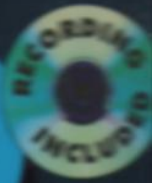


Guitar Tab Edition

ROBBEN FORD



video
transcription
series

PLAYIN' THE BLUES

ROBBEN FORD

PLAYIN' THE BLUES

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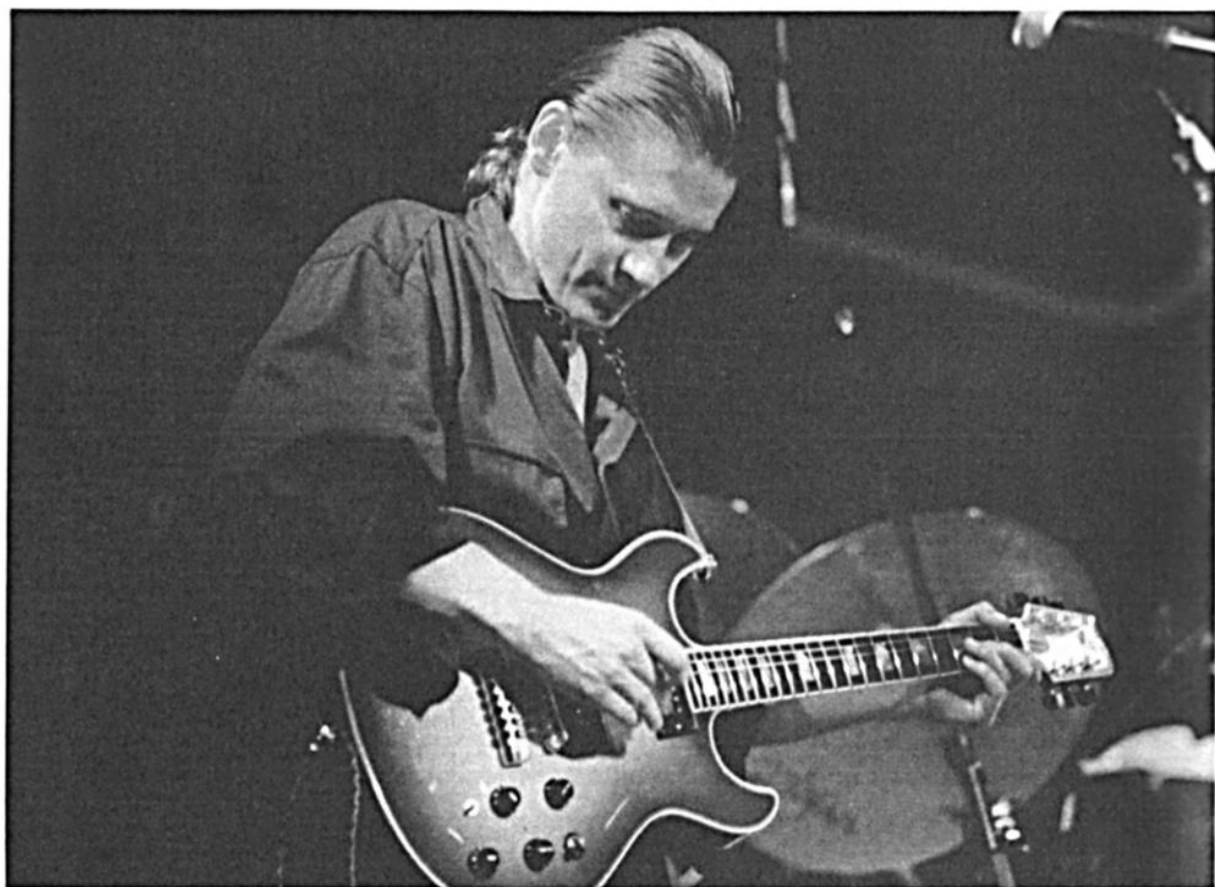
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Playin' the Blues*. This Book covers all the basics of contemporary blues guitar style. Some of the things we will be looking at in this book are traditional blues progressions, chord voicings, rhythms used in comping, string bending, picking techniques, scales used in blues soloing and many blues licks. For more advanced material refer to my book *The Blues and Beyond* (REHBK001) available from CPP Media.

Part I

Scales For Blues Soloing

Example 1: G Minor Pentatonic

The first scale we are going to examine is the G minor pentatonic scale. All pentatonic scales contain 5 tones as opposed to the diatonic (7 tone) and chromatic (12 tone) scales. The notes in the G minor pentatonic scale are: G, B $\flat$, C, D, & F (1st, $\flat$ 3rd, 4th, 5th, & $\flat$ 7th degrees of the major scale.)

Here are the two fingerings that Robben demonstrates:

Example 1A:

Example 1A shows the G minor pentatonic scale in 4/4 time, starting on G $\flat$ (F). The melody is written on a single staff with a key signature of one flat. The bass lines for Tenor (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) are shown below the melody. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5.

Measure	T	A	B
1			3
2			1 3 5
3			3 5 3 5
4			3 6 3 6
5			3 6 3 5
6			3 5 3 5
7			3 1 3

Example 1B:

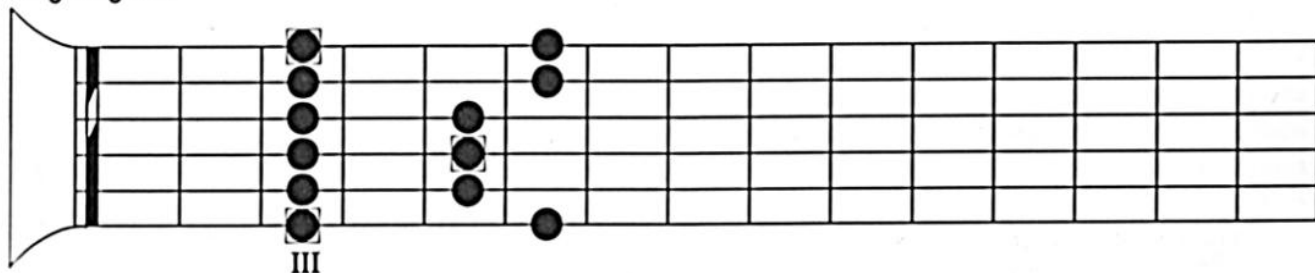
Example 1B shows the G minor pentatonic scale in 4/4 time, starting on G $\flat$ (F). The melody is identical to Example 1A. The bass lines for Tenor (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) are shown below the melody. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5.

Measure	T	A	B
1			3
2			3 5
3			3 5 3 5
4			3 6 3 6
5			3 6 3 5
6			3 5 3 5
7			3 6 3

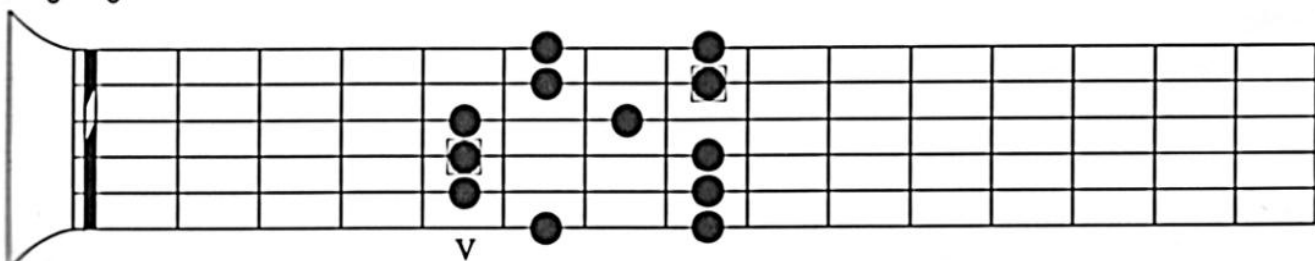
Example 1C: Five Fingerings for G Minor Pentatonic

This example shows the five most common fingerings for the G minor pentatonic scale. Notice that because no open strings are used, each of these fingerings is moveable to any position or key. The root of each scale is indicated with a box. (Example 1B is the same as Fingering #1 and Example 1A is a combination of Fingerings 5 and 1.)

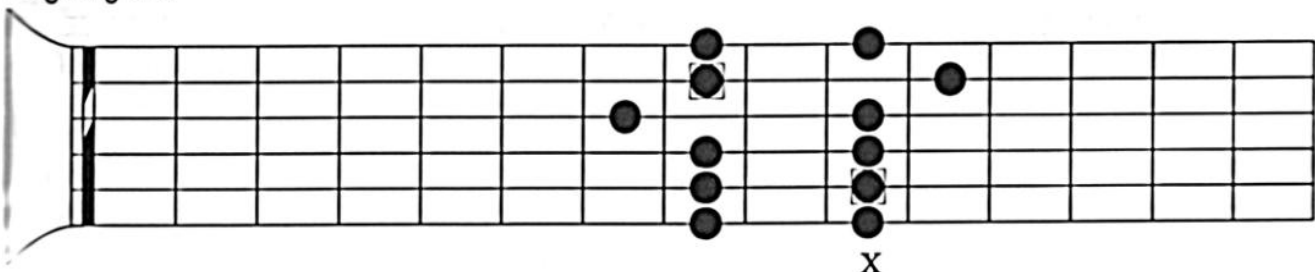
Fingering #1:



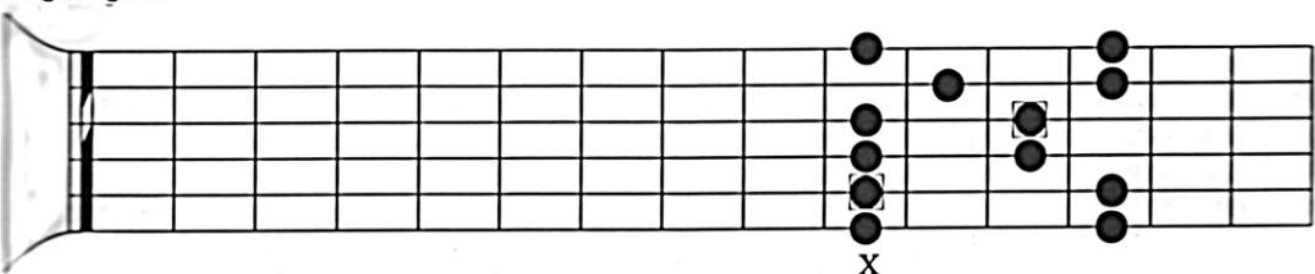
Fingering #2:



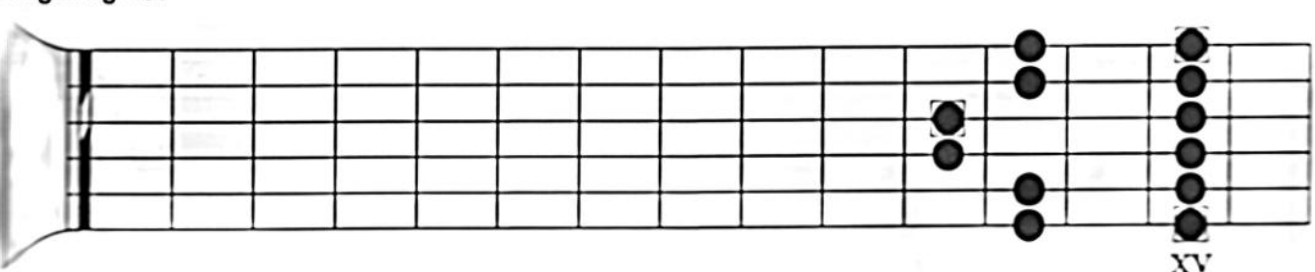
Fingering #3:



Fingering #4:



Fingering #5:



Example 2:

Solo Demonstration over a G7 Vamp

Here, Robben demonstrates the sound of the G minor pentatonic scale by playing it over a bluesy G7 vamp. Often, when playing the B $\flat$ (♭3rd), Robben bends it slightly sharp, getting it right in between the ♭3rd and $\natural$ 3rd (bars 3 and 12). This is a very common blues device and adds a hard-edged blues quality to the solo.

