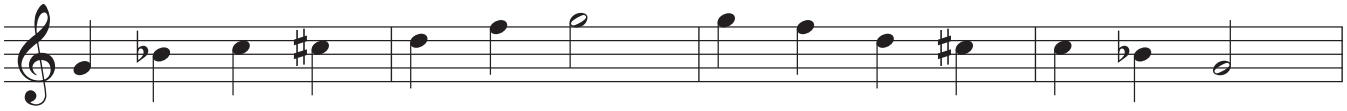
Blues Scales

In level 1 we practiced improvising using major scales. Now we get to learn a new scale - the blues scale. It's altered from a major scale to have a very "jazzy" sound. Above the first scale, you'll see the altered scale degrees. We still start on the root, but we skip the second note of a major scale and go to the third note of the scale, which has been lowered a half step (♭3). We play the fourth note of the scale (4) and then raise it by a half step (♯4 or ♭5). We skip scale degree six, and play a seventh degree that has been lowered by a half step (♭7), and then of course return to the root.

You can use this formula to build a blues scale in any key. Below are written examples of the most commonly used blues scales, meaning that you'll most often see blues tunes in these keys.

C Blues Scale

G Blues Scale



B♭ Blues Scale

E♭ Blues Scale

F Blues Scale