



Blues Guitar Workshop



Workshop Objectives

- Context
 - No such thing as a 'rule' in blues!! Everything from here on in is subject to personal preference, interpretation and creative application.
 - Calling out your thoughts is both welcome and encouraged!
- Tips and tricks on:
 - Guitar settings
 - Amp settings
 - Effects settings
 - Left & Right Hand Techniques
 - Riffs & Ideas

Agenda



Introductions

- Gear Set Up
- Tone Settings
- Chord Voicings & Variations
- Rhythm Tips
- The Art of String Bending
- Using Flat 3rd to Flat 7th
- Slide Basics

Agenda



1. Gear Set Up
2. Tone Settings
3. Creative Chord Voicings & Variations
4. Rhythm Tips
5. The Art of String Bending
6. Using Flat 3rd to Flat 7th
7. Slide Basics



Gear Set Up

- Guitar
 - String Gauge:
 - 10's for 'normal' playing
 - 11 or 12's for slide
 - Action:
 - Personal preference is key
 - Low but not too low
 - String Install:
 - Always stretch before you play!!!



Gear Set Up

- Guitar
 - Pick Up Settings:
 - Roll tone back to between 5 and 7
 - Humbuckers:
 - Neck generally provides a thicker tone
 - Bridge great for punch or bright to screaming lead
 - Considering re-wiring to enable blend of bridge and neck
 - Single Coil (5 position)
 - 5 Neck: thick Rhythms & Leads
 - 4 Neck & Middle: “fat strat”
 - 3 Middle: lead or variation on fat strat
 - 2 Middle & Bridge: “tele” or ‘twang”
 - 1 Bridge: Screamin or punchy lead



Gear Set Up

- Amplifier
 - How Many Watts?
 - “The perfect date” is a rule that generally works for me (18 to 35)
 - Tube overdrive is sweet perfection
 - Assaulting ears is a major negative
 - Once you play the loud card you have no more “headroom” to work with
 - Settings
 - Preference for warmth: lower treble and/or presence
 - Just enough Mids to thicken the sound
 - Too much bottom end will create the impression of a major anger management issue when overdriven
 - “Allman Tone”: Treble 4-6 Bass 6-8 Mid 4-5 Presence 4ish
 - SRV: Treble 6-8 Bass 6-8 Mid 5 Presence 5
 - Volume:
 - 2 to 4 clean
 - 5 to 8 overdrive
 - Get the amp pointed near your ears



Agenda

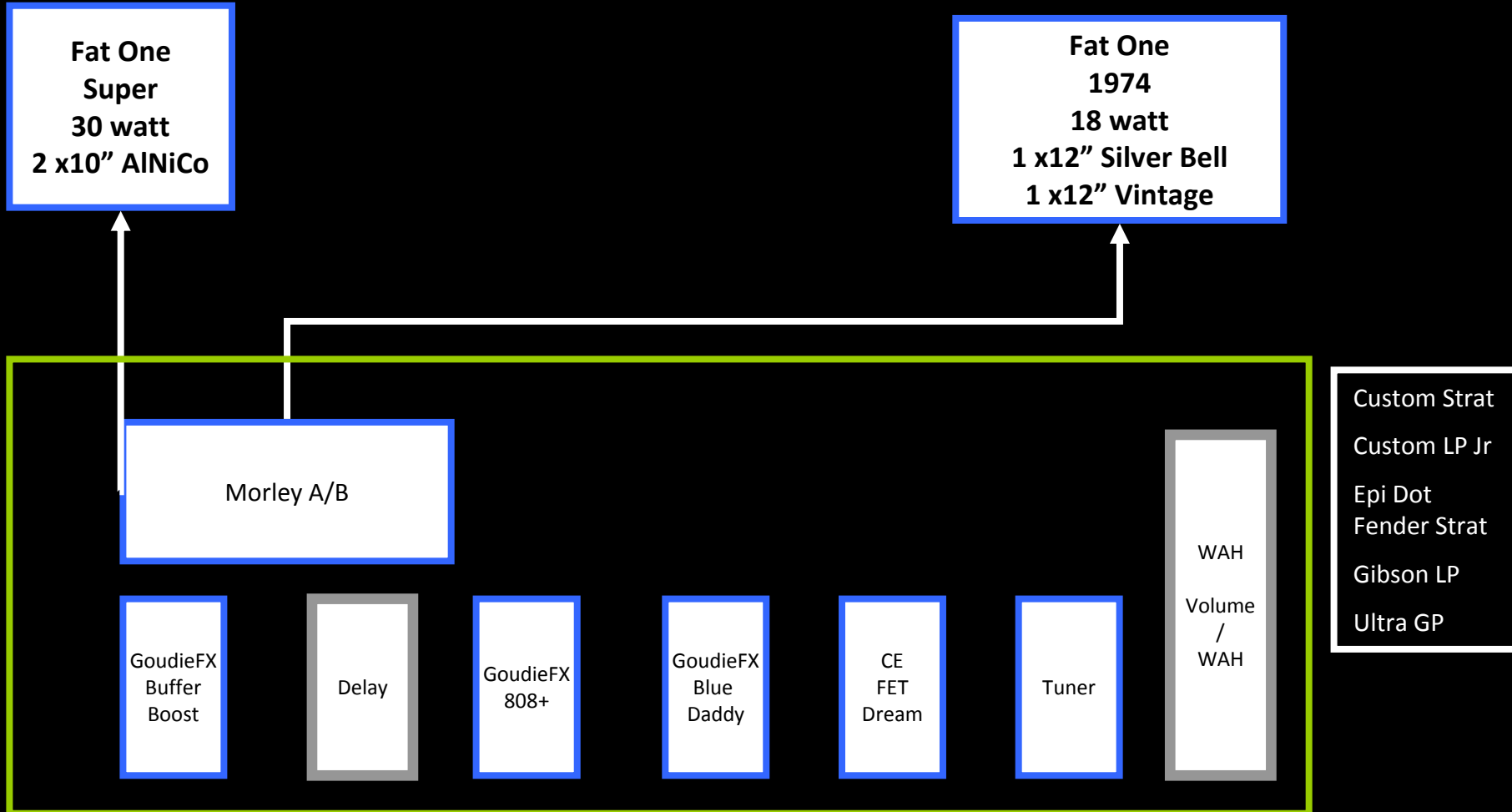
1. Gear Set Up
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General Tips

