

FRETBOARD TOOLBOX BLUES INSTRUCTIONS

Overview: The Fretboard Toolbox takes several of the most essential, but difficult to learn, ideas from music theory and puts them all in front of you in a format that shows you in one glance ideas that have taken others years to learn. Whether you've been playing a long time, want to pick up a new stringed instrument, or you're just getting started, the Fretboard Toolbox has something for almost everybody.

Chord Jig: This section of the Fretboard Toolbox will teach you not only which chords belong within a key (I-vii), but also will teach you which notes make up a given chord. The following explains the two parts of the Chord Jig.

Chords: (vertical section numbered I-vii). The main idea of the "Chords" section is to show you the (diatonic) chords that belong together in a given key (i.e. they sound great together). For example, in the key of G, countless blues songs use countless combinations of the chords G7, C7, and D7. The Fretboard Toolbox Blues Guitar Version is based on the minor pentatonic scale. This is a scale that is used extensively in blues, and also many rock songs. If the song you're trying to figure out does not seem to fit well with this tool, you might want to try purchasing the "Fretboard Toolbox Guitar Original Edition". That edition works for countless, rock, folk, alternative, bluegrass, country, reggae, pop, and jazz songs. Between the two of these tools, you'll be able to understand and play an amazing amount of music! **To figure out songs on your own:** First find the root/key of a song (pick a song to figure out, and try lots of different notes on your fretboard until you hear the one that the song comes back to; lots of times this is at the beginning and/or end of songs/choruses). Then, find the page with that note in the "I" box. Trying several notes from the Pentatonic Jig will quickly let you know if you've found the correct key. Once you've found the key, there's a great chance that most of the chords from the song will be in the I, IV, and V boxes, though some minor blues songs are based on chords from the ii, iii, and vi boxes. Way fewer blues songs use the vii (diminished chords), but some songs may have one or more chords that don't fit in perfectly with the key. Experimenting with different blues, AND MANY ROCK songs, will give you confidence that you can figure out LOTS of music on your own!

Notes: (horizontal section labeled 1, b3, 3...7). The main idea of the "Notes" section is to teach you which notes make up a given chord. For example, to play blues in the key of E, (by turning to page 3,) you'll find that the I, IV, and V chords in that key are E, A, and B. You can experiment with making various chords 7 chords by adding the note in the "b7" box. Once you know the notes you are looking for, use the Fretboard Layout to find where those notes can be played anywhere on the fretboard.

Fretboard Layout: This section of the Fretboard Toolbox will show you all of the notes on all of the most frequently used frets. The notes to the left of the nut (see Fretboard Layout) are the notes of each open string in standard tuning. **String #6 is your top string (low E), and string #1 is your bottom string (high E). The frets are labeled across the bottom, and frets that often have indicators (dots or other marks) are shaded.**

Pentatonic Jig: With this section, once you find the key of a song, you can find the page that has that note in the "Blues Pentatonic Root" box. This jig includes notes from both the pentatonic major and pentatonic minor scales. Blues songs can use the pentatonic minor (darker sound), pentatonic major (brighter sound), or BOTH! The minor pentatonic scale has notes in **white boxes**, and can include the flat 5, a "blues note" denoted by an asterisk (*). The major pentatonic has notes that are all underlined. For the simplest, great sounding blues solos, try just the minor pentatonic. When you've got that down, try some major pentatonic soloing with blues, or even try both! There's way more to soloing than what's found in this jig, but it should get you started making great blues solos!

If you like the Fretboard Toolbox method, but also want to play rock, folk, bluegrass, alternative, country, reggae, pop, jazz, etc., check out the **Fretboard Toolbox Original Guitar Edition**. If you'd like to try the Fretboard Toolbox method with other instruments, try Mandolin, **Banjo**, **Ukulele**, and/or **Piano Editions**.

For more information, or to order a Toolbox, go to www.fretboard-toolbox.com!