Blues shuffle (♩ = ♩♩)

G7

First system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (B-flat), 4/4 time. The bass staff shows fret numbers for the T, A, and B strings. The melody includes eighth and sixteenth notes, with a triplet of eighth notes and a sixteenth rest in the second measure.

Second system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 4/4 time. The bass staff shows fret numbers for the T, A, and B strings. The melody includes eighth and sixteenth notes, with a quarter rest in the second measure and a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure.

Third system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 4/4 time. The bass staff shows fret numbers for the T, A, and B strings. The melody includes eighth and sixteenth notes.

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 4/4 time. The bass staff shows fret numbers for the T, A, and B strings. The melody includes eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a whole note.

Example 3: G Minor Pentatonic with the $\flat 5$ Added

It is very common to add the $\flat 5$ ($\sharp 11$) to the minor pentatonic scale. The $\flat 3$ rd, $\flat 7$ th and $\flat 5$ th are known as “blue notes.” The minor pentatonic scale, with the added $\flat 5$, is often called the “Blues Scale.” In the G minor pentatonic scale, the added note is $D\flat$.

Here is the “blues scale” fingering as demonstrated by Robben:

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the G Blues Scale in 4/4 time. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff shows fingerings for the Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) clefs. The first staff shows the ascending scale: G (T), A (T), Bb (T), C (T), D (T), Eb (T), F (T), G (T). The second staff shows the descending scale: F (T), Eb (T), D (T), C (T), Bb (T), A (T), G (T). The fingerings are: T: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1; A: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1; B: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Example 3A: Five Fingerings for the G Blues Scale

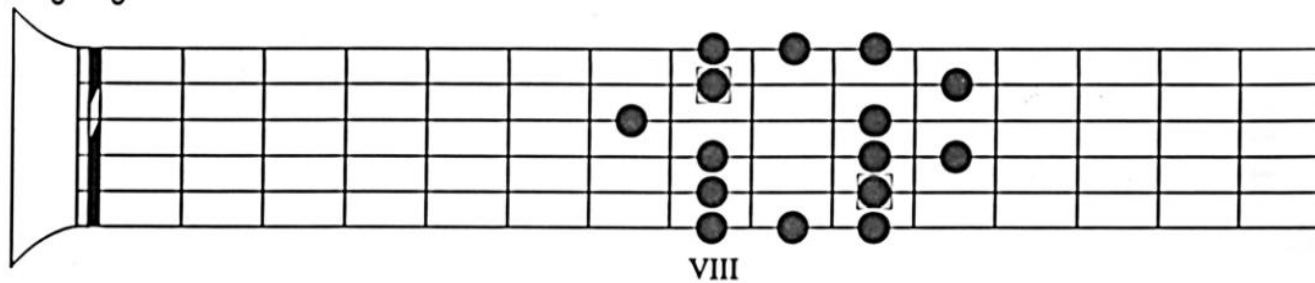
Fingering #1:

The diagram shows a guitar fretboard with five fingerings for the G Blues Scale. The first fingering (III) is shown on the 3rd fret, with the notes G, A, Bb, C, D, Eb, F, G. The other four fingerings are shown on the 5th, 7th, 9th, and 12th frets, each with a different fingering pattern.

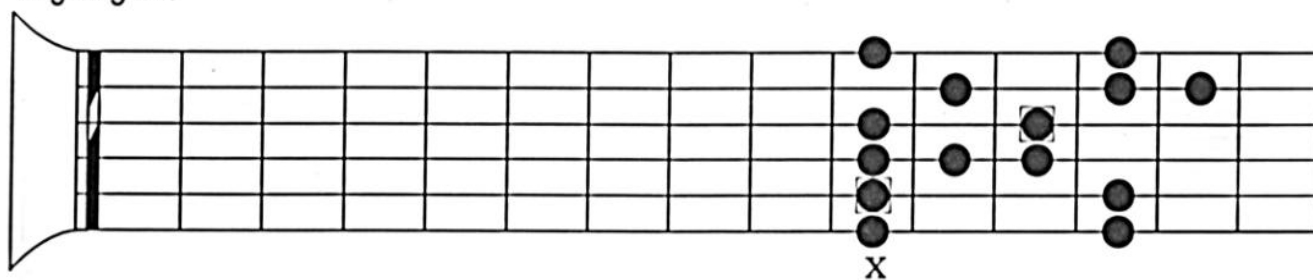
Fingering #2:

The diagram shows a guitar fretboard with five fingerings for the G Blues Scale. The second fingering (V) is shown on the 5th fret, with the notes G, A, Bb, C, D, Eb, F, G. The other four fingerings are shown on the 7th, 9th, 11th, and 14th frets, each with a different fingering pattern.

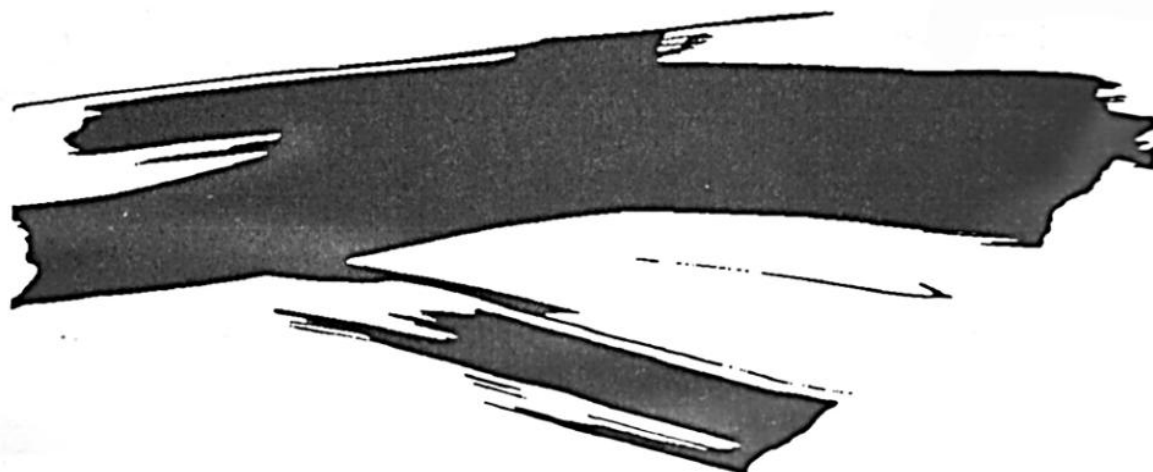
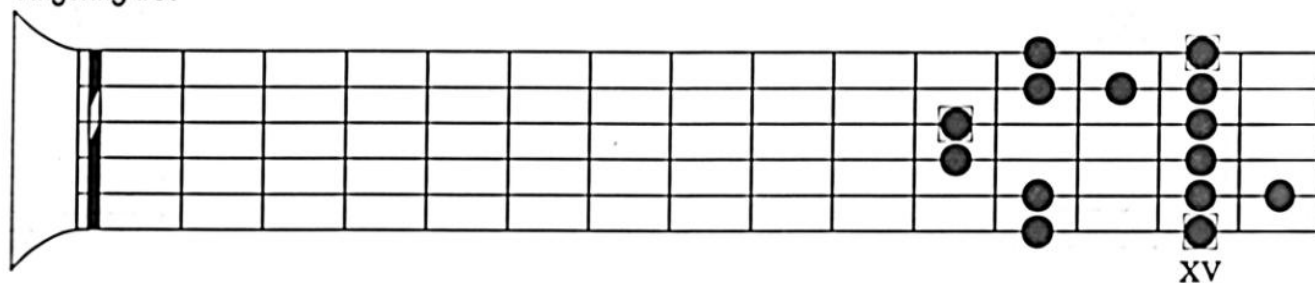
Fingering #3:



Fingering #4:



Fingering #5:



Example 4: Solo Demonstration of the Blues Scale

The following solo demonstrates the use of the blues scale over a G7 vamp. The basic rhythmic feel of this vamp is called a shuffle. In a shuffle, each beat is subdivided into groups of three (triplets).

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in a three-staff format. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, featuring a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, including triplet markings. The bottom two staves are labeled 'T' (Tenor) and 'A' (Alto) for the vocal parts, and 'B' (Bass) for the bass part. The vocal parts are written in a simplified notation using numbers 1-5 to represent notes, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) indicated by a flat symbol on the first line of the vocal staves.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system contains the first two measures of the song, and the second system contains the next two measures. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The rhythm is 3/4 time. The accompaniment is written on three staves labeled T (Tenor), A (Alto), and B (Bass). The melody features several triplets and a 1/4 note. The lyrics 'The Rose Tree' are written below the melody.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system contains the melody in treble clef and the bass line in a three-part setting (Tenor, Alto, Bass). The second system continues the melody and bass line. The melody features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and a triplet of eighth notes in the fifth measure. The bass line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing triplets. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4.

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a three-string bass staff (T, A, B). The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes, some beamed in groups of three, and a few quarter notes. The bass staff contains fret numbers: (8), 6, 8, 10, 9, 8, 11, 8, 11, 7, 10, 8, 11, 8.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplets. The bass staff shows fret numbers: 9, 11, 8, 11, 8, 10, 11, 8, 0, 6, 7, 6, 5, 8, 5, 13, 15.

The third system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and a triplet. The bass staff shows fret numbers: 13, 13, 11, 12, 12, 10, 11, 12, 12, 10. There are also some 1/4 note markings above the staff.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff features eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplets. The bass staff shows fret numbers: 11, 10, 8, 10, 8, 12, 12, 11, 12, 11, 11, 12, 10, 15, 12. There are also some 1/4 note markings above the staff.

Example 5: G Minor Pentatonic with the Added 6th

The third scale we are going to learn is another variation of the basic pentatonic scale. In this variation the 7th (F) is replaced by the 6th (E).

