



Jam Songbook

Introduction

The SHBC Jam is very popular and frequently attracts some very talented and experienced musicians. More often than not, the music produced in a very ad-hoc manner, is sensational. But this can be intimidating for less experienced players. The club genuinely does want musicians of all levels to feel comfortable to get up and enjoy the experience of performing with others and to a crowd.

The purpose of this songbook is to provide a reference of blues songs that are either standards or reasonably well known. The idea is to use this songbook at home to learn, or at least familiarise yourself with, the songs. You might use it in a jam as an aide for structure &/or lyrics.

The key and tempo in the following charts are based on the original recordings. You may need to transpose to a more suitable key for the singer. If musical notation is used in a chart, it's just a guide. The notes will probably be correct. The measure may not.

How to be part of the Jam at SHBC

SHBC jam rules are published on the Gigs page of the website. Be familiar with them, but the most important thing is to get there early and speak to the Jam Coordinator. They will be lining up the jam sessions ready for a 3pm start and they'll probably be playing in the first jam. If you arrive towards the end of the jam, or even halfway through, the Jam Coordinator will always try and fit you in, but the jam finishes by 5:30pm so you may miss out.

There are a few useful tips and techniques for having a great jamming experience. You'll find these at the end of this songbook.

Have fun!

P.S. If you find any errors or omissions in any charts, please let us know by email at info@sleepyhollowbluesclub.org.au

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Jam Songbook

Baby What You Want Me to Do

Jimmy Reed

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Original key: E. Tempo: 94]

[TOP](#)

[Intro]

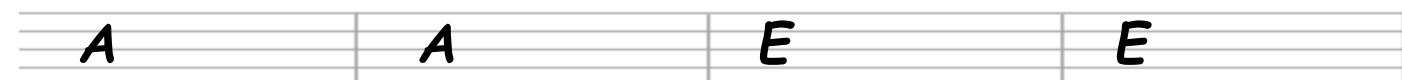


You've got me

[Verse 1]



runnin' You've got me hidin' You've got me run, hide, hide, run anyway you wanna let it



roll. Yeah yeah yeah. You've got me



doin' what you want me Baby why you wanna let go

[Verse 2]

I'm goin' up, I'm goin' down

I'm goin' up, down, down, up anyway ya wanna let it roll.

Yeah, yeah, yeah

You've got me doin' what you want me

A-baby why'd you wanna let go

[SOLO]



[Verse 3]

You've got me peepin', You've got me hidin'

You've got me peep, hide, hide, peep ,anyway you wanna let it roll

Yeah, yeah, yeah

You've got me doin' what you want me

So baby, why ya wanna let go

Blues With a Feeling

Little Walter

[[youtube](#)]

[Key: A. Tempo: 75]

[TOP](#)

Quick Change 12-bar blues

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| A | D | A | A |
| Blues with a feelin' | That's what I have today | | Blues |

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| D | D | A | A |
| with a feelin' | That's what I have today | | I'm gonna |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------|------------|
| E | D | A | A E |
| find my baby. | If it takes all night and day | | |

[SOLO]

[Verse 2]

What a lonesome feelin'. When you're by yourself
What a lonesome feelin'. When you're by yourself
When the one that you're lovin'. Have gone away livin'



[Verse 3]

| | | | |
|--|--|--|----------|
| A {  | A {  | A {  | A |
| Girl you know I love you baby. | I wanted the reason why. | You only left me baby, Then you left me here to cry. | Blues |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| D | D | A | A |
| with a feelin', | That's what I have today | | I'm gonna |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| E | D } | | |
| find my baby. | If it takes all night and day | | |



Jam Songbook

Boom Boom

John Lee Hooker

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: E. Tempo: 170]

[TOP](#)

[Verse 1]

Boom, boom, boom, boom
I'm gonna shoot you right down
Right off your feet
Take you home with me
Put you in my house
Boom, boom, boom, boom
Mmmm hmmm
Mm hm hm hm

[Verse 2]

I love to see you walk
Up and down the floor
When you talking to me
That baby talk
I like it like that
You talk like that
You knock me dead
Right off my feet
A haw haw haw haw
Whoa!

