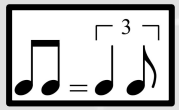
Chord – two or more notes played at the same time

Melody: Blues melodies are usually based on Pentatonic Scales.

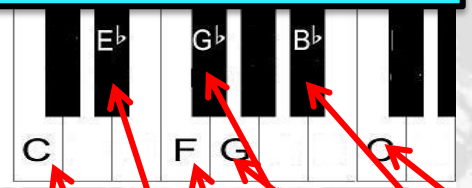


Swung rhythm

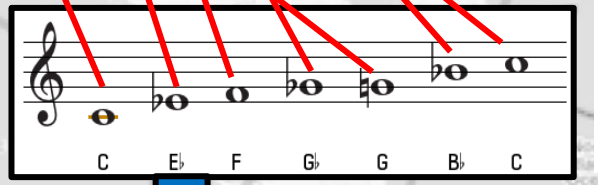
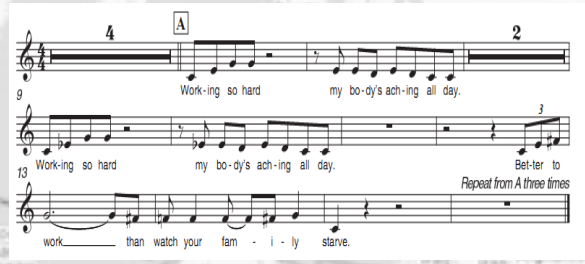
12-bar blues chords in C

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C

C chord
C, E, G

Blues Scale – a scale used for improvising

Improvising – making up music on the spot

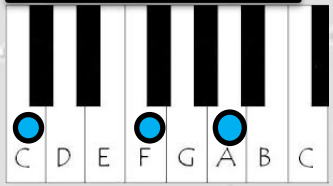
Tonic – 1st I (C chord)
Subdominant – 4th IV (F chord)
Dominant – 5th V (G chord)



12-Bar Blues Progression

I	I	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
V	IV	I	V

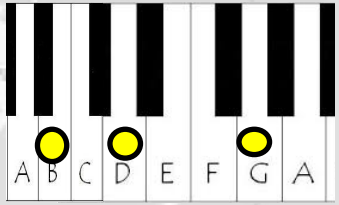
F chord
F, A, C in inversion

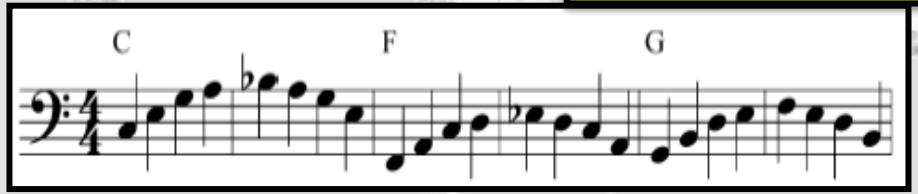


A	Mmmm, standin' at the crossroad, I tried to flag a ride
A	Standin' at the crossroad, I tried to flag a ride
B	Didn't nobody seem to know me, everybody pass me by

Blues Lyrics follow AAB structure

G chord
G, B, D in inversion



Walking Bass Line – uses the most important notes from the chords

Structure – consider an intro/outro, solos, a break