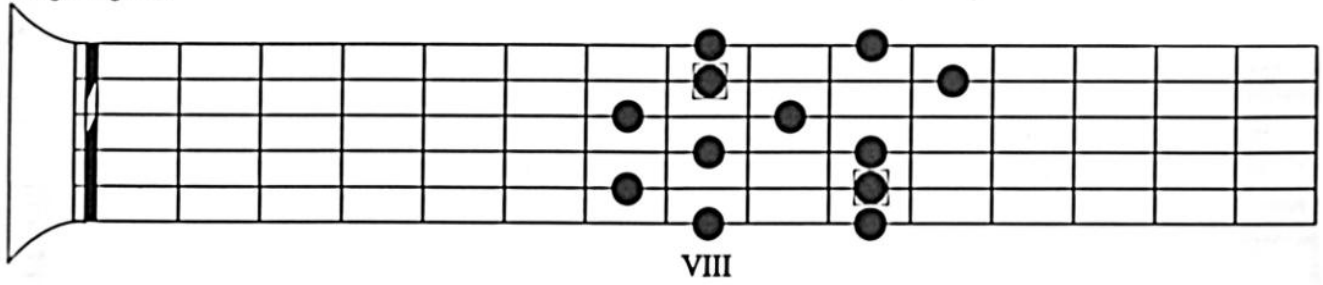
Here is the fingering Robben demonstrates:

Example 5A: Five Fingerings for the G Minor Pentatonic with Added 6th

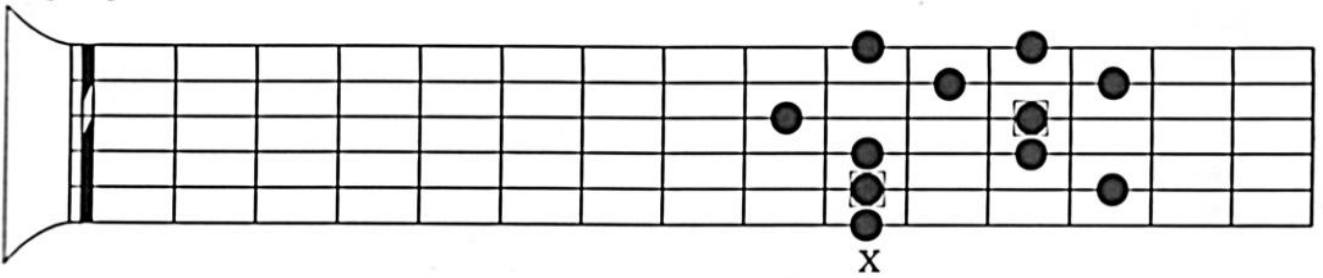
Fingering #1:

Fingering #2:

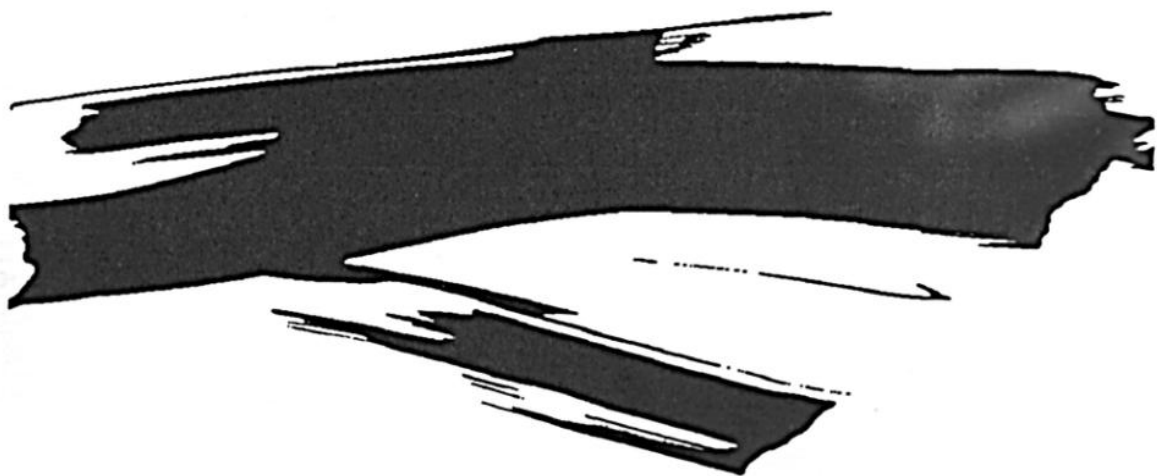
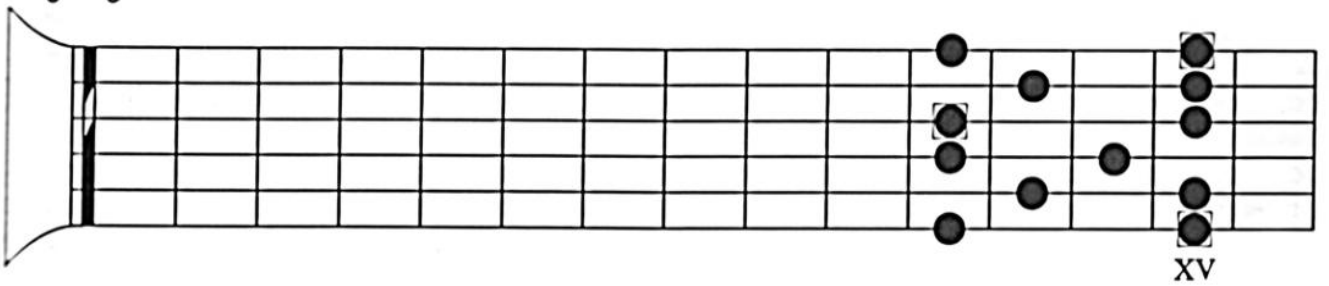
Fingering #3:



Fingering #4:



Fingering #5:



Example 6: Solo Demonstration of the G Minor Pentatonic with Added 6th

You will notice that this scale has a brighter, more uplifting sound than either the minor pentatonic or blues scales. Both Robben and B.B. King use this scale quite a bit, giving them a "sweet" sound. By contrast, Albert King and Stevie Ray Vaughan both lean heavily on the blues scale with its characteristic "harsh" quality.

Blues shuffle (♩ = ♩♩)

The first system shows the initial part of the scale, including a triplet of eighth notes on the A string (frets 5, 3, 5) and a triplet of eighth notes on the B string (frets 7, 5, 5). The second system continues the scale with more triplet patterns and a triplet of eighth notes on the A string (frets 6, 8, 10). The third system concludes the scale with a triplet of eighth notes on the B string (frets 10, 12, 10) and a final triplet of eighth notes on the A string (frets 11, 12, 15), marked as 'straight'.

8va

19 15 12 15 15 17 17 15 17 15 17 15 17

17 14 12 14 12 14 12 15 14 12 5 7 5 7 5

0 7 5 5 3 3 5 3 5 3 5 3 2 5

tr

7 5 3 5 2 5 3 (5)

Example 7: Solo Demonstration Using All Three Scales

This example uses all three scales. You will find many examples using the $\flat 5$ th and $\flat 6$ th. Especially note how the $\flat 6$ th (E) is used. This note adds a wonderful quality to the solo but is often overlooked by guitarists coming from a rock background.

First system of musical notation for Example 7, showing a guitar solo in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line with a flat 5th (B $\flat$) and a flat 6th (E). The bass clef staff shows the fretboard positions for the T, A, and B strings, with fingerings like 5, 5, (5), 3, 5, 3, 3, 8, (5), 5, 3, 5.

Second system of musical notation for Example 7. The treble clef staff continues the melodic line with triplets and a flat 6th. The bass clef staff shows fretboard positions and fingerings like 1, 3, 3, 6, 3, 5, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 7, 5, 8, 5, 7.

Third system of musical notation for Example 7. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with a flat 6th and a flat 5th. The bass clef staff shows fretboard positions and fingerings like 5, 7, 8, 5, 5, 3, 5, 5, 3, 5, 5, 3, 5, 3, 3, 5, 2, 5, 5.

Fourth system of musical notation for Example 7. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with a flat 6th and a flat 5th. The bass clef staff shows fretboard positions and fingerings like 3, 5, 3, 3, 2, 5, 2, 0, 2, 0, 5, 5, 5, 13, 13, 13, 11, 12, 15.

First system of musical notation for guitar soloing. The treble staff shows a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, including a flat. The bass staff shows corresponding fret numbers (13, 11, 12, 10, 11, 12, 9, 11, 11, 10, 11) and includes a '1' above the first fret and '1/4' above the 11th and 12th frets.

Second system of musical notation for guitar soloing. The treble staff continues the melodic line. The bass staff shows fret numbers (0, 10, 7, 10, 11, 10, 0, 10, 7, 0, 9, 0, 6, 7, 6, 6, 5, 3, 6, 5, 3, 5) and includes a '1/2' above the 10th fret and a '1/4' above the 6th fret.

Third system of musical notation for guitar soloing. The treble staff continues the melodic line. The bass staff shows fret numbers (5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 6, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5) and includes a '1/2' above the 5th fret and a '1/4' above the 3rd fret.

Fourth system of musical notation for guitar soloing. The treble staff continues the melodic line. The bass staff shows fret numbers (15, 15, 12, 12, 5, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5) and includes a '1/2' above the 15th fret and a '1/4' above the 5th fret.

Example 8A: The Blues Progression

This example shows how the notes of the G minor pentatonic scale relate to each of the three chords in a "G Blues." It would be a good idea to record these chords and practice playing the scale over each. Get familiar with how each note of the scale sounds when played against the G7, C7 and D7 chords.

Example 8A shows the G minor pentatonic scale notes (Root, $\flat$ 3rd, 4th, 5th, $\flat$ 7th, Root) applied to the G7, C7, and D7 chords. The notes are written on a treble clef staff, and the corresponding fingerings (1-5) are shown on a bass clef staff.

Example 8B

This example shows how the notes in the G blues scale relate to each chord

Example 8B shows the G blues scale notes (Root, $\flat$ 3rd, 4th, $\flat$ 5th, 5th, $\flat$ 7th, Root) applied to the G7, C7, and D7 chords. The notes are written on a treble clef staff, and the corresponding fingerings (1-5) are shown on a bass clef staff.

Example 8C

This example shows the relationship of the G minor pentatonic with added 6th to each of the three chords.

Example 8C shows the G minor pentatonic scale with an added 6th note (Root, $\flat$ 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, Root) applied to the G7, C7, and D7 chords. The notes are written on a treble clef staff, and the corresponding fingerings (1-5) are shown on a bass clef staff.



Example 9: Blues Solo in B $\flat$

Here Robben demonstrates how he integrates all three of these scales into his playing. The key has been changed to B $\flat$, so make sure you can transpose all of your fingerings from G to B $\flat$.

Drum intro:

The musical score is written for guitar in 4/4 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B $\flat$ major/D minor). It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a treble staff and a bass staff (labeled T, A, B). The first system starts with a "Drum intro" and includes a B 7 chord. The second system includes an E 7 chord. The third system includes a B 7 chord. The fourth system includes F 7 , E 7 , and B 7 chords. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, eighth rests, and triplets. Fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) are indicated above notes. In the bass staff, fret numbers (8, 9, 10, 11) are indicated below notes. A "1/2" note is indicated above a note in the first system, and a "1/4" note is indicated above a note in the third system. A "3" is indicated above a triplet in the fourth system.