[SOLO]

[Verse 3]

Once you walk that walk
And talk that talk
And whisper in my ear
Tell me that you love me
I love that talk
That baby talk
You knock me dead
Right off my feet
A haw haw haw haw
Yeah, yeah!



Jam Songbook

Bright Lights Big City

Jimmy Reed

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: A. Tempo: 92]

[TOP](#)

Standard 12-bar

Bright light, big city, gone to my baby's head
Whoa, bright light, a big city, gone to my baby's head
I tried to tell the woman, but she don't believe a word I said
It's all right, pretty baby, (gonna) need my help someday
Whoa, it's all right, pretty baby, gonna need my help someday
You're gonna wish you had to listened to some of those things I said
Go ahead, pretty baby, honey, knock yourself out
Oh go ahead, pretty baby, honey, knock yourself out
I still love you baby, 'cause you don't know what it's all about
Bright light, a big city, they went to my baby's head
Oh, the bright light, the big city, they went to my baby's head



Jam Songbook

Dust My Broom

Elmore James

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: **D**. Tempo: **100**]

[TOP](#)

I'm gettin' up soon in the mornin'
I believe I'll dust my broom
I'm gettin' up soon in the mornin'
I believe I'll dust my broom
Out with the best gal I'm lovin'
Now my friends can get in my room

I'm gonna write a letter, telephone every town I know
I'm gonna write a letter, telephone every town I know
If I don't find her in Mississippi
She be in East Monroe I know

And I don't want no woman
Want every downtown man she meets
No I don't want no woman
Want every downtown man she meets
Man, she's a no good honey
They shouldn't allow her on the street, yeah

I believe, I believe my time ain't long
I believe, I believe my time ain't long
I ain't gonna leave my baby
And break up my happy home



Jam Songbook

Got My Mojo Working

Muddy Waters

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: E. Tempo: 113]

[TOP](#)

Got my mojo working, but it just won't work on you
Got my mojo working, but it just won't work on you
I want to love you so bad, I don't know what to do

Going down to Louisiana to get me a mojo hand
Going down to Louisiana to get me a mojo hand
I'm gonna have all you women under my command

Got my mojo working
Got my mojo working
Got my mojo working
Got my mojo working
Got my mojo working, but it just won't work on you

I got a gypsy woman givin' me advice
I got a gypsy woman givin' me advice
I got a whole lottsa tricks keepin' her around



Jam Songbook

Help Me

Sonny Boy Williamson

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: **Fm.** Tempo: **115**]

[TOP](#)

You got to help me
I can't do it all by myself
You got to help me, baby
I can't do it all by myself
You know if you don't help me darling
I'll have to find myself somebody else

I may have to wash
May have to sew
I may have to cook
I might mop the floor but you help me babe

You know if you don't help me darling
I'll find myself somebody else

When I walk, you walk with me
When I talk, you talk to me
Oh baby, I can't do it all by myself
You know if you don't help me darling I'll have to
Find myself somebody else
Help me, help me darlin'

Bring my nightshirt
Put on your morning gown
Oh, bring me my nightshirt
Put on your morning gown
Darlin' I know we stripped bare
But I don't feel like lying down
Oh yeah



Jam Songbook

Hoochie Coochie Man

Muddy Waters

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: A. Tempo: 72]

[TOP](#)

Gypsy woman told my mother
Before I was born
You got a boy child's comin'
He's gonna be a son of a gun
He gonna make pretty womens
Jump and shout
Then the world wanna know
What this all about

But you know I'm him
Everybody knows I'm him
Well you know I'm the hoochie coochie man
Everybody knows I'm him

