

# THE BLUES SCALE

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## Use of the Blues scale:

The Blues scale is one of the simplest ways for young players to feel like they can actually look at a chord progression and “know what to do”. The blues scales is primarily used to play over the 3 or 4 chords of a traditional blues progression. In the case of using only the blues scale to improvise in a given key, ONLY the scale beginning on the tonic of the given key is used (i.e. B-flat blues scale for a B-flat blues progression).

Listening Resources: these are a few favorite albums of mine, not all necessarily using the blues scale, but great musicians you should know!

- J.J. Johnson - JJ Inc., The Eminent Jay Jay, Vol. 2, Stan Getz and JJ Johnson Live at the Opera House
- Miles Davis - Kind of Blue, Relaxin’
- Urbie Green - The Persuasive Trombone of Urbie Green
- Oscar Peterson - Face to Face
- Jack Teagarden - Father of Jazz Trombone
- Duke Ellington - Far East Suite,
- Frank Rosolino - Free for All