12-Bar Blues Chart

I7 – I7 – I7 – I7 – IV7 – IV7 – I7 – I7 – V7 – IV7 – I7 – V7 · in C major: 12 bars

Interactive page: triads-guitar.com/progressions-library/12-bar-blues · Play it with a band: triads-guitar.com/progression-builder-app

The progression in C major

I7	I7	I7	I7	IV7	IV7	I7	I7	V7	IV7	I7	V7
C7	C7	C7	C7	F7	F7	C7	C7	G7	F7	C7	G7

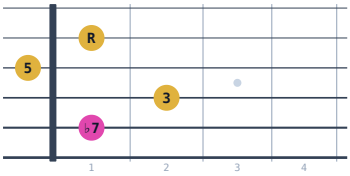
Why it works: Four bars at home, two on the IV for a lift, back home, then V and IV to turn around. It works like a spoken line: ask, repeat the question, answer. That is why blues lyrics sing a line twice and then answer it.

Songs built on it: Johnny B. Goode · Hound Dog · Rock Around the Clock · Tutti Frutti · Blue Suede Shoes · Kansas City · Sweet Home Chicago · Mustang Sally · Pride and Joy · Red House · Born Under a Bad Sign · Crossroads

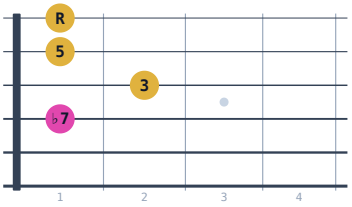
Heard in: Blues · Delta blues · Piedmont blues · Chicago blues · Texas blues · Jazz blues · Classic rock · Blues rock · Country

How to play it in C major

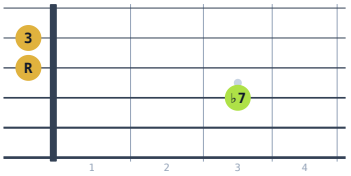
I7 · C7 · C shape



IV7 · F7 · E shape



V7 · G7 · A shape



12-Bar Blues in every key

Key	I7	IV7	V7
C major	C7	F7	G7
D♭ major	D♭7	G♭7	A♭7
D major	D7	G7	A7
E♭ major	E♭7	A♭7	B♭7
E major	E7	A7	B7
F major	F7	B♭7	C7
F♯ major	F♯7	B7	C♯7
G major	G7	C7	D7
A♭ major	A♭7	D♭7	E♭7
A major	A7	D7	E7
B♭ major	B♭7	E♭7	F7
B major	B7	E7	F♯7

What to play over it

Over the whole progression: C Minor blues · C Minor pentatonic · C Major pentatonic · C Mixolydian

Chord by chord: C7: C Mixolydian · F7: F Lydian dominant · G7: G Mixolydian