- Let your amp warm up for a few minutes before and after playing ... your tubes will thank you
- Keep your neck and strings clean ...wipe with a cotton cloth
- Change your strings regularly (Webstrings)
- If you must wank ...at least set it up nicely 😊

Da Rig



Warm Rhythm & Lead

Super Volume = 2

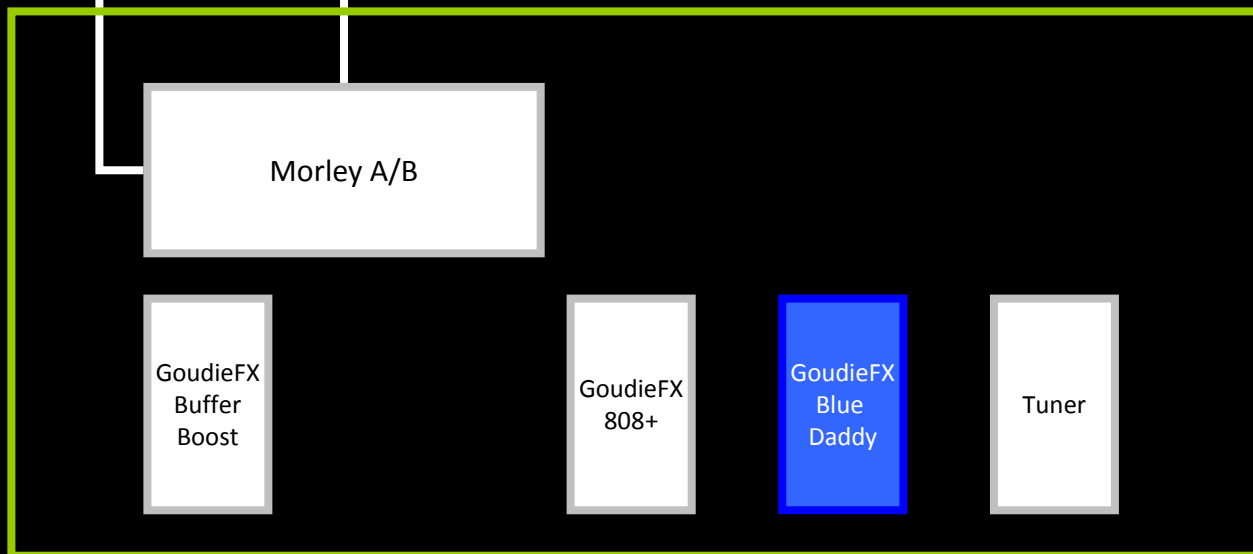
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Guitar

