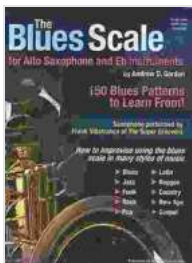


# Unlock the Secrets of the Blues Scale on Alto Saxophone and Eb Instruments

The blues scale is an essential building block for any aspiring saxophonist. Its distinct and expressive sound has captivated audiences for generations, making it a staple in various musical genres, including blues, jazz, and rock. This comprehensive beginner's guide will provide you with a thorough understanding of the blues scale, its construction, and its application on the alto saxophone and other Eb instruments. Whether you're a seasoned musician looking to expand your harmonic knowledge or a novice just starting your musical journey, this guide will equip you with the tools and techniques you need to master the blues scale.



## The Blues Scale for Alto Saxophone and Eb instruments by Andrew D. Gordon

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 12324 KB

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Lending : Enabled

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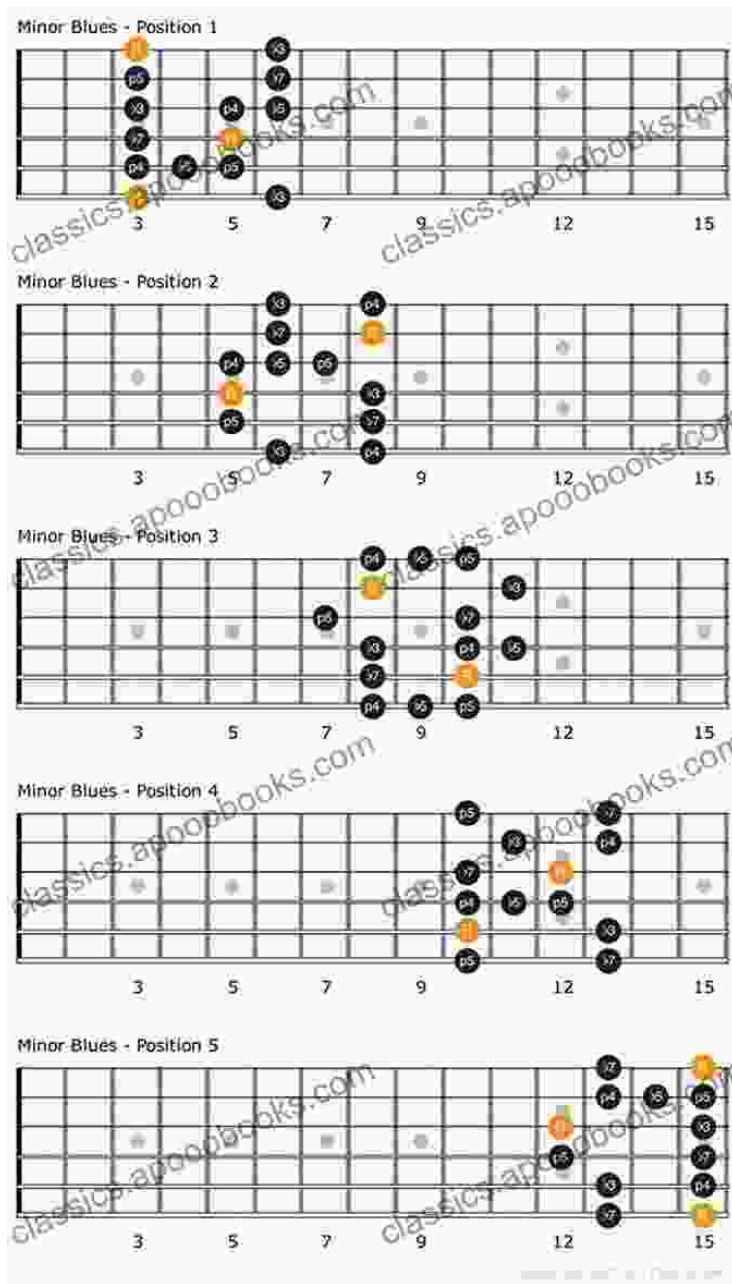
Dimensions : 8 x 0.1 x 10 inches



## Understanding the Blues Scale

The blues scale is a six-note scale, also known as a hexatonic scale, consisting of the following notes: root, flatted third, perfect fourth, flatted

fifth, fifth, and flatted seventh. When played in the key of C, it corresponds to the notes C, Eb, F, Gb, G, and Bb. The flatted third, fifth, and seventh give the blues scale its characteristically mournful and soulful sound.



## Playing the Blues Scale on Alto Saxophone and Eb Instruments

To play the blues scale on the alto saxophone or any other Eb instrument, you'll need to adjust the fingering patterns to accommodate the different key. The following fingering chart provides the necessary adjustments:

I Note	I Alto Saxophone	I Eb Instrument	I  --- --- ---	I C	I 0000	I 00000	I   Eb				
I 1100	I 11000	I   F	I 1200	I 12000	I   Gb	I 1210	I 12100	I   G	I 1230	I 12300	I
I Bb	I 1234	I 12345	I								

Remember to keep your embouchure relaxed and experiment with different breath pressures to achieve the desired tone.

## Applying the Blues Scale in Music

Once you've mastered the basic fingering patterns, it's time to incorporate the blues scale into your musical repertoire. Here are some practical tips to help you get started:

- **Improvisation:** The blues scale is a fantastic tool for improvising over blues progressions. Start by experimenting with simple melodies and gradually build upon them as you gain confidence.
- **Soloing:** Incorporate the blues scale into your solos to add depth and emotion. Use the characteristic bends and slides to create a soulful and expressive sound.
- **Chord progressions:** The blues scale can be played over a variety of chord progressions, including the classic 12-bar blues. Experiment

with different chord progressions to discover how the scale interacts with different harmonies.

Mastering the blues scale on the alto saxophone or other Eb instruments opens up a world of musical possibilities. This comprehensive beginner's guide has provided you with the knowledge and techniques you need to unlock the soulful melodies and vibrant harmonies of the blues. With dedication and practice, you'll be able to incorporate the blues scale into your playing and create captivating performances that move your audience.

Take the next step in your musical journey. Embrace the blues scale and elevate your alto saxophone or Eb instrument playing to new heights.



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