

LEARN BLUES FINGERPICKING

INTERMEDIATE COURSE

3.1 Minor Blues



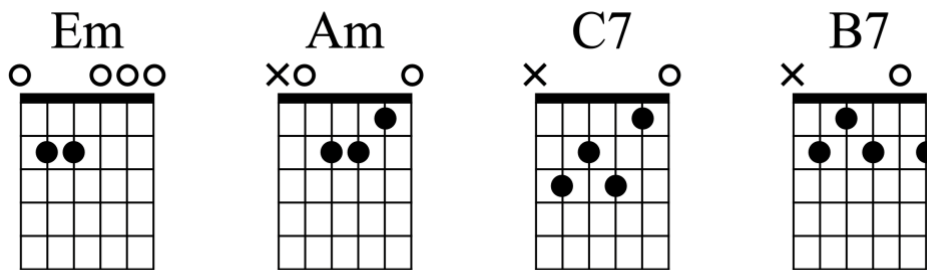
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Minor Blues

The minor blues has a similar structure to the 12-bar blues that we saw previously, except most of the chords are minor.

Chord Diagrams

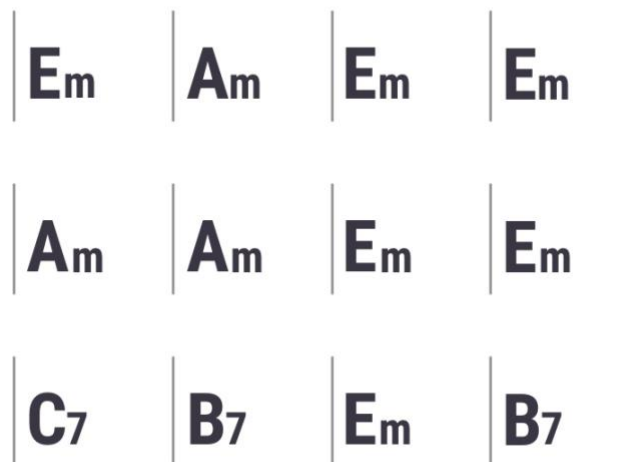
The 4 chords we need for a Minor Blues in the key of E minor are: Em, Am, B7, C7



Minor Blues Structure

Let's have a look at the structure of the 12-bar minor blues:

Minor Blues



It's best to look at this in 3 sections (each of four bars)

1. The first 4 bars could be all Em (but if we go to Am in bar 2, it's a more common form and called the Quick Change)
2. The next 4 bars are 2 bars of Am and then 2 bars of Em
3. The final 4 bars are actually very different in feel from a regular 12-bar blues and consists of C7, B7, Em and B7

Just the bass

We become familiar with this structure by just playing the bass notes first. I have highlighted the first 2 bars below, but you'll see a tab version which shows the whole 12 bars in the attached documents.

Run through this until it's comfortable.

Em Am

1 2

The image shows two systems of musical notation. The first system is for the Em chord, labeled '1' above the staff. It consists of four quarter notes on the 2nd line of the bass clef, each with a double bar above it. The second system is for the Am chord, labeled '2' above the staff. It consists of four quarter notes on the 2nd line of the bass clef, each with a single bar above it. Below the first system, the dynamic marking 'mf' is written. Below the second system, four '0' characters are written on the staff, indicating open strings.

Ensure you keep a regular timing and use a metronome to help with this. That bass should be steady!

Adding Chords

We now add a double chord pluck!

If you have a steady 1-2-3-4 when counting the bass notes, now you want to add on that "1" and between the "1" and "2"

You might count this as **One-and** Two Three Four (where red denotes those chord plucks and playing a bass every time you say 1, 2, 3 or 4)

The image shows musical notation for two chords: Em and Am. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. The Em chord is shown with a double chord pluck on the first beat, indicated by a circled '1' above the notes. The Am chord is shown with a double chord pluck on the second beat, indicated by a circled '2' above the notes. The notation includes a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte). Below the notation is a guitar fretboard diagram with six strings and four frets. The fretboard shows the following fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 2, 0 for the first four frets, and 0, 1, 2, 2, 0 for the next four frets. The fret numbers are arranged in a way that corresponds to the notes in the musical notation above.

Assignment

Check out the attached tab for the full 12-bar version & play it until it feels comfortable.