- Rhythm 5 to 7
- Lead 8 to 10

**Fat One
Super
30 watt
2 x10" AlNiCo**

**Fat One
Bluesbreaker
18 watt
1 x12" Silver Bell
1 x12" Vintage**



Blue Daddy

Gain 10 - 11am

Tone 10 - 11am

Level 1 to 3pm

Rhythm & Lead with a Taste of Grit



Super Volume = 2

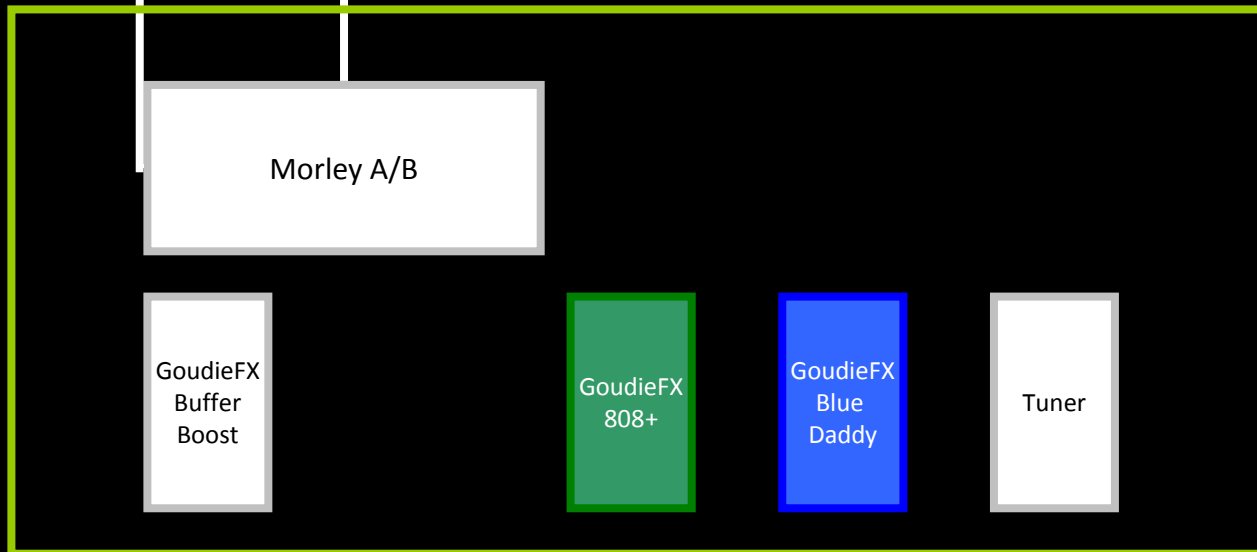
Bluesbreaker = 2

Guitar

- Rhythm 5 to 7
- Lead 8 to 10

Fat One
Super
30 watt
2 x10" AlNiCo

Fat One
Bluesbreaker
18 watt
1 x12" Silver Bell
1 x12" Vintage



Blue Daddy

Gain 10 - 11am
Tone 10 - 11am
Level 1 to 3pm

808+

Gain 10 - 11am
Tone 10 - 11am
Level 1 to 3pm



Anger Management

Super Volume = 2

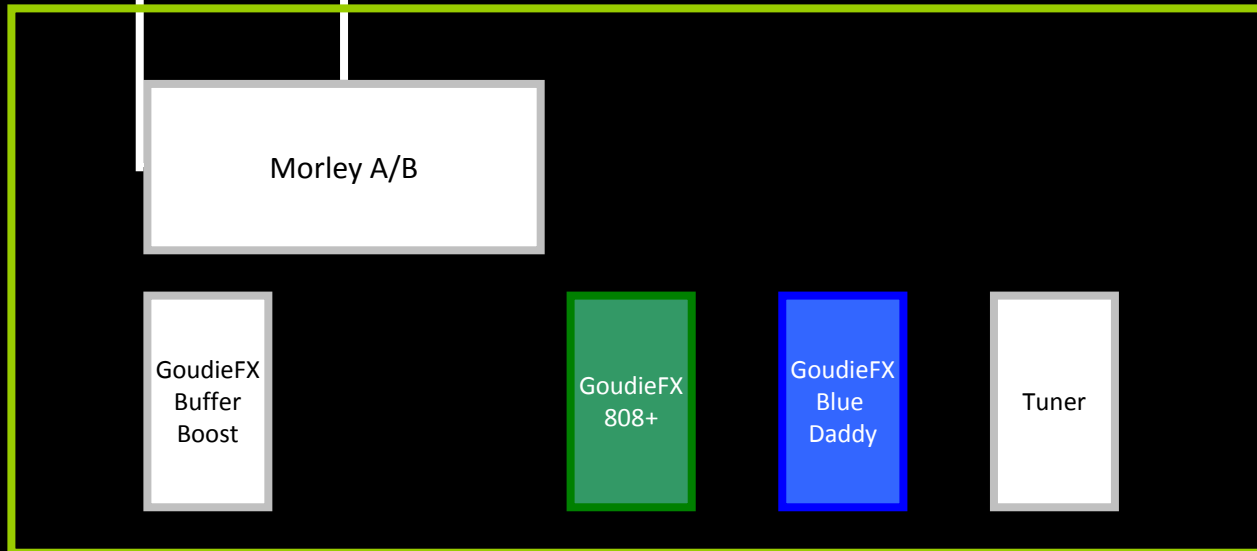
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Guitar

