.mp3***

recomended scales: C minor pentatonic, C Aeolian

This fast blues in C minor is constructed on the C minor scale, also known as the Aeolian mode. Try to blend a C minor pentatonic with a C minor scale. Adding some chromatic notes in your lead will also work well here. Another good tool would be the use of the arpeggios found in the key of C minor.

### ***Soulful Swinging Blues in E 100bpm.mp3***

recomended scales: E minor pentatonic, E Mixolydian, E Dorian

This is a typical blues in E Major. However, you can also use a minor pentatonic scale. The Mixolydian scale would also be a great pick here. While phrasing, try to be aware of the rhythm feel of the track and play with that swing feel.

### ***Soulful Swinging Blues in G.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Mixolydian, G Dorian

Same exact track as the previous one, but in the key of G.

### ***Steady Blues Jam in G\_Perfect for slide\_harp players.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Dorian

This minor blues will be perfect to experiment with the G minor pentatonic scale. Try the Dorian mode over the track to sound a bit more elaborate. While bending notes, make sure to work on the tuning of those bends.

### ***Steely Dan in E.mp3***

recommended scales: E minor pentatonic, E Aeolian

This blues in E minor will work with a minor pentatonic and a natural minor scale in E (Aeolian mode). You can experiment with the Dorian mode while the track stays in E, but make sure to go back to the minor scale on the other chords.

### ***zSwingingBluesinF.mp3***

recommended scales: F Major pentatonic/blues, F minor pentatonic/blues

Don't get confused by all the enriched chords found in this track. This backing is easier than it seems. Experiment with the Major and minor pentatonic of F and you should be safe. Try to blend both pentatonics together and follow what your ears.

### ***Funky Blues V.2.mp3***

recommended scales: D Dorian, D minor pentatonic

This funky riff is a great backing to develop some fusion licks. Stay with the Dorian and minor pentatonic scale and try to build some interesting musical ideas. The chromatic scale can also be useful here to add a bit of depth to the lead.

### ***Heavy Live Rock in E 90bpm.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Dorian, G Major pentatonic, G Mixolydian

This straight forward heavy blues will work with both minor scales and major scales. Stick to the minor pentatonic and the Dorian mode for a real bluesy feel, try the Mixolydian for a southern rock feel to it. Mixing all these scales together will create something very interesting too.

### ***Heavy Rock in G min 190bpm\_Greatfor Tapping.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Dorian, G Aeolian

This track is a great tool to get your chops up. Although the Aeolian mod will work on the chords, I recommend using the Dorian scale for a more melodic lead. Use the minor pentatonic as well to add some tasteful bluesy licks to your lead.

### ***LA Smooth Jazz.mp3***

recommended scales: C minor pentatonic, C Dorian, C Harmonic Minor

This track will work over a C Dorian scale and C minor pentatonic scale. It is an ideal track to work on phrasing and practice short musical phrases as you would when singing. Make sure to breathe while playing and let your ear be your guide. You can try sticking the C Harmonic Minor scale in over the G7#9 chords whenever it feels comfortable.

### ***mid funky blues in A.mp3***

recommended scales: A minor pentatonic, A Major pentatonic, A Dorian, A Mixolydian

Try exploring both the Major and minor pentatonic on this track and try to create some licks blending both of these scales together. Once you are comfortable with the pentatonic scales, try the Dorian and Mixolydian scales to add a jazzy touch to your lead.

### ***Rock Funk Frenzy (In Em).mp3***

recommended scales: E minor pentatonic, E Aeolian

This minor funky blues will work well with an E minor blues pentatonic mixed with an E minor scale (Aeolian). Try to use an E Dorian scale when the track stays on the E minor chord to open up your lead.

### ***Slow Blues G Min -based on King Albert.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Aeolian, G Dorian

Most of this track will work with a G minor pentatonic and a G natural minor scale (Aeolian), however, when the track moves to C Major (14<sup>th</sup> measure), use a G Dorian scale. Your ear will guide you here.

### ***Slow Headbanger.mp3***

recommended scales: E minor pentatonic, E Dorian

Mix the Dorian scale with the minor pentatonic here to have a more complex sound to the lead. This track is great to develop musical ideas and learn how to focus on the right notes.

### ***Uptempo Blues Shuffle.mp3***

recommended scales: D Mixolydian, D Major pentatonic, D minor pentatonic

The difficulty here is the speed of the backing track. Prepare your lead by first making sure that you are very familiar with the different scale suggestions here. Once you are comfortable with them, try to combine them all to sound more interesting.

### ***Walking Jazz.mp3***

recommended scales: C Mixolydian, C Major pentatonic, C minor pentatonic, C Dorian

Mix all the recommended scales together and explore the possibilities that are offered in these modes. Work slowly by starting with simple short musical ideas, and expand from there...

### ***BasicBluesRock\_in A.mp3***

recommended scales: A minor pentatonic, A minor pentatonic, A Mixolydian, A Dorian

To play over this classic blues in A, try blending the Major and minor pentatonic together. The friction between the minor and major third will give your lead a very tasteful feel.

### ***Blues Rock 60's in A 110bpm.mp3***

recommended scales: A Ionian, A Major pentatonic

Use an A Major Pentatonic here. Try creating singing your licks first, then try to reproduce what you sang on your guitar. That will help you come up with new ideas.

