



The Blues

A basic course in improvisation

The Blues Scale

1 b3 4 #4 5 b7 8

The 'winking' game

12 Bar 'Jazz' Blues

F7 | **Bb7** | **F7** | **Cm7 F7**

Bb7 | **Bdim** | **F7** | **Am7 D7**

Gm7 | **C7** | **F7 D7** | **Gm7 C7**

12 Bar 'Jazz' Blues

G7 | **C7** | | **G7** | | **Dm7 G7**

C7 | **C#dim** | | **G7** | | **Bm7 E7**

Am7 | **D7** | | **G7 E7** | **Am7 D7**

G Bb C C# D F G

12 Bar 'Jazz' Blues

D7 | G7 | D7 | Am7 D7

G7 | G#dim | D7 | F#m7 B7

Em7 | A7 | D7 | Em7 A7

12 Bar 'Jazz' Blues

I7 I V7 I I7 I iim7 V7

IV7 I #IVdim I I7 I iim7 V7

iim7 I V7 I I7 VI7 I iim7 V7

How do I play the 'right' notes

- Play the roots of each chord
- Play root and 5th
- Root, 3rd, 5th, 7th
- Apply a known 'lick' to the ii V progressions
- Apply a known 'lick' to the 7th chords

**“Master the music, master your
instrument and then forget all
that and just play.”**

- Charlie Parker

Why?

- It keeps you to the harmonic 'bed-rock' of the music.
- If you keep to the 'rules' you will always sound 'secure'.
- The harmonic progression is doing the work for you!
- Similar to the rules in language.

Next Step

- Separate into groups of four.
- Start off by playing the root notes on the form
- Then as the others keep playing the form, one of you should try soloing around the 'blues scale'
- Try using the 'winking' game to bring others in
- Have a musical conversation with each other..
- EXPRESS yourself!

Clarinet / Tenor **G Bb C C# D F G**

Alto **D F G G# A C D**



The 'Lick'

Chicken Form

Blues Scale works until bar 9!

C Blues (Clarinet / Tenor)

C Eb F F# G Bb C

G Bb C C# D F G



Basic ii V lick