I got a black cat bone
I got a mojo too
I got the Johnny Concheroo
I'm gonna mess with you
I'm gonna make you girls
Lead me by my hand
Then the world will know
That I'm the hoochie coochie man

You know I'm him
Everybody knows I'm him
Oh you know I'm the hoochie coochie man
Everybody knows I'm him

On the seventh hour
On the seventh day
On the seventh month
The seven doctors say
"He was born for good luck
And that you'll see
I got seven hundred dollars
Don't you mess with me"

But you know I'm him
Everybody knows I'm him
Well you know I'm the hoochie coochie man
The whole wide world knows him



Jam Songbook

Hound Dog

Big Mama Thornton

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: E. Tempo: 74]

[TOP](#)

Originally recorded in Eb

Standard 12-bar

[Chorus]

You ain't nothing but a hound dog
Been snoopin' 'round my door
Ain't nothing but a hound dog
Been snoopin' 'round my door
You can wag your tail
But I ain't gonna feed you no more

[Verse 1]

Told you were high class
I could see through that
Told me you were high class
But I could see through that
Daddy I know
You ain't no real cool cat

CHORUS

SOLO

[Verse 2]

Made me feel so blue
Made me weep and moan
Made me feel so blue
Honey, you made me weep and moan
You ain't looking for a woman
All you're lookin' is for a home

CHORUS



Jam Songbook

I'd Rather Go Blind

Etta James

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: A. Tempo: 54]

[TOP](#)

Something told me it was over
When I saw you and her talkin'
Something deep down in my soul said, 'Cry, girl'
When I saw you and that girl walkin' around

Whoo, I would rather, I would rather go blind, boy
Then to see you walk away from me, child, no

Whoo, so you see, I love you so much
That I don't wanna watch you leave me, baby
Most of all, I just don't, I just don't wanna be free, no

Whoo, whoo, I was just, I was just, I was just
Sittin here thinkin', of your kiss and your warm embrace, yeah
When the reflection in the glass that I held to my lips now, baby
Revealed the tears that was on my face, yeah

Whoo and baby, baby, I'd rather, I'd rather be blind, boy
Then to see you walk away, see you walk away from me, yeah
Whoo, baby, baby, baby, I'd rather be blind...



Jam Songbook

Key to the Highway

Derek and The Dominos

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: A. Tempo: 84]

[TOP](#)

I got the key to the highway
Billed out and bound to go
Gonna leave here running
Walking is much too slow

I'm going back to the border
Baby, where I'm better known
Because you haven't done nothing, baby
But drove a good man from home

When the moon peeks over the mountains
Lil girl, I'll be on my way
I'm gonna roam this highway
Until the break of day

So give me one more kiss, darling
Just before I go
'Cause when I leave this time, little girl
I won't be back no more, no more

I got the key (I got the key) to the highway (to the highway)
Billed out and bound to go (I gotta go, I gotta go)
I'm gonna leave here running (mhm)
Walking is much too slow



Jam Songbook

Little Red Rooster

Howlin' Wolf

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: E. Tempo: y]

[TOP](#)

The Rolling Stones

[\[youtube\]](#)

I am the little red rooster

Too lazy to crow for day

I am the little red rooster

Too lazy to crow for day

Keep everything in the farm yard upset in every way

The dogs begin to bark and hounds begin to howl

Dogs begin to bark and hounds begin to howl

Watch out strange cat people

Little red rooster's on the prowl

If you see my little red rooster

Please drive him home

If you see my little red rooster

Please drive him home

I had no peace in the farm yard

Since my little red rooster's been gone



Jam Songbook

Mess of Blues

Elvis Presley

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: C. Tempo: 117]

[TOP](#)

Status Quo

[\[youtube\]](#)

Jeff Healey

[\[youtube\]](#)

I just got your letter baby
Too bad you can't come home
I swear I'm goin' crazy
Sittin' here all alone
Since you're gone I got a mess of blues