- Rhythm 5 to 7
- Lead 8 to 10

Fat One
Super
30 watt
2 x10" AlNiCo

Fat One
Bluesbreaker
18 watt
1 x12" Silver Bell
1 x12" Ceramic



Blue Daddy

Gain 10 - 11am

Tone 10 - 11am

Level 1 to 3pm

808+

Gain 3pm

Tone 10 - 11am

Level 1 to 3pm



Triple Threat !!!

Super Volume = 2

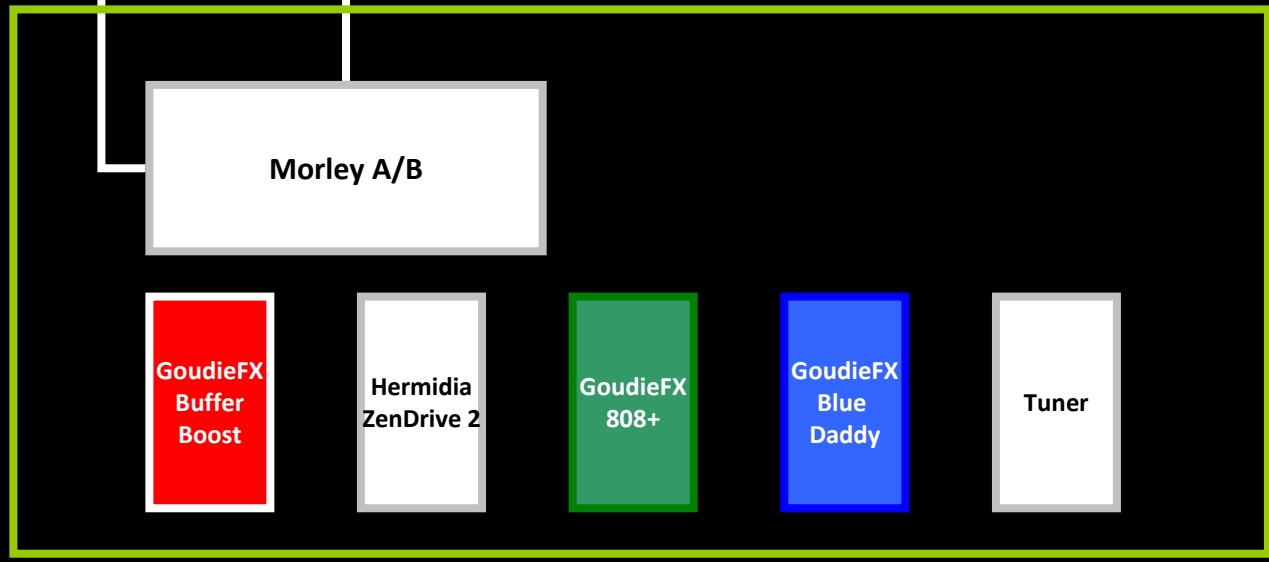
Bluesbreaker = 2

Guitar

- Rhythm 5 to 7
- Lead 8 to 10

Fat One Super
30 watt
2 x10" AlNiCo

Fat One Bluesbreaker
18 watt
1 x12" Silver Bell
1 x12" Ceramic



Blue Daddy
Gain 10 - 11am
Tone 10 - 11am
Level 1 to 3pm

808+
Gain 10 - 2 am
Tone 10 - 11am
Level 12 to 4pm

Boost