B $\flat$ 7

First system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B $\flat$ and E $\flat$). It contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with three lines labeled T (Treble), A (A), and B (Bass). It shows fingerings for the first two measures, including a triplet on the B string.

Second system of musical notation. The top staff continues the melodic line with various note values and a triplet. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fretboard positions, with fingerings and note values (1/4, 1/2) indicated for the A and B strings.

Third system of musical notation. The top staff features a more complex melodic line with triplets and sixteenth notes. The bottom staff shows the fretboard positions, including a triplet on the T string and various fingerings.

Fourth system of musical notation. The top staff shows a melodic line with a key change to one flat (B $\flat$). The bottom staff shows the fretboard positions for the final measures, including a triplet on the T string and various fingerings.

B $\flat$ 7

T 14 15 13 14 13

A 15 12

B 14 15 14 14 15 13 13

1/4 1/4

E $\flat$ 7

T 11 15 14 11

A 11 15 13 10 15 11 13 11

B 10 8 8 10 8

B $\flat$ 7 **F7**

T 11 8 6 4 6

A 8 6 9 6 9

B 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 5

E $\flat$ 7 **B $\flat$ 7**

T 3 5 3 5 3 3 5

A 5 5 5 6

B 6 6 6 6

1/4 1/4 1/4 1/2 1/2

E^b7

B^b7 F⁷

E^b7 B^b7 Fade

Part II Fingerings

Very often an artist's own idiosyncratic techniques figure very heavily into their style, feel and sound — helping to set them apart from the crowd. Wes Montgomery, who played with his thumb, and Django Reinhardt, who because of an accident was limited to using only two fingers of his left hand, both developed very individual styles.

Robben often uses just the 1st and 4th fingers of his left hand. The 4th finger is reinforced by the 3rd and sometimes 2nd fingers. This fingering style helps give Robben his characteristic "fat" sound and vibrato.

Example 10

This example shows Robben's left hand fingering for a common blues lick.

Freely

(B $\flat$ 7)

Fingering: 4 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 4 4 1 4 4

1/2

T
A
B

Example 11

This "two finger" technique actually developed out of Robben's desire to begin using his 4th finger. Like many guitarists, Robben used to use only his first three fingers. As he began to develop the 4th finger he would support it with his 3rd and sometimes 2nd fingers to give it strength and support. This combination of several fingers on a note adds power to his sound, giving him a very thick, rich tone.

Freely

4 4 1 1 4 4

1

T
A
B

Example 12

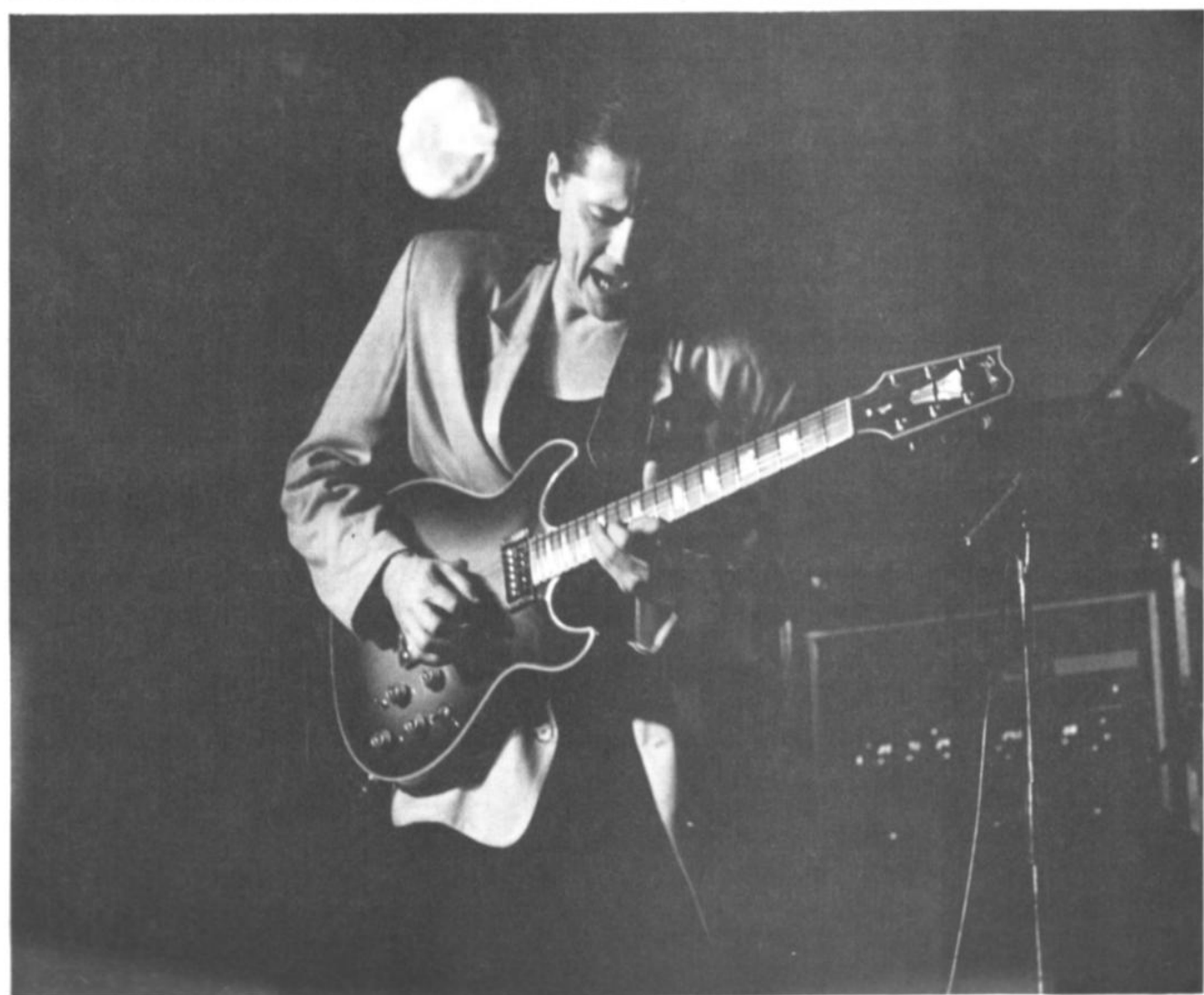
Note how Robben "slips and slides" around the neck when using this "two finger" technique. Although this is not the most economical fingering, it adds to the power and feel of his soloing style.

The musical score is written for guitar. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with triplets and slurs. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six lines labeled T (Treble), A (Acoustic), and B (Bass). The fret numbers are indicated by numbers on the lines, with some notes beamed together. The score is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line.

[illegible]

As Robben points out, it is important to develop all of your fingers, especially for other styles of music. But it is interesting to note, that for each different style of music there are many techniques that, while not considered "proper," help to deliver the right feel for that style.

Regarding Robben's vibrato, many blues guitarists prefer to bend a note with the 3rd or 2nd finger and then add vibrato. By contrast, Robben usually adds vibrato on notes that aren't bent. Using the technique of supporting the 4th finger with the 3rd and 2nd, Robben bends the string down slightly (towards the floor) and pivots his entire hand from the wrist to create a rich, vocal-like vibrato.



Part III String Bending

The art of bending notes is a very important ingredient in the blues style of playing. The notes can be bent many different intervals, from a half step to as much as a perfect fourth. Something that really adds to the character of blues guitar are the "in between" bends, like quarter and three quarter-step bends.

Example 13

This example demonstrates some typical whole step bends.

Example 13 shows a musical notation for a blues guitar exercise. The top staff is in 4/4 time, featuring a G7 chord (indicated by a flat on the 7th degree) and various bends. The bottom staff shows the fretboard positions for the strings T, A, and B. The notation includes fingerings (1, 3, 6) and bends (indicated by curved lines) that demonstrate whole step bends.

Example 14: Pentatonic Bends

You can bend any note of the pentatonic scale up to the next note in the scale. The following example shows how you can bend each of the notes of the G minor pentatonic scale.

Example 14 shows a musical notation for a blues guitar exercise. The top staff is in 4/4 time, featuring a G minor pentatonic scale (indicated by a flat on the 3rd degree) and various bends. The bottom staff shows the fretboard positions for the strings T, A, and B. The notation includes fingerings (1, 1 1/2) and bends (indicated by curved lines) that demonstrate how to bend each note of the G minor pentatonic scale up to the next note in the scale. The bends are labeled: Root to ♭3rd, ♭3rd to 4th, 4th to 5th, 5th to 7th, and 7th to Root.

Example 15: Blues Scale Bends

These examples incorporate the flatted fifth. Notice that these are the first examples incorporating a half-step bend.

Example 15A:

(G7)

Example 15B:

Freely
(G7)

Example 15C:

Freely
(G7)

Example 16: Bending to the 6th

This example highlights the bend from the 5th (D) to the 6th (E). Note that this example also includes the $\flat 7$ th and $\flat 5$ th.

(G⁷)