I ain't slept a wink since sunday
I can't eat a thing all day
Every day is just blue monday
Since you've been away
Since you're gone I got a mess of blues

Whoops there goes a teardrop
Rollin' down my face
If you cry when you're in love
Sure ain't no disgrace

I gotta get myself together
Before I lose my mind
I'm gonna catch the next train goin'
And leave my blues behind
Since you're gone I got a mess of blues

Whoops there goes a teardrop
Rollin' down my face
If you cry when you're in love
Sure ain't no disgrace

I gotta get myself together
Before I lose my mind
I'm gonna catch the next train goin'
And leave my blues behind
Since you're gone I got a mess of blues
Since you're gone I got a mess of blues
Since you're gone I got a mess of blues



Jam Songbook

My Babe

Little Walter

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: F. Tempo: 160]

[TOP](#)

My baby don't stand no cheatin', my babe
Oh, yeah, she don't stand no cheatin', my babe
Oh, yeah she don't stand no cheatin'
She don't stand none of that midnight creepin'
My babe, true little baby, my babe

My babe, I know she love me, my babe
Oh, yes, I know she love me, my babe
Oh, yes, I know she love me
She don't do nothin' but kiss and hug me
My babe, true little baby, my babe

My baby don't stand no cheatin', my babe
Oh, no, she don't stand no cheatin', my babe
Oh, no, she don't stand no cheatin'
Everything she do she do so pleasin'
My babe, true little baby, my babe

My baby don't stand no foolin', my babe
Oh, yeah, she don't stand no foolin', my babe
Oh, yeah, she don't stand no foolin'
When she's hot there ain't no coolin'
My babe, true little baby, my babe (She's my baby)

She's my baby (True little baby)
She's my baby (True little baby)
She's my baby (True little baby)
She's my baby (True little baby)
She's my baby



Jam Songbook

Pride and Joy

Stevie Ray Vaughan

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: E. Tempo: 120]

[TOP](#)

Originally recorded in Eb

Well you've heard about love givin' sight to the blind
My baby's lovin' cause the sun to shine
She's my sweet little thang, she's my pride and joy
She's my sweet little baby, I'm her little lover boy

Yeah I love my baby, heart and soul
Love like ours won't never grow old
She's my sweet little thang, she's my pride and joy
She's my sweet little baby, I'm her little lover boy

Yeah I love my lady, she's long and lean
You mess with her, you'll see a man get mean
She's my sweet little thang, she's my pride and joy
She's my sweet little baby, I'm her little lover boy

Well I love my baby, like the finest wine
Stick with her until the end of time
She's my sweet little thang, she's my pride and joy
She's my sweet little baby, I'm her little lover boy

Yeah I love my baby, my heart and soul
Love like ours won't never grow old
She's my sweet little thang, she's my pride and joy
She's my sweet little baby, I'm her little lover boy



Jam Songbook

Red House

Jimi Hendrix

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: **Bb**. Tempo: **65**]

[TOP](#)

There's a red house over yonder
That's where my baby stays
Lord, there's a red house over yonder
Lord, that's where my baby stays
I ain't been home to see my baby
In 99 and one half days

Wait a minute, something's wrong here
The key won't unlock this door
Wait a minute, something's wrong
Lord, have mercy, this key won't unlock this door
Something's goin' wrong here
I have a bad, bad feeling
That my baby don't live here no more
That's alright, I still got my guitar
Look out now
Well, I might as well go back over yonder
Way back up on the hill
(I got something to do)
Lord, I might as well go back over yonder
Way back yonder cross the hill
'Cause if my baby don't love me no more
I know her sister will



Jam Songbook

Rock Me Baby

B.B. King

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: A. Tempo: 84]

[TOP](#)

Rock me, baby
Rock me all night long
Rock me, baby
Honey, rock me all night long

I want you to rock me, baby
Like my back ain't got no bone
Roll me, baby
Like you roll a wagon wheel

