

***Discover: Using the 12-Bar Blues Improvisation in Your Studio***

1. Play the scales found on page 14.
  - Discover how the C minor blues scale is different from the C major and minor scales.
  - Learn the fingering patterns for the blues scale.
2. Explore the blues scale.
  - Choose 1-3 notes of the scale. Explore the many ways to vary the melodic and rhythmic pattern of these notes.
  - Improvise on these notes for 4 measures and repeat with new patterns as many times as you wish.
  - Add more notes of the scale to your previous improvisation, or choose 1-3 new notes. Improvise with these notes, creating new patterns or repeating patterns you like.
3. Using the **primary chords**, play the 12-bar blues chord progression found on page 15.
  - Circle the IV chords. Put a star next to the V chord.
  - Play the progression with the left hand.
  - Discover which notes from the blues scale will sound best with each chord, knowing that dissonances are often part of this style of music.
  - In group classes, ask one student to play the chord progression and another to improvise a melody.
4. Go to [Play! with Piano Inspires Kids](#) at our YouTube channel to play your improvisation with Binh Anh as he plays the 12-bar blues chord progression. Improvise with the video many times to experiment with your melodic and rhythmic patterns.
5. Now play both parts! Use the chord progression found on page 15 and go to [kids.pianoinspires.com/explore/activities](https://kids.pianoinspires.com/explore/activities) to download more accompaniment patterns for the blues.

For more information on teaching the 12-bar blues, read the article [“You Can’t Lose with the Blues”](#) by Geoffrey Haydon, and to learn about improvising with beginners, enroll in the course [“Teaching Improvisation and Composition”](#) from the *Beginner’s Course* on pianoinspires.com.