Example 17: Bending between the Minor and Major Third

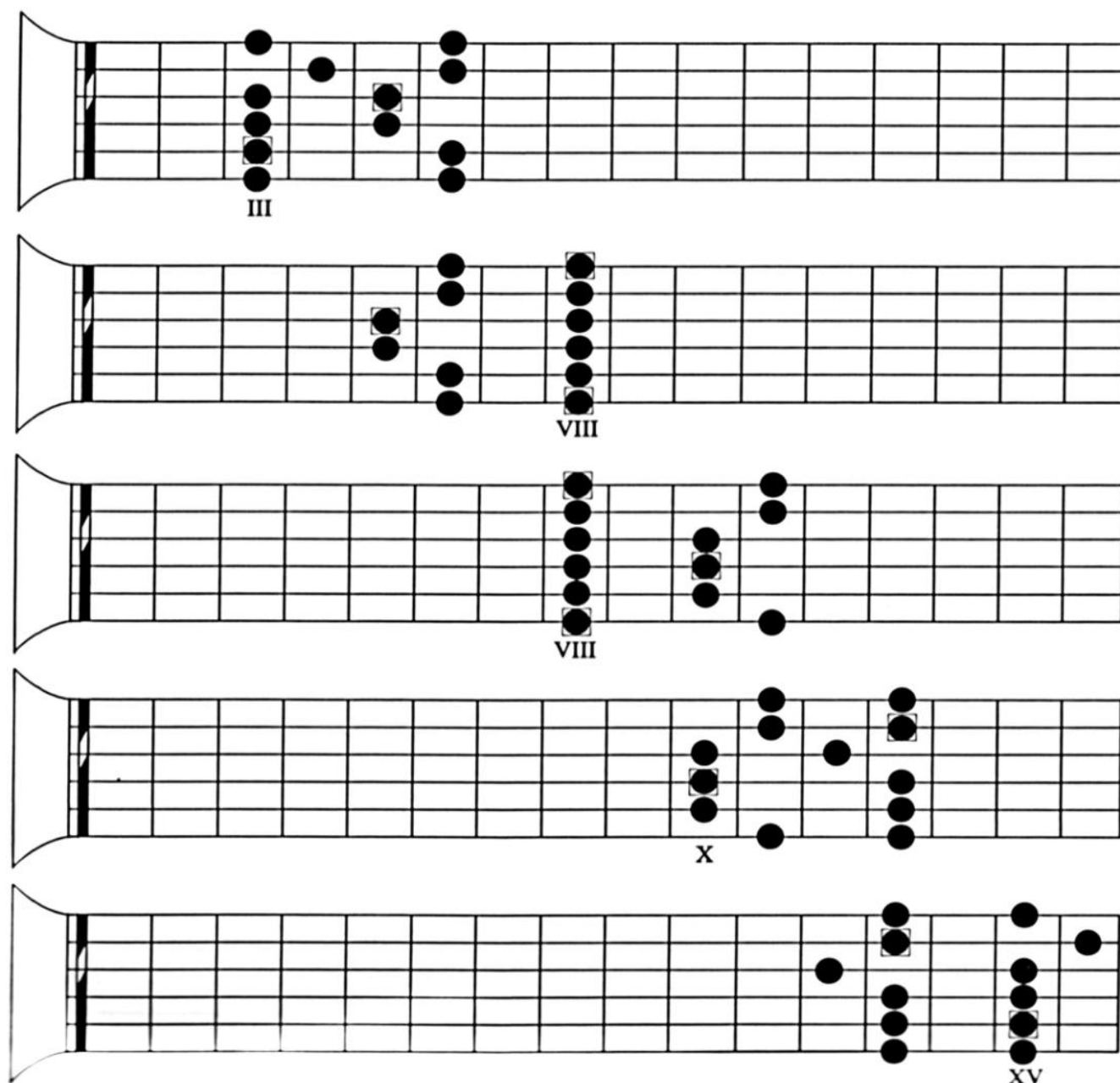
A common technique of Robben's, which he attributes to playing with Miles Davis, is the maj3rd/min3rd bend. Listen for how the bend to the major 3rd "brightens" and adds an element of surprise to what could have been a predictable blues scale lick.

Part IV

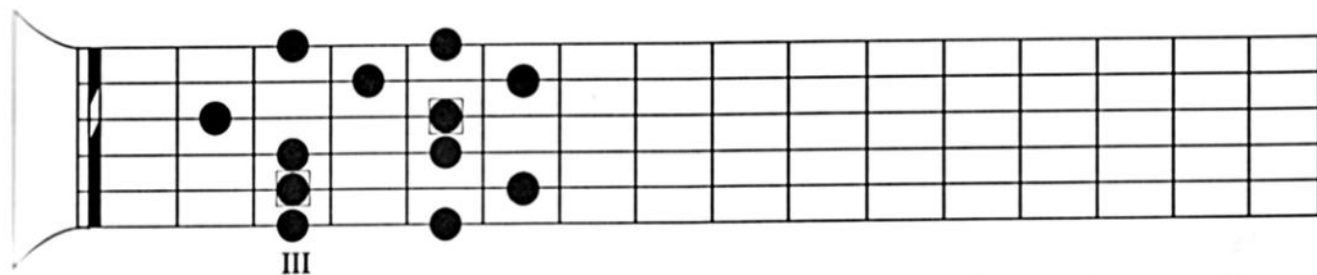
12 Bar Blues Solo

Here, Robben breaks down a complete blues solo in C, lick-by-lick. Before beginning, let's transpose the fingerings for the three different types of blues scales to C.

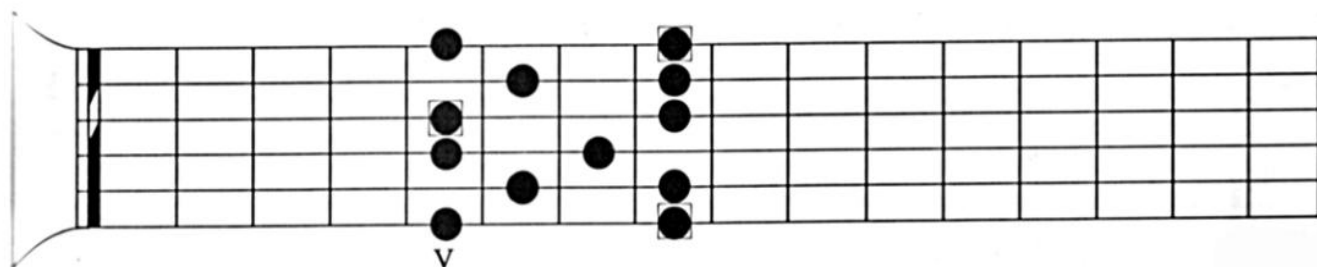
Example 18: C Minor Pentatonic Fingerings



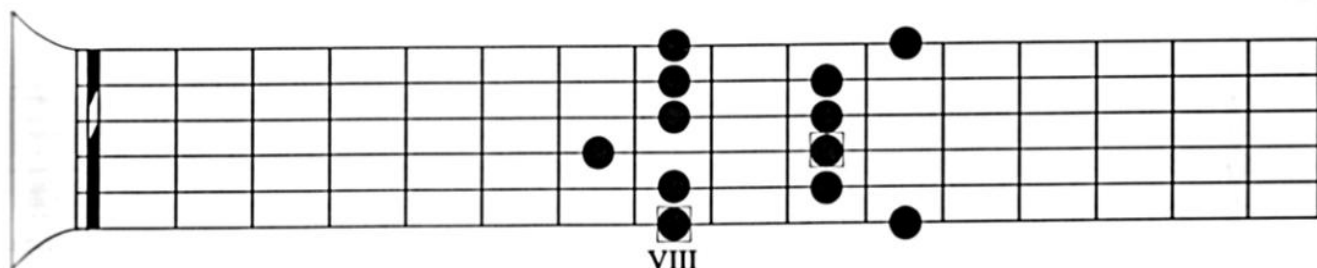
Example 19: C Minor Pentatonic with the Added 6th