Roll me, baby
Like you roll a wagon wheel
I want you to roll me, baby
You don't know how that makes me feel

Honey
Honey, rock me slow
Rock me, baby
I want you to rock me slow

I want you to rock me, darling
'Til I want no more



Jam Songbook

She's Tuff

The Fabulous Thunderbirds

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: E. Tempo: 111]

[TOP](#)

[Verse 1]

E7

You oughta see my baby when she walk down the street
Upsettin' everybody she meet
She's twenty-three in the waist, thirty-eight in the hips
She got long black wavy hair and ruby-red lips

[Chorus]

A7

Oh she's tuff

E7

Oooo, she's tuff

B7

A7

My baby's tuff, she ruff and tuff

E7

A7 Bb7 B7

And that's tuff enuff

[Verse 2]

E7

She walk past a clock
The clock won't tell time
She walk through the college
Professor lose his mind

CHORUS

[Verse 3]

E7

The president said to my baby: "come here, sweetheart"
You can stop a world war even before it start
We know the enemy won't pull the trigger
When they walk out on the front line and they see your fine figure

CHORUS



Jam Songbook

Smokestack Lightning

Howlin' Wolf

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: E. Tempo: 145]

[TOP](#)

Whoa, smokestack lightnin'
Shinin' just like gold
Why don't you hear me cryin'?
A-whoo-hoo, a-whoo-hoo, whoo

Whoa-oh, tell me, baby
What's the matter here?
Why don't you hear me cryin'?
Whoo-hoo, whoo-hoo, whoo

Whoa-oh, tell me, baby
Where did you stay last night?
Why don't you hear me cryin'?
Whoo-hoo, whoo-hoo, whoo

Whoa-oh, stop your train
Let a poor boy ride
Why don't you hear me cryin'?
Whoo-hoo, whoo-hoo, whoo

Whoa-oh, fare-you-well
Never see a you no more
Why don't you hear me cryin'?
Whoo-hoo, whoo-hoo, whoo

Whoa-oh, who been here baby since
I, I been gone a little bitty boy?
Girl, be on
A-whoo-hoo, whoo-hoo, whoo



Jam Songbook

Stormy Monday

T-Bone Walker

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: **G**. Tempo: **66**]

[TOP](#)

Allman Brothers Band

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Verse 1]

G7 **C9** **G7 Ab7** **G7**
They call it stormy Monday, but Tuesday's just as bad
C9 **G7** **Am7 Bm7 Bb7**
They call it stormy Monday, but Tuesday's just as bad
Am7 **Abm7 Am7 Cm7** **G7 C9 G7 D7**
Lord and Wednesday's worse, Thursday's oh so sad

[Verse 2]

The eagle flies on Friday, Saturday I go out to play
The eagle flies on Friday, Saturday I go out to play
Sunday I go to church, I get down to pray

[Verse 3]

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy on me
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy on me
You know I tryin', tryin' to find my baby
Please send her on home to me



Jam Songbook

Sunshine of Your Love

Cream

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: **D**. Tempo: **116**]

[TOP](#)

[Verse 1]

It's getting near dawn
When lights close their tired eyes
I'll soon be with you my love
Give you my dawn surprise
I'll be with you darling soon
I'll be with you when the stars start falling

I've been waiting so long
To be where I'm going
In the sunshine of your love

[Verse 2]

I'm with you my love
The light's shining through on you
Yes, I'm with you my love
It's the morning and just we two
I'll stay with you darling now
I'll stay with you 'til my seas are dried up

CHORUS

VERSE 2

I've been waiting so long
I've been waiting so long
I've been waiting so long
To be where I'm going
In the sunshine of your love



Jam Songbook

Sweet Home Chicago

Robert Johnson
The Blues Brothers

[\[youtube\]](#)
[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: F. Tempo: 102]

[TOP](#)

