



Blues Soloing in the "Upper Extension" Minor Blues Scale

Hello friends,

In today's four-part lead guitar tutorial, I will be breaking down how to solo in the "upper extension" of the Am minor blues scale. To fully understand how this works, I will be explaining the theory behind the minor blues scale, and how to perform it in two different positions. From there I'll demonstrate a bit of soloing and teach you a bluesy phrase for our lick of the week. Let's get started!

1) The Am Blues Scale (E Shape Position)

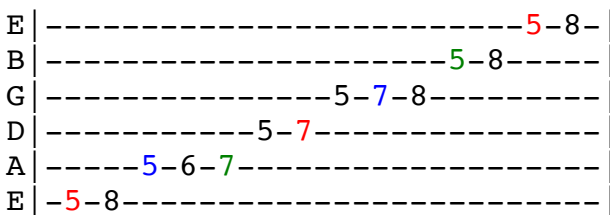
In section #1 of this lesson we will learn how to play the Am Blues Scale. This is very similar to the minor pentatonic scale, however it features the flat 5 note in the key of A. Every scale is created by performing a specific series of intervals, the minor blues scale is created via the following intervals:

b3rd, W, H, H, b3rd, W.

Below we have the resulting notes, and their interval names based on their position or proximity to the major scale, in which intervals are always measured:

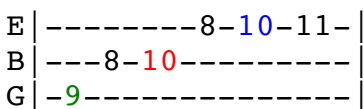
1 b3 4 b5 5 b7 1
A, C, D, Eb, E, G, A (Red = Root) (Blue = 4th) (Green = 5th)

These notes can be performed on the fret-board in two octaves. Let's memorize this position first, and then move onto a second position that contains what many players refer to as the "upper extension." Be sure to keep track of your roots, 4th and 5th scale intervals so that you can follow a 1.4.5 progression.



2) The Upper Extension:

In section #2 we look at the position commonly referred to as the "upper extension." This is a great area of the fret-board to reach for at crescendo of a guitar solo, especially if you can implement some climactic bends! (Red = Root) (Blue = 4th) (Green = 5th)





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3) The Am Blues Scale (D Shape Position)

Every scale can be played in five different positions on the fret-board. These scale patterns surround the C, A, G, E, D positions of a given major or minor chord. The "upper extension" is actually just the second octave of our A minor blues scale in D shape position.

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E |-----8-10-11-----|
B |-----8-10-----|
G |-----7-8-9-----|
D |-----7-10-----|
A |-----7-10-----|
E |-(5)-8-10-11-----|
    
```

4) Our Lick of the Week

Now that you have memorized both the E and D shape positions of the A minor blues scale, let's add an impressive lick to your repertoire! Remember, licks can easily be transposed to another key simply by moving your scale positions to a different fret.

```

E |-----8-10h11p10p8-10-8-----8b-----|
B |-(8)/10-----10-----10v-----|
G |-----9-----|
D |-----|
A |-----|
E |-----|
    
```

5) Bonus Licks (Available in Premium Extended Cut)

For my premium patrons, here are two additional licks that tie together these two positions of the minor blues scale.

#1	#2
E -5-----	-----
B -x-8p5-----8-----	-----8/10-----
G -x-----8-7p5-(7)/9---(9)/7v---	---5-7--9b(12)-9---7h8p7---7-----
D -----	-7-----10--10-----
A -----	-----
E -----	-----