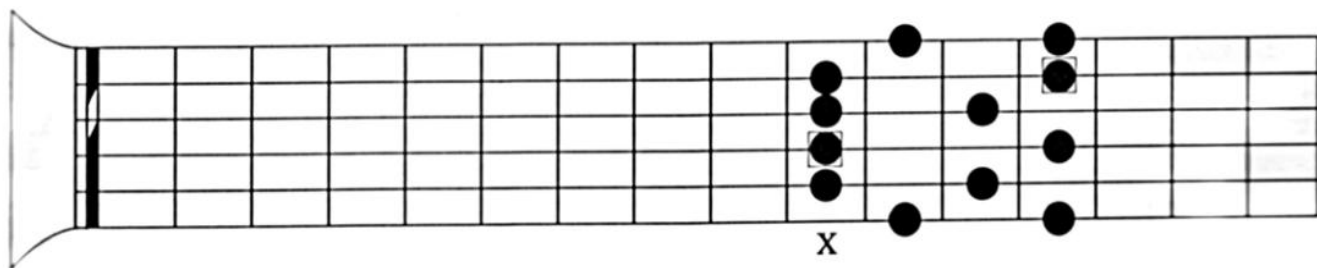
III



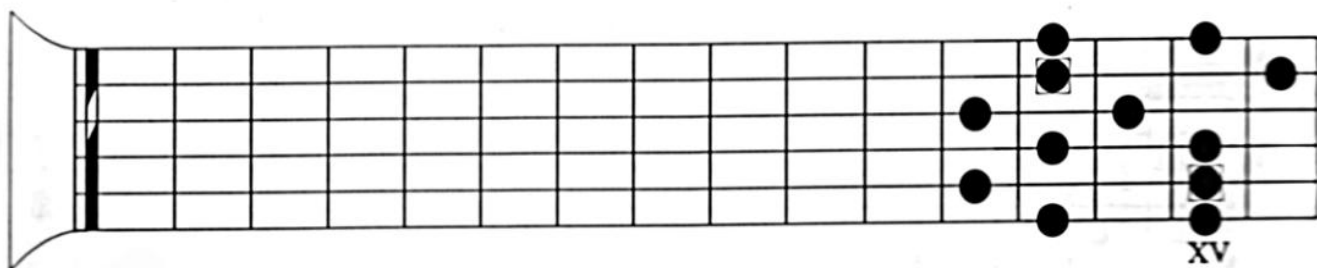
V



VIII

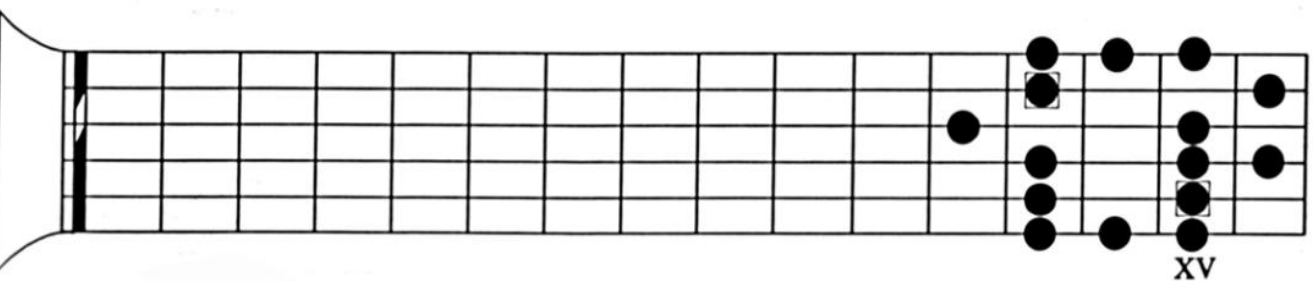
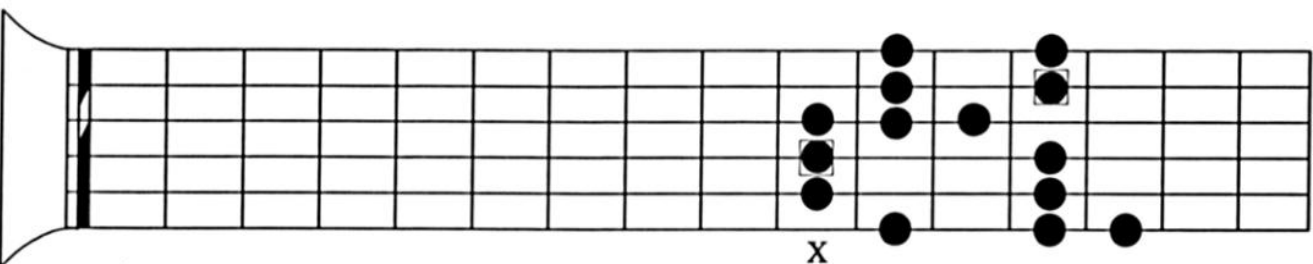
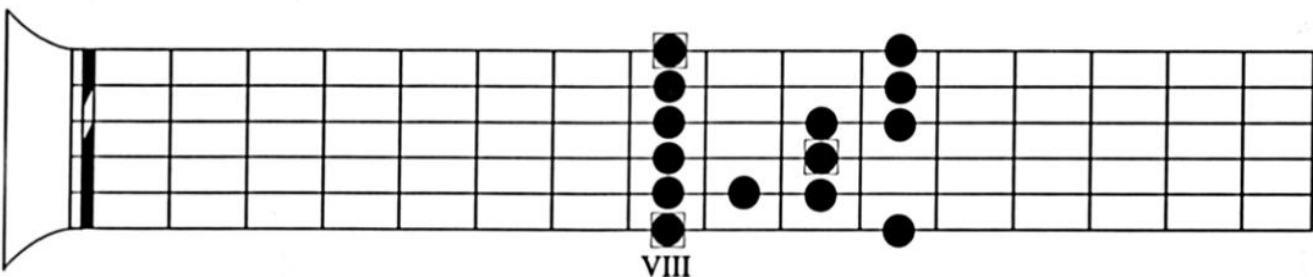
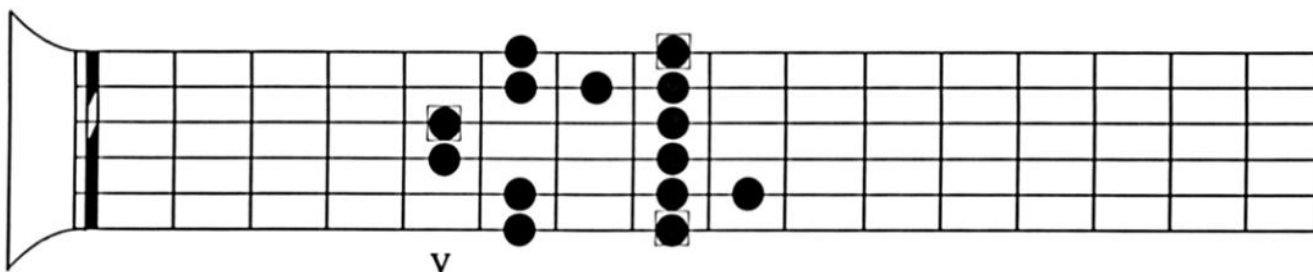
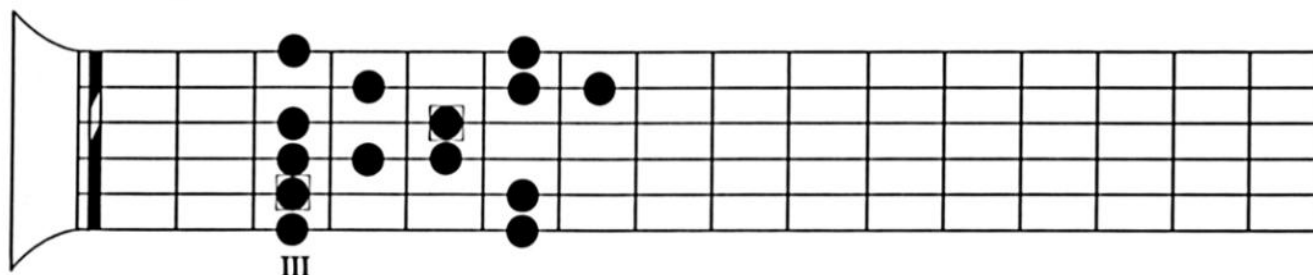


X



XV

Example 20: **C Minor Pentatonic with the Added $\flat$ 5th**



Example 21: Five Blues Licks

The following blues solo is broken down into five licks. Each lick covers an important transition in the blues progression. Lick 1 shows the pickup into the I chord, and Lick 2 the transition from the IV back to the I. Licks 3 and 4 highlight the change from the I to IV and back to I, and Lick 5 covers the change from V to IV.

Licks 1 & 2

Lick 1 is based on the pentatonic scale, including the flatted fifth (G^b). Lick 2 is based on the minor pentatonic with the added sixth (A).

Lick #1

Lick #2

Licks 3 & 4

This next lick works over the transition to the IV chord (F7) and back to the I chord (C7). Notice the use of the 6th (A) over the IV chord. The A is of course the 3rd of the F7 chord.

Lick #3

Lick #4

Lick 5

This lick finishes off the 12-bar blues solo. Notice that both the G7 and F7 changes are highlighted by minor 3rd to major 3rd blends.

Lick #5

The musical notation for Lick #5 is presented in two systems. The first system covers the first six bars, and the second system covers the remaining six bars. The notation includes a treble clef staff and a bass staff with T, A, and B strings. Chords G7, F7, C7, and G7 are indicated above the staff. Fingerings and bends are shown with numbers and symbols like 1/4, 1/2, and 3. The lick concludes with a double bar line.

System 1 (Bars 1-6):

- Bar 1:** Treble staff has a whole note G4 (fingering 9, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note G2 (fingering 11).
- Bar 2:** Treble staff has a whole note A4 (fingering 9, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note A2 (fingering 11).
- Bar 3:** Treble staff has a whole note B4 (fingering 10, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note B2 (fingering 12).
- Bar 4:** Treble staff has a whole note C5 (fingering 10, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note C3 (fingering 9).
- Bar 5:** Treble staff has a whole note D5 (fingering 11, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note D3 (fingering 11).
- Bar 6:** Treble staff has a whole note E5 (fingering 11, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note E3 (fingering 11).

System 2 (Bars 7-12):

- Bar 7:** Treble staff has a whole note F4 (fingering 11, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note F2 (fingering 11).
- Bar 8:** Treble staff has a whole note G4 (fingering 11, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note G2 (fingering 11).
- Bar 9:** Treble staff has a whole note A4 (fingering 12, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note A2 (fingering 12).
- Bar 10:** Treble staff has a whole note B4 (fingering 12, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note B2 (fingering 12).
- Bar 11:** Treble staff has a whole note C5 (fingering 12, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note C3 (fingering 12).
- Bar 12:** Treble staff has a whole note D5 (fingering 12, bend 1/4). Bass staff has a whole note D3 (fingering 12).

Example 22: The Complete Blues Solo in C

Here we have the complete solo as played on the accompanying recording.

Lick #1

Lick #2

Lick #3

Lick #4

Lick #5

Lick #6



Part V

Slo-Mo Blues

Example 23

Here, Robben plays a slow blues solo, using all of the scales and techniques discussed so far. The slow tempo should make it easier to absorb many of these licks and phrases.

Example 23, first system of music. The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 12/8. The music is written for guitar, with a treble clef staff and a bass staff. The first system shows a C7 chord and an F7 chord. The bass staff includes fret numbers (0, 9, 11, 10, 8, 10) and a 1/2 note rhythm. The treble staff includes a 1/2 note rhythm and a 1/4 note rhythm.

Example 23, second system of music. The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 12/8. The music is written for guitar, with a treble clef staff and a bass staff. The second system shows a C7 chord and an F7 chord. The bass staff includes fret numbers (0, 10, 10, 8, 9, 0, 11, (11), 12, 13, 10, 10, (10), 10, 13, 11, 12) and a 1/2 note rhythm. The treble staff includes a 3/4 note rhythm and a 1/2 note rhythm.

Example 23, third system of music. The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 12/8. The music is written for guitar, with a treble clef staff and a bass staff. The third system shows a C7 chord. The bass staff includes fret numbers (10, 13, 10, 10, 0, 10, 10, 0, 10, 0, 5, 5, 0, 6, 7, 10, 0, 9, 0, 11) and a 1/2 note rhythm. The treble staff includes a 3/4 note rhythm and a 5:4 note rhythm.

38 Part V: Slo-Mo Blues

The first system of musical notation for 'The Girl on the Train' consists of a treble clef staff and three bass clef staves labeled T, A, and B. The treble staff contains a melody with notes and rests, accented with a 'C' and a '7'. The bass staves contain fingerings for the left hand, with numbers 1 through 10 indicating specific notes. The notation is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

The first system of musical notation for 'The Girl on the Train' consists of a treble clef staff and a three-part guitar tablature staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. It features a first ending bracket over the final two measures. The guitar tablature staff has three lines labeled T (treble), A (middle), and B (bass). The first measure of the tablature shows a sequence of notes: 10, 8, 10, 8, 5, 5, 8, 10. The second measure shows: 10, 8, 10, 8, 13, 11, 12, 10, 13, 10. The third measure shows: 13, 10, 13. The first ending bracket in the treble staff covers the last two measures of the system.

[illegible]

Musical score for guitar, showing a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass staff with a fretboard diagram. The melody includes a triplet and a half note. The fretboard diagram shows fingerings for the thumb (T), index (A), and middle (B) fingers.

[illegible]

10 12 10 10 14 12 13 15 12 12 14 12 17 16 15 12 15 15 14 13

40 Part V: Slo-Mo Blues

C7 C7/B^b

F/A F/A^b

F/G

Gsus

8va ..

T 13 11 12 10 11 10 10 8 10 8 11 8 11 (11) 8 11 8 8 8 11 8 11 10 8 10 8 10 10 10

A 13 10 13 10 11 10 11 8 8 11 8 11 10 8 10 8 10 10 10

B

(8va) C7

F7

F[#]dim7

T 15 18 15 16 17 14 16 16 18 18 18 18 (18) 16 17 18 16 17 18 19

A 17 14 16 16 18 18 18 18 (18) 16 17 18 16 17 18 19

B

(8va) C7

G7

C7

F7

T (19) 19 17 (17) 15 17 17 (17) 17 17 17 15 18 18 16 17 17 19

A (19) 19 17 (17) 15 17 17 (17) 17 17 17 15 18 18 16 17 17 19

B

(8va) C7

T 20 17 17 17 16 14 13 16 13 14 15 13 14 12 12 13 12 15 12 15 10 12 10 13

A 17 17 17 16 14 13 16 13 14 15 13 14 12 12 13 12 15 12 15 10 12 10 13

B

G7

T 10 12 10 12 11 13 11 15 13 11 12 13 11 12 10 13 10 10 13 11 8 10 11 10 10 8 10 8

A 10 12 10 12 11 13 11 15 13 11 12 13 11 12 10 13 10 10 13 11 8 10 11 10 10 8 10 8

B

F7

C7

T 10 8 10 8 10 10 10 8 10 10 8 8 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10

A 10 8 10 8 10 10 10 8 10 10 8 8 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 10

B

G⁷ 8va C⁷

T 0 10 8 10 0 11 0 11 0 13 11 12 13 14 13 15

A

B

F⁷ (8va) F[#]dim⁷ C⁷

T 13 12 13 16 12 13 14 13 15 13 15 13 14 15 17 17 17 15 17 15 10 19 10 16 16 20 20 20 18 20 19

A

B

F⁷ (8va)

T 10 20 20 17 17 16 16 16 13 12 15 12 14 15 13 15 13 14 13 11

A

B

C⁷

T 7 10 7 10 7 9 0 0 10 0 6 7 6 0 5 6 0 5 5 0 6 7 10 7 10 0 9 0 10

A

B

G⁷ F⁷ C⁷ C⁷/B^b F/A Fm/A⁺

T 10 12 10 12 10 0 0 5 6 7 6 7 4 5 7 5 7 5 0 5 5 6 5 7 0 5 6 5 7

A

B

G⁷ C⁷ Freely rit.