12 pm



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7. Slide Basics



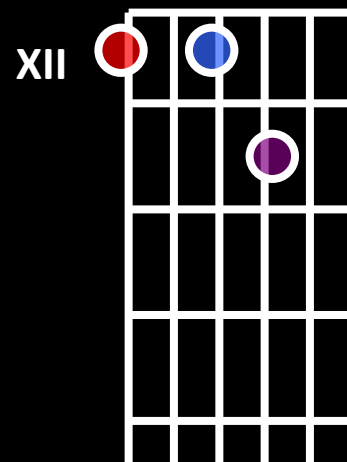
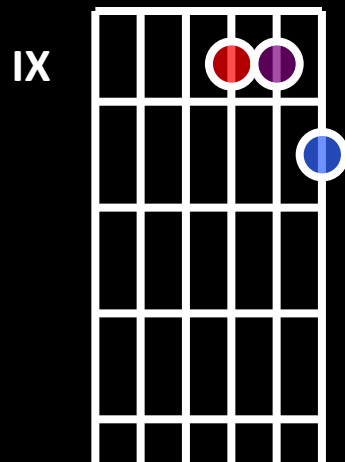
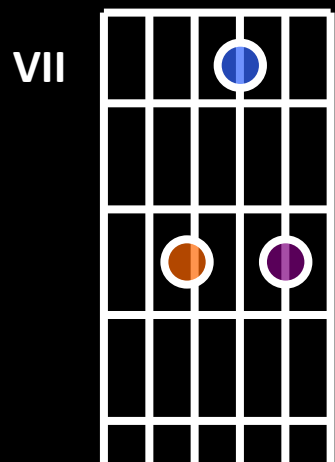
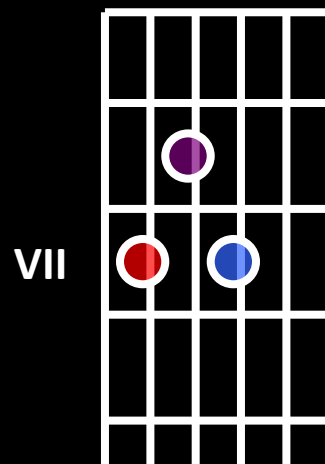
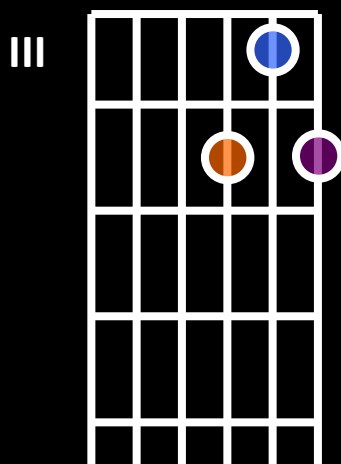
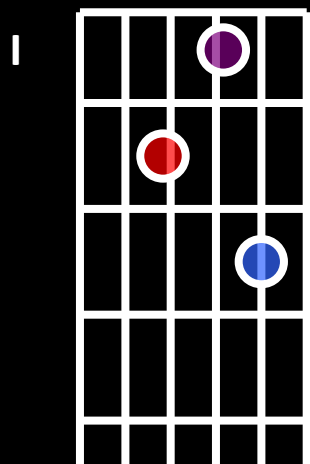
Chord Voicings

- Common Blues Chords
- Jimi's Third in the Root
- Variations on Minor
- 9ths

Note: Example to be written in tab

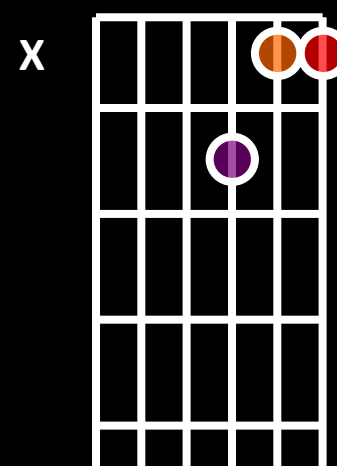
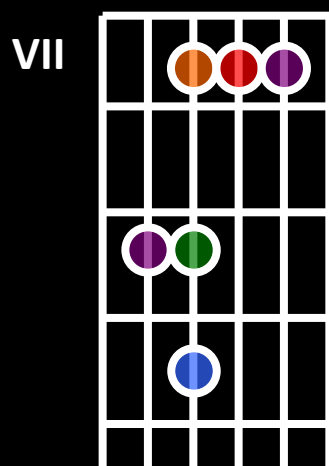
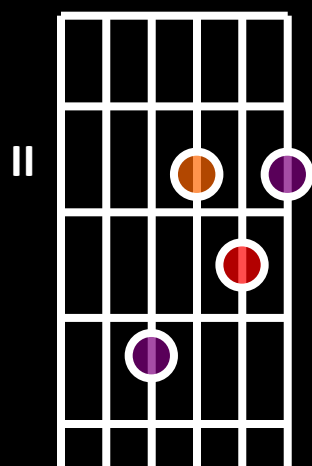
Common Blues Chords