Come on
Oh baby don't you wanna go
Come on
Oh baby don't you wanna go
Back to that same old place
Sweet home Chicago

Come on
Baby don't you wanna go
Hidehey
Baby dont you wanna go
Back to that same old place
Oh sweet home Chicago

Well, one and one is two
Six and two is eight
Come on baby don't ya make me late
Hidehey
Baby dont you wanna go
Back to that same old place
Sweet home Chicago

Come on
Baby don't you wanna go
Back to that same old place
Sweet home Chicago

Six and three is nine
Nine and nine is eighteen
Look there brother baby and see what Ive seen
Hidehey
Baby don't you wanna go
Back to that same old place
Sweet home Chicago

Oh come on
Baby don't you wanna go
Come on
Baby don't you wanna go
Back to that same old place
Sweet home Chicago



Jam Songbook

Thrill is Gone

B.B. King

[\[youtube\]](#)

[Key: **Bm**. Tempo: **88**]

[TOP](#)

The thrill is gone
The thrill is gone away
The thrill is gone, baby
The thrill is gone away
You know you done me wrong, baby
And you'll be sorry someday

The thrill is gone
It's gone away from me
The thrill is gone, baby
The thrill is gone away from me
Although, I'll still live on
But so lonely I'll be

The thrill is gone
It's gone away for good
All the thrill is gone
Baby, it's gone away for good
Someday I know I'll be open-armed baby
Just like I know, I know I should

You know, I'm free, free now, baby
I'm free from your spell
Oh, free, free, free now, baby
I'm free from your spell
And now that it's all over
All that I can do is wish you well

Appendix – Jam Tips

LISTEN: The **MOST IMPORTANT** part of playing with other musicians is listening.



You need to listen to the person leading the song for chord changes and stops, etc. The chord structure might be different to what you heard in the quick rundown before the start. You should be listening to each other player and find your part in the mix – one note, played at the right time, is often more impactful than a flashy solo.

If you're playing guitar, do something different to the other guitar player(s)... Play chords in a different position (open vs barre). Strum vs picking.

Listen for space and leave it there, or try and create it.

LOOK: There's a lot to look at. Your instrument, the audience, the other players. Most importantly, the leader for this song. They will be directing the flow of the song and providing cues. The singer (if different from the leader) might also provide cues. Here are some cues to look for:



- Moving towards the mic – I'm about to sing.
- Moving away from the mic – time for a solo. Look for the next cue.
- Pointing or nodding to another player – it's their (your) turn to solo.
- **STOPS.** There are a lot of ways to signal a stop.
 - If the singer is leading the song, they usually have a spare hand and you'll get a clear signal. Typically, a fist held up then pulled down.
 - If a guitarist is leading the song, you might see the guitar neck held up then pulled down.
 - Some song leaders like to be subtle, and they will just turn their head and look at you (or even just roughly in your direction). It's an ambiguous signal but it means that pretty soon they want you to do something different to what you're doing now. Assume a stop is coming. But get ready to repeat a turnaround.
- Hand palm down – break it down – play quietly.
- Hand palm up – bring it up – play louder.
- Making a circle with finger – play the turnaround.
- Patting or pointing to their head – go back to the start (the top). If the song had a particular intro, this signal usually means play that again as the outro. Otherwise, it means play the first verse again.
- Hand slicing across neck – stop playing – use this if the song started wrong and needs to be restarted. It happens.



The other cue you will sometimes get is when the song leader wants to stay on the root chord – the “one”. You might hear them say “stay on the one” or they might put one



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finger in the air. If this happens, the next cue is likely to be when they want you to move off the “one”. Most likely to the “four” or the “five”, or play the turnaround.

If you are leading a song, work out who wants a solo first. When it’s their turn to solo, give them time to get ready – let them know it’s coming up when the turnaround starts. A look or a nod in their direction is enough.

VOLUME: A category all on its own. Great songs have dynamics – the light and shade that creates expression and emotion. Don’t play everything at 10. Give the song some room to breathe.

