

Exercises for Playing a Basic Blues

in A for alto sax (C concert)

AEGriffiths

Remember that we're using all **dominant 7th chords**, which are 1-3-5 plus a lowered/flatted 7th.

The dominant scales are the same idea - use the key signature of the root of the chord, but lower/flat the 7th scale degree.

A7 arpeggio




A7 scale




The first exercise shows the A7 arpeggio (A, C#, E, G) and the A7 scale (A, B, C#, D, E, F, G) on a treble clef staff. The arpeggio is played in a sequence of eighth notes, and the scale is played in a sequence of eighth notes. The scale is divided into two parts by a double bar line, with the second part starting on the next octave.

D7 arpeggio



D7 scale



The second exercise shows the D7 arpeggio (D, F#, A, C) and the D7 scale (D, E, F#, G, A, B, C) on a treble clef staff. The arpeggio is played in a sequence of eighth notes, and the scale is played in a sequence of eighth notes. The scale is divided into two parts by a double bar line, with the second part starting on the next octave.

E7 arpeggio



E7 scale



The third exercise shows the E7 arpeggio (E, G#, B, D) and the E7 scale (E, F#, G#, A, B, C, D) on a treble clef staff. The arpeggio is played in a sequence of eighth notes, and the scale is played in a sequence of eighth notes. The scale is divided into two parts by a double bar line, with the second part starting on the next octave.

This info is all just a reminder of the correct notes; always practice weaving through the chord changes using good voice-leading and playing along with the recordings (so that you're following the form of the blues). **USE HEADPHONES.**