E7



- flat 7
- fifth
- third
- root

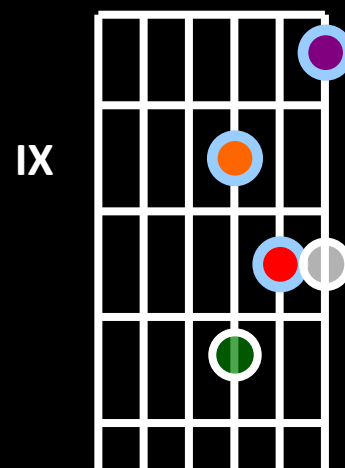
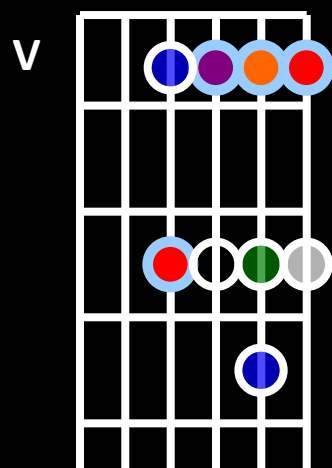
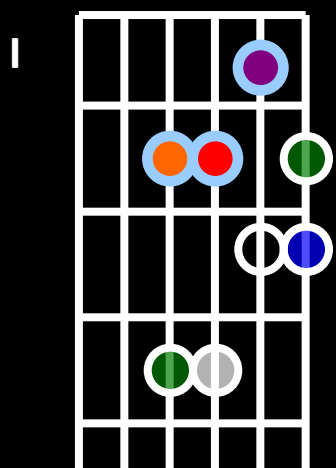
Jimi's Third in the Root









6 & 7 are options

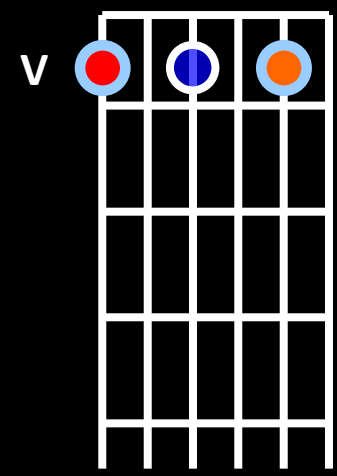
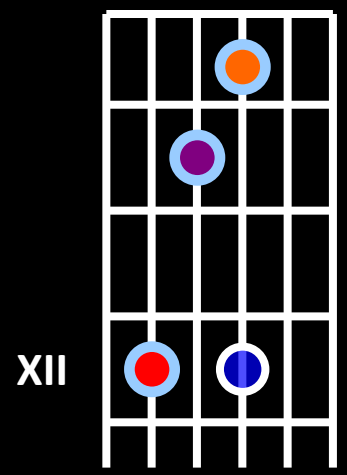
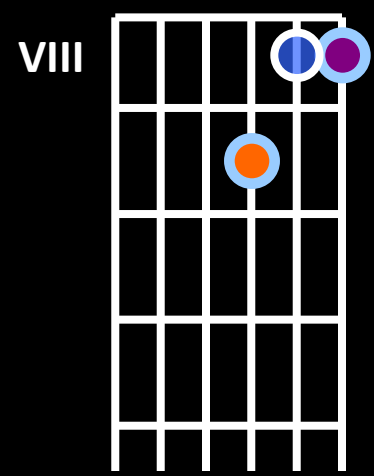
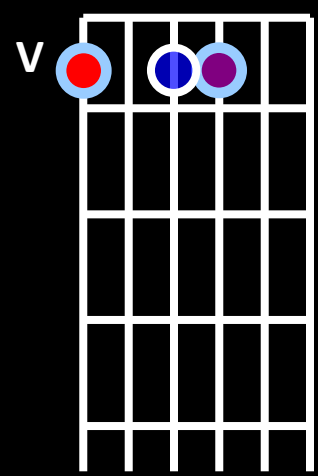
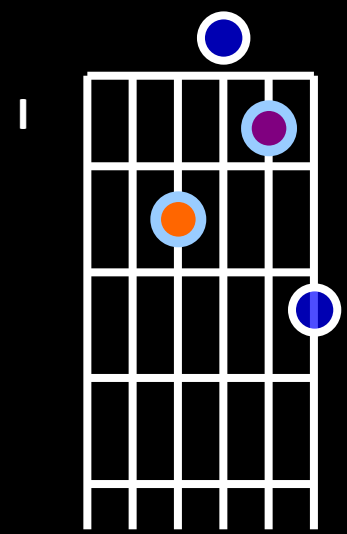
-  flat 7
-  sixth
-  fifth
-  third
-  root

