

THE ULTIMATE BEGINNER SERIES®

# BLUES GUITAR BASICS

Revised Edition

## CONTENTS

<b>Section 1: The Basics</b> .....	2
Reading Rhythm Notation .....	2
Reading Tablature (TAB) and Fretboard Diagrams.....	3
Reading Music Notation.....	4
<b>Section 2: Rhythm Guitar</b> .....	5
Triplets and the Eighth-Note Shuffle.....	5
The 12-Bar Blues Progression.....	7
Blues in the Key of A.....	7
Other Rhythm Patterns.....	8
<b>Section 3: Blues Soloing</b> .....	12
The Minor Pentatonic and Blues Scales.....	12
Blues Phrasing.....	15
Call and Response Phrasing .....	17
Soloing Over the 12-Bar Progression .....	22
Time to Play with the Band.....	24
<b>Section 4: The Slow Blues</b> .....	26
The Quick Change.....	26
<b>Section 5: New Blues Scale Positions</b> .....	32
Sweet Notes.....	34
The B.B. King Secret Scale Pattern.....	35
Vibrato.....	36
Dynamics .....	36
Matching Solos to Chords.....	39
<b>Guitar TAB Glossary</b> .....	47

An enhanced CD is included with the book to make learning easier and more enjoyable. The audio tracks are accessible with any CD player. Put the disc in your Mac or Windows computer to access the Tone-N-Tempo Changer software that lets you adjust the speed and pitch of the audio tracks. Track 1 on the CD is an introduction, and track 2 will help you get your guitar in tune.

### Introduction



Track 1

### Tuning Notes



Track 2

Keith Wyatt



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## CALL AND RESPONSE PHRASING

Before the proliferation of guitar TAB books and instructional videos, blues musicians taught each other simply by listening and copying what they heard. It still remains the best way to learn music, because it helps you discover how to listen and interpret what you hear.

**EXAMPLE 27**

Track 27

In this example I'll play a two-bar phrase—that is the **call**. Your **response** will be to try to copy what you hear on the spot. Don't get frustrated if you can't pick up each lick perfectly at first. This takes a lot of practice. The most important thing is to get as close to the "vibe" and the general feeling of a particular phrase. Try this with the recording a few times before checking out the transcription below.

The Call -----, Your Response -----,

T  
A  
B

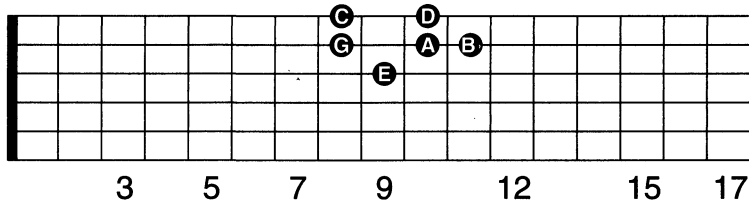
\* **Vibrato.** A wavering or fluctuation of pitch, usually rapid, used for an expressive, vocal effect. Covered in detail on page 36.

T  
A  
B

T  
A  
B

## THE B.B. KING SECRET SCALE PATTERN

Now let's check out an area of the neck that blues great B.B. King has spent so much time with, known affectionately by guitar players as "the B.B. box." This is an ideal pattern for soloing because the sweet notes are arranged comfortably under your fingers, while the blues scale notes are never far from reach. Shown here in the key of G, this box pattern is two frets higher than the high blues scale extension.



### EXAMPLE 44

Track 46

In this example, the sweet notes are circled and identified by interval. Pay attention to the fact that these notes are sometimes played as bends, which emphasizes them musically.



### EXAMPLE 45

Track 47

The mark of an experienced bluesman is the ability to mix the moods of the blues scale and the sweet notes to a balancing point. Experiment by starting with one and answering with the other. Here is an example beginning with the blues scale at the high extension and answering with the "sweet spot" position, two frets higher.