

Twelve Bar Blues With Walking Bass

See the suggestions at the bottom of page 2.

Blue's Scale - 1, flat 3, 4, flat 5, 5, flat 7

by James M. Stevens

Standard, Easy Format

A Little More Complex

21 Eb13 Bb9

25 F13 Eb13 Bb9 F#sus7 F7

Secondary Dominants Blue's Progression

29 Bb9 Eb13 Bb9

33 Eb13 Bb9 G7(#9)

37 C9 F#sus7 F7 Bb9 G7 C9 F13 F7(#9)

This exercise is to allow the pianist to practice playing a walking bass in a 12 bar blues pattern. The three sections are progressively more difficult. It is important to keep the walking bass line steady.

1. After the bass line is mastered, try playing different rhythms and inversions with the chords in the right hand.
2. Next, play the bass line and try to make up your own melodies using the notes of the blue's scale in the right hand. All of this may take a while to develop independent coordination with the two hands so don't be discouraged. Good luck!