



# Rhythm Rules: 8 Ways to Navigate a 12-Bar Blues

By Dan Smith  
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Ex. 2

Moderately fast ♩ = 150

G7

*mf*  
slight P.M. throughout

T  
A  
B

3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 | 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 | 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 | 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5

C7

G7

3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 | 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 | 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 | 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5

D7

C7

G7

D7

G7

5 5 7 7 7 5 5 7 7 | 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 | 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 | 3 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 | 3

\*Lift P.M.

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Ex. 3

Moderately fast ♩ = 150

Chords: G7, C7, G7, Dm7, G7

mf sim.

T	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4
A	3	3	3	3	2	2	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
B																

Chords: C7, C#o7, G7, Gb7, F7, E7, Eb7, E7

T	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	9	10	10	9	8	7	7	6	7
A	2	2	2	2	5	5	8	8	9	9	8	7	6	6	5	6
B																

Chords: Am7, D7, Db7, D7, G7, Em7, Am7, D7, G7

T	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	7	7	5	5	5	5
A	5	7	6	5	4	4	3	4	3	3	5	5	5	5	4	4
B																



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Ex. 5

Very fast ♩ = 190 (♩ = ♪♪)

G7 C9 C#o7 G13 G13 Gb13 G13 Ab13 A13 Bb13 B13

Cmaj7b5 C#o7 G9 Gb9 G9 E7#9 E7b9 Am7

D11 D7b9 E7#9 Am7 D7#9 D7b9 G7



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Ex. 7

Moderately ♩ = 110  
G9

*mf*

TAB

0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				
		3	5	3	3	3	5	3	X	X	3	5	3	X	X
		2	4	2	3	2	4	2	X	X	2	4	2	X	X
		3	5	3	3	3	5	3	X	X	3	5	3	X	X

C9

G9

3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
		3	5	3	X	X	3	5	3	X	X	3	5	3	X	X
		2	4	2	X	X	2	4	2	X	X	2	4	2	X	X
		3	5	3	X	X	3	5	3	X	X	3	5	3	X	X

D9

C9

G9

D7

G9

5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
		5	7	5	X	X	X	3	5	3	X	X	3	5	3	X	X
		5	7	5	X	X	X	X	3	5	3	X	X	X	X	X	X
		5	7	5	(5)	(5)	X	X	3	5	3	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Ex. 8

Moderate Funk ♩ = 115

G7

*mf*

P.M. -1

P.M. -1

P.M. -1

TAB

C7

P.M. -1

P.M. -1

P.M. -1

G7

D7

P.M. -1

P.M. -1

P.M. -1

C7

G7

D7#9

G7

P.M. -1

P.M. -1