T 0 7 0 7 5 6 7 5 7 0 5 0 7 6 0 7 6 4 5 5 3 6 7 6 7 0

A

B

Part VI

Chords and Comping

Example 24

This section examines comping and chord voicings. First let's look at the C mixolydian scale. (The mixolydian scale is the same as a major scale with a $\flat 7$ th.) The fretboard diagrams indicate the C mixolydian scale in five fingerings up the neck.

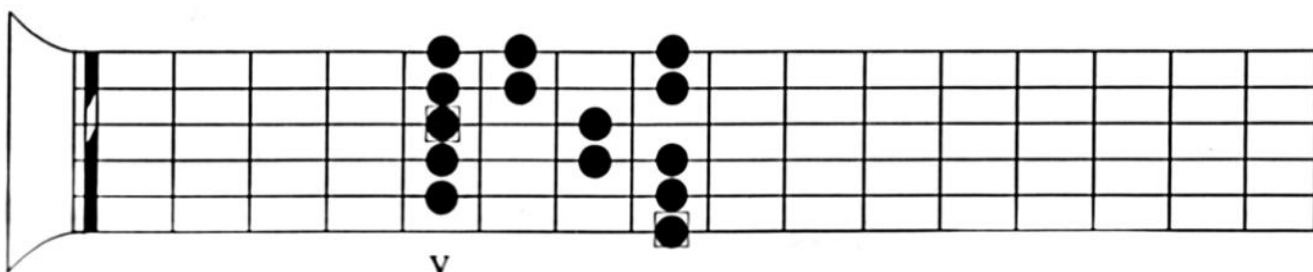
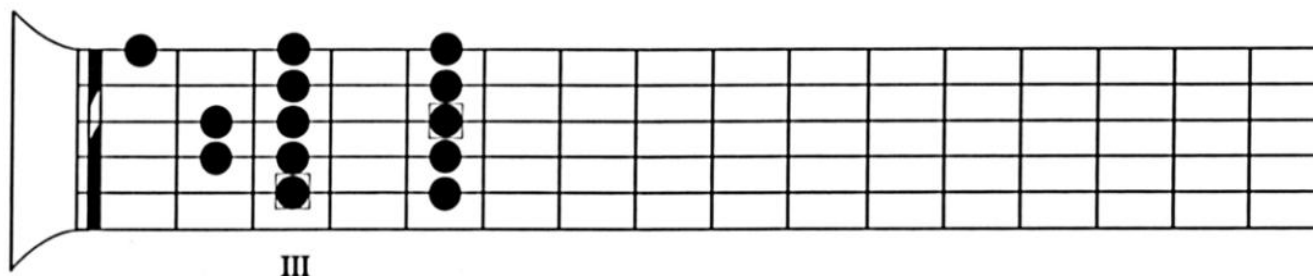
C Mixolydian Scale:

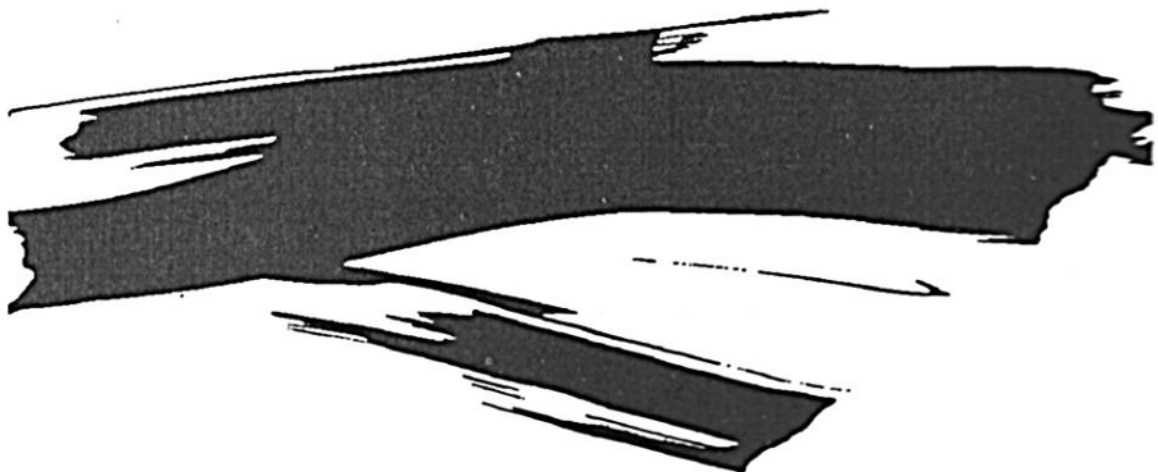
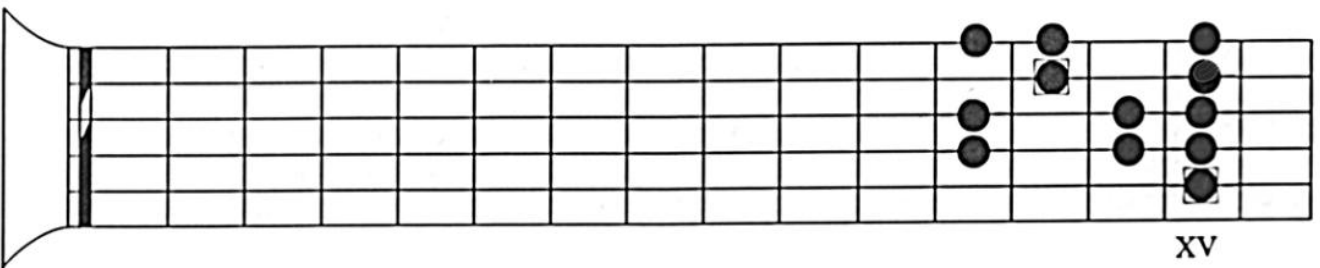
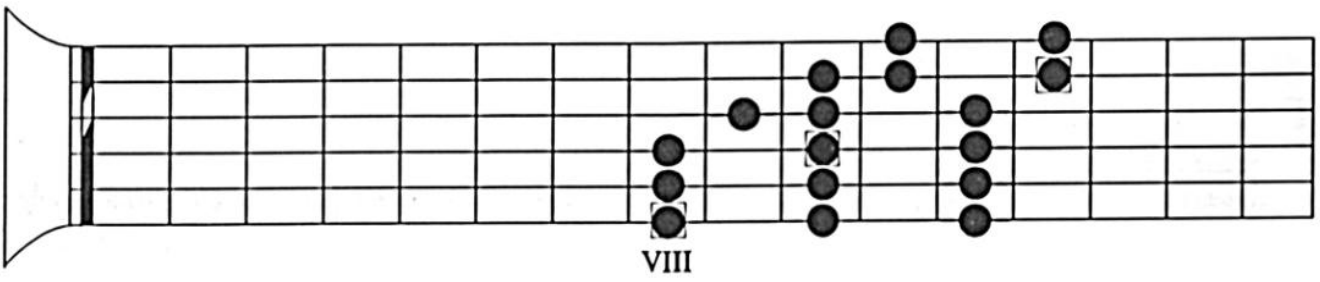
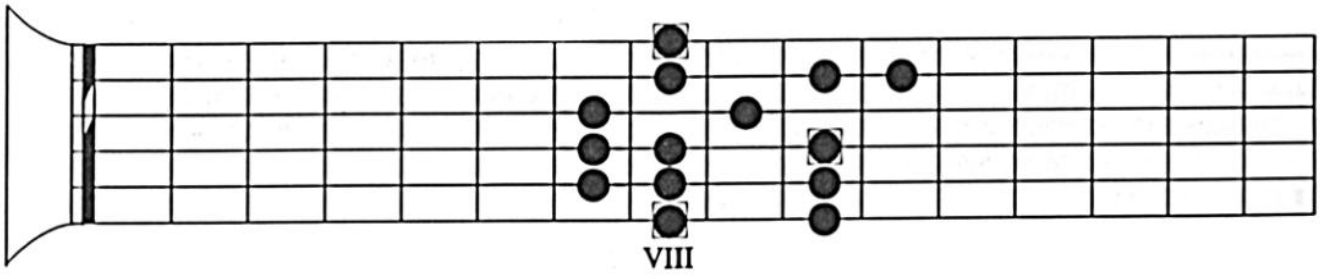
Root 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th $\flat$ 7th Root

T 1 3 5 6 0 5 6 0

A

B





[illegible]

Shuffle (♩ = ♯♩)
(C7)

[illegible]

The musical score for "The Rose Tree" consists of a vocal melody and a three-part vocal harmony. The melody is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It includes a trill (tr.) and a triplet (3). The harmony is written for Tenor (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) voices, with notes numbered 1 through 8.

Vocal Melody:

Tr. ~~~~~

3

Vocal Harmony:

T 1 4 5 3 5 5 (6) 6 5 6 5 5 8 6 4

A 2 4 5 3 5 5 (7) 7 5 7 5 5 8 7 4

B

First system of guitar tablature. The treble staff shows a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The tablature lines are T (Treble), A (Acoustic), and B (Bass). The T line has fret numbers 5, 6, 5, 5, 10, 10, 10. The A line has fret numbers 5, 6, 7, 5, 10, 10, 10. The B line has fret numbers 5, 5, 7, 5, 10, 10, 10. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracketed group of notes.

Second system of guitar tablature. The treble staff shows a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The tablature lines are T (Treble), A (Acoustic), and B (Bass). The T line has fret numbers 0, 10, 0, 4, 3, 1, 3, 1, 5, 4, 3, 10, 0, 4, 3. The A line has fret numbers 9, 10, 0, 4, 3, 2, 3, 2, 5, 4, 3, 10, 0, 4, 3. The B line has fret numbers 10, 0, 4, 3, 2, 3, 2, 5, 4, 3, 10, 0, 4, 3. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracketed group of notes.

Third system of guitar tablature. The treble staff shows a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The tablature lines are T (Treble), A (Acoustic), and B (Bass). The T line has fret numbers 1, 3, 1, 4, 5, 3, 5, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 5, 3, 3, 5, 4, 5, 3, 1, 3, 1. The A line has fret numbers 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 3, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 5, 3, 3, 5, 4, 5, 3, 2, 3, 2. The B line has fret numbers 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 3, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 5, 3, 3, 5, 4, 5, 3, 2, 3, 2. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracketed group of notes.

Fourth system of guitar tablature. The treble staff shows a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The tablature lines are T (Treble), A (Acoustic), and B (Bass). The T line has fret numbers (1), 10, 0, (0), 6, 5, 3, 1. The A line has fret numbers (2), 10, 0, (0), 7, 5, 3, 2. The B line has fret numbers 10, 0, 7, 5, 3, 2. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracketed group of notes.

Example 27

In this example, Robben uses sixths to create comping patterns over a 12-bar blues. Each pattern is repetitive in that once a pattern is established for the C7 chord, the same pattern is then transposed to the F7 and G7 chords.