### ***Blues\_ComplexChord in G.mp3***

recommended scales: E Major, E Major pentatonic

Play this one in E Major and E Major pentatonic. You could try some E minor pentatonic in there every once and a while to add a bit of tension, but use the minor pentatonic as a passing tone only, don't stay too long on it without resolving to a Major scale.

### ***Chicago Blues\_Midfast Tempo in\_A\_ 120BPM.mp3***

recommended scales: A minor pentatonic, A Major pentatonic, A Mixolydian, A Dorian

The original key of this track is A Mixolydian, however just like in all blues tracks, you can use a minor pentatonic over a major chord. That's why A minor pentatonic and A Dorian are acceptable options here.

### ***Country Rock Mid-temp in G.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Major pentatonic, G Mixolydian, G Dorian

While playing over this track, try to create licks that will mix a Major 3<sup>rd</sup> with a minor 3<sup>rd</sup>. That's what will make your lead sound country.

### ***Even 8ths Blues.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Aeolian

Add the blues note ( diminished 5<sup>th</sup>) in the minor pentatonic and Aeolian mode to create an interesting effect. You can also try using some arpeggio ideas in there to make your lead sound jazzier.

### ***Funkedelic Jam 2.mp3***

recommended scales: G minor pentatonic, G Aeolian, G Dorian

The key of this track is G Aeolian, however you are free to try using an E Dorian scale over the part when the track stays on the same E min 7 chord. Make sure to switch to E Aeolian when the chords change though. Try adding some chromatic notes in your lead for a better richer improvisation.

### ***Funkedelic Jam 3.mp3***

recommended scales: E Dorian, E minor pentatonic

Try to get very familiar with the sound of the Doran scale on this track. Think in terms of short musical ideas and try to land on some notes included in the chord heard on the bass groove (E min 7).

### ***Funkedelic Jam.mp3***

recommended scales: E Dorian, E minor pentatonic.

Same as above...

### ***Slow Blues Corpse.mp3***

recommended scales: G Mixolydian, G Dorian, G Major pentatonic, G minor pentatonic.

This blues in G Major will also work with some minor flavored scales such as G minor pentatonic and G Dorian. That is what makes the blues so unique, the use of a minor scale over a Major chord. Experiment with the suggested scales and try to create your own licks.

### ***12 Bar Boogie in A 160bpm.mp3***

recommended scales: A Mixolydian, A Major pentatonic, A minor pentatonic, A Dorian

This track is great to experiment with shred-like pentatonic licks. Try using some Major and minor pentatonic ideas here.

### ***Backing Track - Shuffle Blues in A.mp3***

recommended scales: A Mixolydian, A Major pentatonic, A minor pentatonic, A Dorian

I recommend working on short licks here and focus on silence between your ideas. Silence is very important to bring coherence in a lead.

### ***Blues Hi Shuffle G.mp3***

recommended scales: G Mixolydian, G Major pentatonic, G minor pentatonic, G Dorian

Let your ear be your guide while trying to use the suggested scales. They will all give a very unique feel to your solo, try to know what you are going after before playing.

### ***Blues MidTempo Shuffle in E at 128bpm.mp3***

recommended scales: E Mixolydian, E Major pentatonic, E minor pentatonic, E Dorian

Same as above, but in the key of E.

### ***Blues Stomp in G.mp3***

recommended scales: G Mixolydian, G Major pentatonic, G minor pentatonic, G Dorian

Try blending the Major pentatonic with the minor pentatonic and memorize all the licks you find.

### ***Blues\_SweetDreams in G.mp3***

recommended scales: G Major pentatonic

Although the chords of this track modulate, you will be safe if you stay in G Major pentatonic. Try to create simple melodic ideas and hear how the notes of the scale work with the chords of the track.

### ***BluesRock in A 166 bpm for Pentat..mp3***

recommended scales: A Mixolydian, A Major pentatonic, A minor pentatonic, A Dorian

This fast paced blues rock groove requires a good knowledge of the 4 scales suggested. Once comfortable with the scales, blend them

together and create paths to move from one to the other on demand.

### ***Bluesrock in A.mp3***

recomended scales: A minor pentatonic, A Dorian, D minor pentatonic

This track contains two distinct keys, the intro is in D and will work best with a D minor pentatonic. The rest of the track is a straight forward blues in A.

### ***BluesShuffleinA.mp3***

recomended scales: A Mixolydian, A Major pentatonic, A minor pentatonic, A Dorian

The key here is to use a shuffle rhythm while improvising. Take time to develop ideas blending the different scale suggestions.

### ***Boogie in E.mp3***

recomended scales: E minor pentatonic

Start slowly and buoid up your speed gradually making sure that the rhythm you choose is perfectly timed before you try your licks on this track. E minor pentatonic will work through the whole backing track

### ***Country Shuffle.mp3***

recomended scales: C Major pentatonic

Several scales could work on this track, but they all need to resolve around C Major pentatonic. You can experiment with C Ionian, C Mixolydian and C minor pentatonic, but be aware that these scales will something clash on the chords. Let your ears guide you and just remember that you will always be safe playing C Major pentatonic here.