Minor Variations



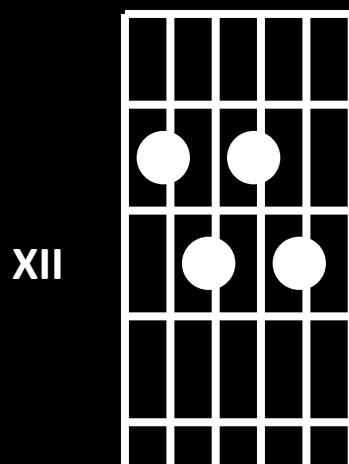
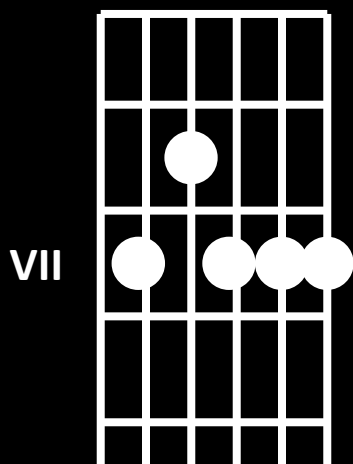
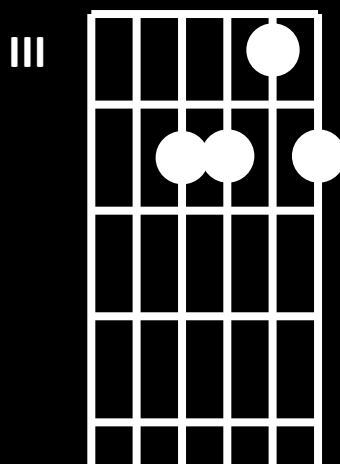
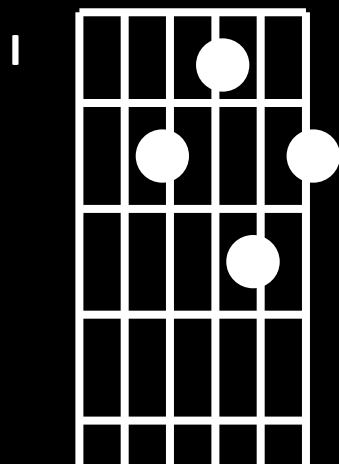
-  minor 7th
-  6th or 13th
-  5th
-  minor 3rd
-  2nd or 9th
-  root

Minor 7th Variations



- minor 7th
- 6th or 13th
- 5th
- minor 3rd
- 2nd or 9th
- root

9th Chords





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Rhythm Tips

- Bridge & Neck picking
- Slide Up
- Slide Down
- Shakes
- Fade Up
- Fade Down
- Passing Chords

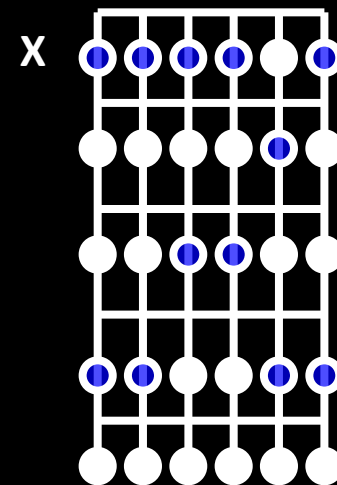
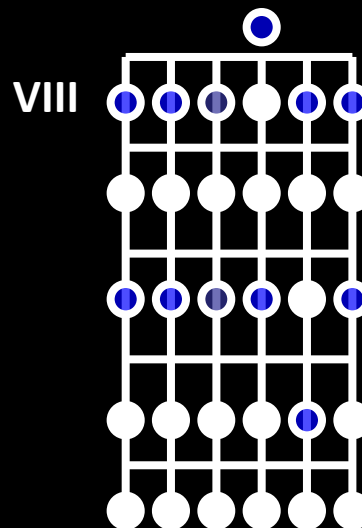
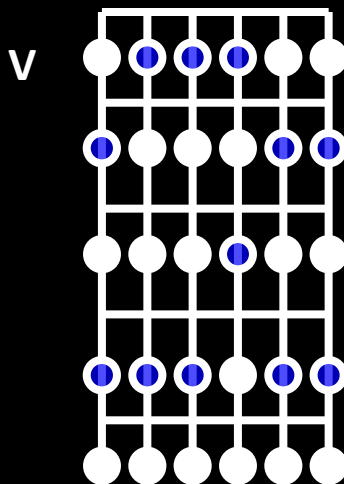
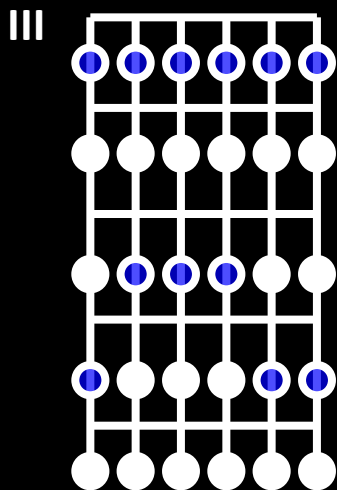
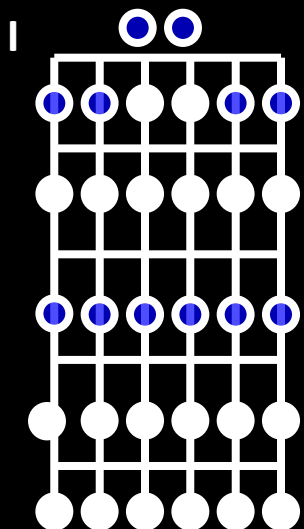
Example to be written in tab



