

**12 Bar Blues LESSON NOTES** by D Jenkins **SPA STRUMMERS** 24/10/13  
**FOR IMPROVERS – TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH LESSON**

NOTES IN THE KEY OF C

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

C D E F G A B C

I IV V

C PROGRESSION = C F G

NOTES IN THE KEY OF A

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

C D E F G A B C D E F G A

I IV V

A PROGRESSION = A D E

NOTES IN THE KEY OF G

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

C D E F G A B C D E F G A

I IV V

G PROGRESSION = G C D

THERE ARE VARIATIONS ON 12 BAR BLUES, BUT THE BASIC FORMAT IS

4/4 TIME 4 BEATS TO THE BAR

4 BARS I 2 BARS IV 2 BARS I 1 BAR V 1 BAR IV 2 BARS I

IN A WOULD BE A x 4 D x 2 A x 2 E x 1 D x 1 A x 2

IN C WOULD BE C x 4 F x 2 C x 2 G x 1 F x 1 C x 2

IN G WOULD BE G x 4 C x 2 G x 2 D x 1 C x 1 G x 2

BASIC LYRICS STRUCTURE IS

1<sup>ST</sup> LINE = MAKE A STATEMENT (OF WOE)

2<sup>ND</sup> LINE = RE-AFFIRM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LINE

3<sup>RD</sup> LINE = ANY OLD FILLER

4<sup>TH</sup> LINE = RESOLUTION OR CONSEQUENCE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LINE

USING SOME 7ths IN BLUES IS GOOD, MIX IT UP

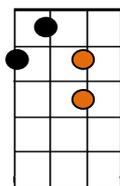
ALL PLAY AND COUNT BEATS

IN A A x 4 Alt D7 x 2 A x 2 E7 x 1 Alt D7 x 1 A x 2

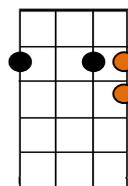
IN C WOULD BE C x 4 F x 2 C x 2 G x 1 F x 1 C x 2

IN G WOULD BE G x 4 C x 2 G x 2 D x 1 C x 1 G x 2

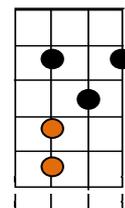
IN A – INTRODUCE VARIATIONS



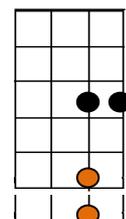
A



Alt D7



G



(Alt) C

EXPLAIN TURNAROUND