

## CHAPTER 15

### F (CONCERT) MINOR BLUES SCALE

 **13**  **There are two choruses for you try out the Minor Blues Scale.**

The six-note scale below is the Minor Blues Scale- in this case it is in the key of F Concert. This is the type of scale most musicians call “the Blues Scale.” As we learned in Chapter 12, there is a Major Blues Scale as well. The Minor Blues Scale is similar to the Pentatonic Blues Scale, but includes one new blue note, the B natural. This is a strong note which is not part of any chord in the standard Blues progression, yet provides a great deal of color or tension when used melodically.



This scale can be used on any chord in the 3-chord Blues progression. Some notes, however may not sound as good over certain chords.

On the F7 chords, the Bb may clash depending on its treatment and approach.



On the Bb7 chord the B natural or Eb may clash.



on the C7 chord The F will not always fit.



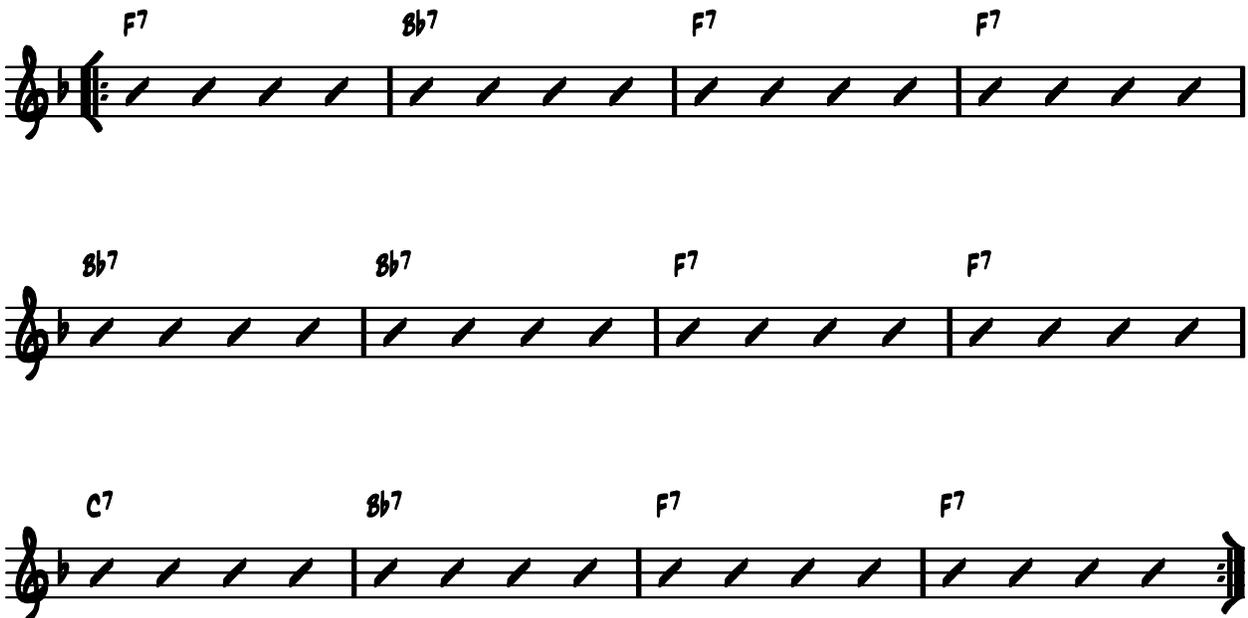
As is always true about jazz, there are no firm rules. The Minor Blues Scale can be used by itself or in combination with the Major Blues Scale, depending on how your melodic ideas flow. Try the Minor Blues Scale exclusively at first to decide what sounds good.

Center your melodic ideas around these 3 groups of notes. The notes are grouped based on their common melodic tendencies. As we've been practicing, the F and Ab often work together melodically, as do F and Eb. The B natural tends to create tension which is often resolved by moving to the Bb or C, though as we said before, any note can lead to or follow any other note. Always listen and decide if your note choices fit with the chords playing in the background.



### Chord changes for improvising

On the first chorus, play simple figures or long notes using only notes from the Minor Blues Scale to see how they sound over each chord. On the repeat, choose rhythm patterns that were presented in previous Chapters. Try making a two or four-bar phrase that develops rhythms with melodic groups from the minor Blues scale above.



Look at the tune “Friff in 3D” in Appendix B for a melody using the Minor Blues Scale.