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"G Blues Scale" Overview



- Every note is in play
- It is all about timing & delivery
- Use 'patterns' as guidance not rules
- ● 'standard' blues scale notes



String Bending Tips

- Get your ear in the game
- 12th fret and below
 - ½ step to 2 steps (and everything in between)
- 12th fret and above
 - ½ step to 2.5 steps (and everything in between)
- Create tension / anticipation with a gradual approach to a note
- Bend outside the standard blues box



String Bending Tips

- Three fingers on the fret board for most bends
- Add vibrato at the top of the bend and/or after release
- Add some flava (see rhythm ideas)
 - Bridge & Neck picking, Slide Up , Slide Down
 - Shakes, Fade Up, Fade Down Passing Notes
 - Crescendo & fall offs
 - Run ups & releases



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Flat 3rd to Flat 7th

- Run of the Mill Major Scale

C	D	E	F	G	A	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- “Blue Notes”
 - Flat 3rd or Eb
 - Flat 5th or F#
 - Flat 7th or Bb



Flat 3rd to Flat 7th

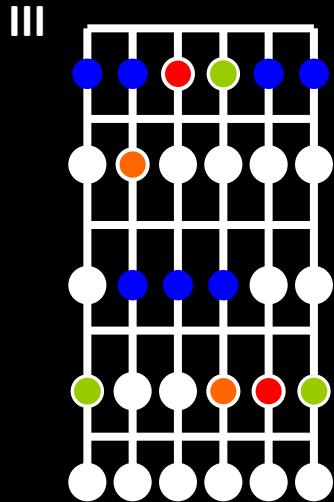
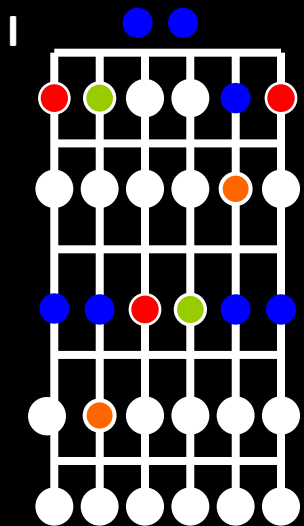
- Add in the 'blue notes'

C	D	E ^b	E	F	F [#]	G	A	B ^b	B
1	2	b3	3	4	b5	5	6	b7	7

- Voila a 'blues scale'

C	E ^b	F	G	B ^b
1	b3	4	5	b7

"G Blues Scale" with b3 to b7



- Every note is in play
 - It is all about timing & delivery
 - Use 'patterns' as guidance not rules
- regular notes
- b3 ● b5 ● b7 'blue notes'

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Slide Basics

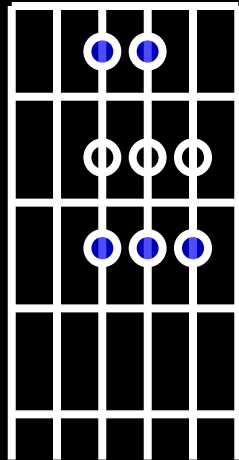
- Set Up Prerequisites
 - High Action
 - Slide requires higher action to avoid fret rub and a clear tone
 - String gauge 11 & above
 - Intonation
 - Possible Truss Rod Adjustment
 - Back off the tone knob
 - Try Open Tunings (standard works too!)
 - E E B E G# B E
 - D D A D F# A D
 - A E A E A C# E



Slide Technique

- Left or Right Hand Muting
- Position over top of the fret
- Keep slide parallel to frets
- Pick vs. fingers
- Plucks, sweeps & drags
- Think 'horizontal'
- Push to or pull from a note
- Gradual movement creates 'microtone tension'

One Way Out



- Pulls
- Pushes
- Slides
- Gradual movement



"Open Mic"

- Others Suggestions, Techniques or Tips
- Can you repeat that part about



Wrap Up

- Content will be posted to website
 - www.soundluthiers.com
- Amplifier Workshop
 - July 11th
 - Wanna Sign Up?
- Coming Soon
 - Amp, Guitar & Effects Samples
- Open Mic
 - Insert Date
- Questions? ... call anytime
 - bob@soundluthiers.com
 - bill@soundluthiers.com
 - 613 220 6140
 - geoff@fatoneamps.com