If you can’t hear a vocal or another instrument, or your own, the first thing to try is to move. Even just half a metre can make a huge difference to what you’re hearing on stage. Everything is usually miked up so you can always ask the sound engineer to put more (or less) of something in your monitor.

LEADING A SONG: If you picked the song, you’re the leader. You will need to explain your song to everyone else in the jam. Chord progression, tempo, feel, that bit in the middle. Who wants (or doesn’t want) a solo. The turnaround at the end (if there is one). Keep your song choice simple or bring charts if you want to tackle something more complex. Also, SHBC is a blues club, so your song(s) *should* be in the blues genre.

Gather the jammers and explain the song:

1. **Song Name:** This might be enough information for some players.
2. **Key:** In a loud environment, especially with hearing-impaired musos, make it clear. For example, “D for Dog”, or use the NATO alphabet.
 - Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf
3. **Chord progression:** Break it into parts – intro, verse, chorus, solo, end.
4. **Tempo:** The easiest way to communicate this is to clap at the tempo and feel you want.
5. **Count it in:** Or let the drummer count it in. Or just start playing.

TIP: It can be really helpful to play or sing part of the song so other musicians get a feel for the rhythm and tempo.

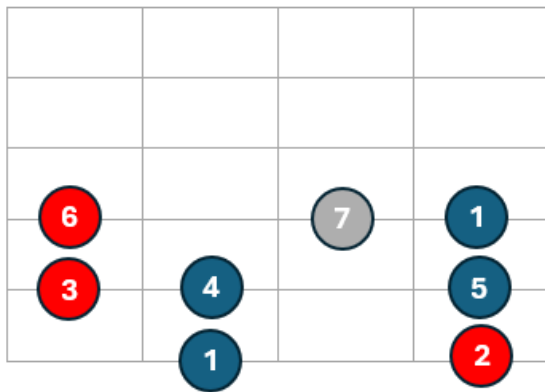


Jam Songbook

Appendix – 12 Bar Blues Progressions

When it comes to playing the blues, there are three standard chord progressions to look out (or listen) for. There doesn't seem to be a standard naming of these progressions, but if a song just cycles through one of these progressions from start to finish, it's easier to refer to a progression name than to chart it.

We use I, IV, V notation which is just the first, fourth and fifth notes in a scale. The I, IV, V are always major chords and the ii, iii, vi are always minor chords. So if you're playing in the key of A and the song leader says the turnaround is 6, 2, 5, 1, you know that's F#m, Bm, E, A.



Standard 12 Bar Blues

| | | | |
|----|----|---|---|
| I | I | I | I |
| IV | IV | I | I |
| V | IV | I | V |

Quick Change 12 Bar Blues

The Quick Change is all about that change to the IV chord in bar 2.

| | | | |
|----|----|---|---|
| I | IV | I | I |
| IV | IV | I | I |
| V | IV | I | V |

Slow Change (or No Turnaround) 12 Bar Blues

| | | | |
|----|----|---|---|
| I | IV | I | I |
| IV | IV | I | I |
| V | V | I | I |

Appendix – Circle of Fifths

The Circle of Fifths is a great practice tool. If you sit down to practice and you're not sure what to do or where to start, try going around the circle (in either direction). Or pick any quadrant and find chord progressions that sound good.

The outer circle shows key signatures. For any note on the outer (**major**) circle, the IV chord is on the left and the V chord is on the right. In the inner (**minor**) circle, the VI chord is below the I, with the ii on the left and the iii on the right.

A blues turnaround in A would typically go from E to D (ie V to IV). But you can go anticlockwise (playing 7ths instead of minors) with C#7 > F#7 > B7 > A (ie. iii > vi > ii > I).

The ring between the inner and outer circles shows the number of sharps or flats in the key signature. C major and A minor have no sharps or flats. G major has one sharp, etc.