C7

10 8 (8) 1 1 10 8

F7

(8) 1 1 1 10 8 (8) 1

C7

G7

1 10 8 (8) 1 3 10 12 10

F7

C7

G7

10 13 8 10 8 10 8 1/4 5 1/4 5 9 8

The image shows a musical score for guitar. At the top, a C7 chord is indicated. The main staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some slurs. Below the main staff, there are three staves labeled T, A, and B, which represent the guitar's strings. These staves show fingerings and fret numbers for the notes in the melody. The T staff has fret numbers 10, 8, 4, 3, 1, 3, 5, 1, 10, 8, 4, 3. The A staff has fret numbers 10, 8, 4, 3, 2, 3, 5, 2, 10, 8, 4, 3. The B staff has fret numbers 10, 8, 4, 3, 2, 3, 5, 2, 10, 8, 4, 3.

F7

1 3 1 0 10 0 10 0 6 0 10 10

2 3 2 0 10 0 10 0 7 0 10 10

3 3 3 0 10 0 10 0 7 0 10 10

The musical score is for a guitar piece in G major. The melody line is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It begins with a C7 chord, indicated by a 'C7' above the staff. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords indicated by 'x' marks above the notes. The second measure of the melody is marked with a G7 chord. The guitar tablature is written below the melody line, with three staves labeled T, A, and B. The tablature shows fret numbers for each string, with some notes beamed together. The first measure of the tablature corresponds to the first measure of the melody, and the second measure corresponds to the second measure. The third measure of the tablature is marked with a G7 chord, corresponding to the G7 chord in the melody.

C7

T: 4 5 3 5 3 5 15 15 1 4 5 3 5 3 5

A: 4 5 3 5 3 5 15 15 3 4 5 3 5 3 5

B: 4 5 3 5 3 5 15 15 2 4 5 3 5 3 5

F7

T: 15 15 7 8 9 10 8 10 10 9 10 8 10 10 7 7 8

A: 15 15 6 7 9 10 8 10 8 10 9 10 8 10 6 6 7

B: 15 15 6 7 9 10 8 10 8 10 9 10 8 10 6 6 7

C7 **G7**

T: 4 5 3 5 3 5 15 15 11 12 10 12 10 12 11 12

A: 4 5 3 5 3 5 15 15 11 12 10 12 10 12 11 12

B: 4 5 3 5 3 5 15 15 11 12 10 12 10 12 11 12

F7 **C7** **G7** **C9**

T: 9 10 8 10 8 10 4 5 3 5 3 5 6 6 6 4 3 (3/2)

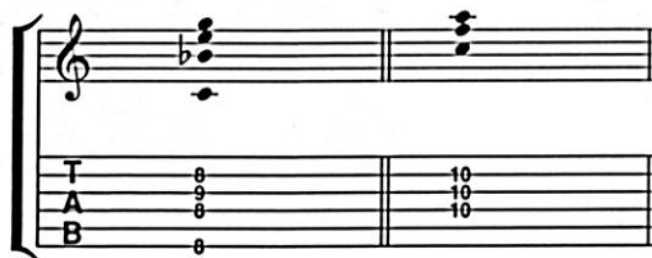
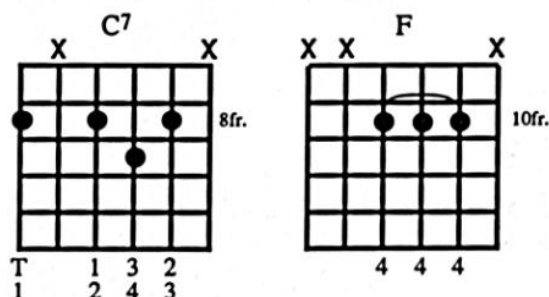
A: 9 10 8 10 8 10 4 5 3 5 3 5 6 6 6 4 3 (3/2)

B: 9 10 8 10 8 10 4 5 3 5 3 5 6 6 6 4 3 (3/2)



Example 28: Five Chord Voicings for the Blues

These C7 and F chord voicings work especially well together, as shown in the following transcription. This pattern is commonly used over the I7 chord in a blues progression.



Example 29

This example uses a more sophisticated chord voicing for the C7 change, C13. The 13th is the same scale tone as the 6th (A in the key of C); because it is considered an extension, added on top of the basic chord tones (1, 3, 5, & ♭7), it is considered the 13th rather than the 6th.

The example shows a C13 chord voicing on a guitar fretboard diagram (13th fret, positions 1, 3, 4, 2) and a corresponding musical staff with a treble clef. Below the staff is a bass staff with fingerings for strings T, A, and B.

	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
T	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
A	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
B	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13

The musical staff shows a sequence of chords: C13, F, C7, and C13. The bass staff shows fingerings for strings T, A, and B.

Example 30

This example shows two F9 voicings. The first contains the 3rd, ♭7th, 9th, and 5th. The second voicing is played with a 1st finger barre and contains the ♭7th, 9th, and 5th. Notice that this voicing has no 3rd. The following music example shows a common rhythm pattern using this second voicing.

The example shows two F9 chord voicings on a guitar fretboard diagram (12th fret, positions 1, 1, 1) and a corresponding musical staff with a treble clef. Below the staff is a bass staff with fingerings for strings T, A, and B.

	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8
T	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8
A	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8
B	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	8

The musical staff shows a sequence of chords: F9, G9, and F9. The bass staff shows fingerings for strings T, A, and B.

Example 31: Comping Demo over a C Blues

In this example, Robben demonstrates how to utilize the previous five chord voicings to create blues comping patterns. Notice that the patterns are repetitive. This repetition is an important aspect of blues comping. It helps establish a groove that the soloist can then work over.

Shuffle (♩ = ♩♩)

The musical score is written for guitar in 4/4 time with a shuffle feel. It consists of four systems of guitar notation, each with a treble clef staff and a bass staff. The chords are C7, F7, C7, and G7. The bass staff shows fingerings for the left hand (T, A, B strings) and the right hand (T, A, B strings). The treble staff shows the melody and harmony. The score is divided into four systems, each with a different chord voicing.

System 1: C7

System 2: F7

System 3: C7 G7

System 4: F7 C7 G7

F7

T 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13

A 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14

B 13 13 12 12 12 12 12 12

C7 G7

T	13	13	13	13	13	13	15	x	x	15
A	14	14	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	15
B	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
B	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14

Guitar: F7, C7, G7

Bass:

Measure	1	2	3	4
T	13	13	13	13
A	13	12	12	12
B	12	12	12	12

C7

T
A
B

C7 **F7**

T
A
B

C7 **G7**

T
A
B

F7 **C7** **G7**

T
A
B

Example 32: Comping Demo over a B $\flat$ Blues

In this example, Robben shows how the same five chord voicings can work in another key, over a different rhythm feel. In the 2nd and 3rd choruses he introduces some of the riffs and patterns first discussed in Examples 23 and 24.

B $\flat$ 7

E $\flat$ 7

B $\flat$ 7 **F7**

E $\flat$ 9 **B $\flat$ 7**

B $\flat$ 7

T 6 8 7
A 7 7 8 6
B 6 6 8 6

B $\flat$ 7 **E $\flat$ 7**

T 7 7 8 6
A 6 6 8 6
B 6 6 8 6

B $\flat$ 7 **F7**

T 6 8 7
A 8 8 8 6
B 6 6 8 6

E $\flat$ 7 **B $\flat$ 7**

T 6 8 7
A 6 6 8 6
B 6 6 8 6

Musical score for guitar, showing a melody in treble clef and guitar-specific notation (T, A, B) below. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure contains a Bb7 chord, and the second measure contains a Bb chord. The guitar notation shows fret numbers and string numbers for each note.

E $\flat$ 7

T 6 8 x 6 11 13 13 11 11 13 x 11 11 6

A 6 8 6 11 13 11 13 11 11 6

B 6 8 6 11 13 11 13 11 11 6

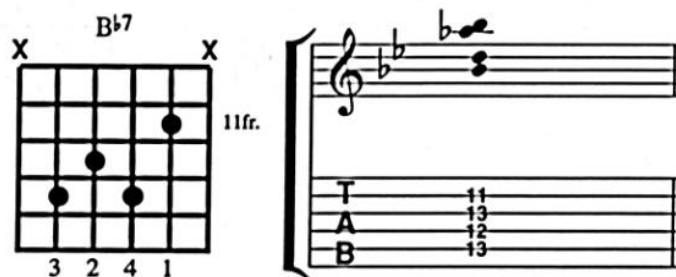
The second system of the musical score for 'The Rose Tree' continues with two measures. The first measure is labeled **Bb7** and the second measure is labeled **F7**. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The accompaniment is written on three staves labeled **T** (Tenor), **A** (Alto), and **B** (Bass). The notation includes various chords, single notes, and rests, with some notes marked with an 'x' to indicate specific articulation or emphasis. The bass line uses a simplified notation system with numbers 6, 8, 9, 10 and 'x' to represent fingerings or positions on the strings.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system shows the vocal melody in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a half note B-flat4. The second system continues the melody with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note F4, and then a half note E4. The accompaniment is shown in a simplified format with three staves labeled T, A, and B. The T staff (Tenor) has a 6/8 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The A and B staves (Alto and Bass) have a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic progression in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Example 33A - D: Four More Voicings for the Blues

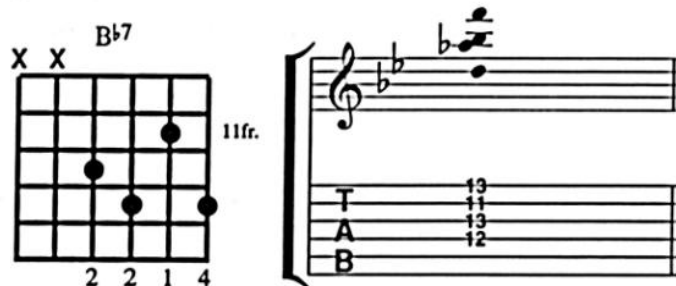
Example 33A:

This is a very useful voicing for the dominant 7th chord. If the chord looks unfamiliar, try sliding it down to 1st position where it would become a C7. Notice that the root is doubled on the top and bottom (2nd and 5th strings) of the chord.



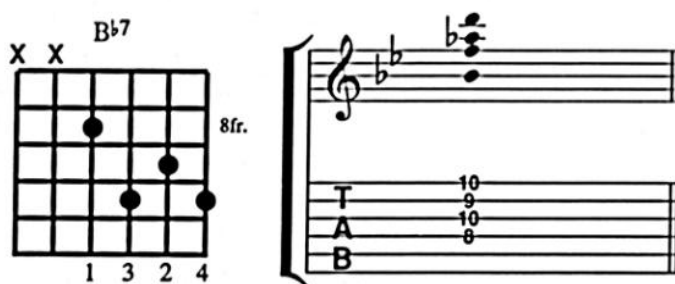
Example 33B:

This is a variation on the previous chord. Here, the 5th string root is replaced by placing F (the 5th of the chord) on the 1st string.



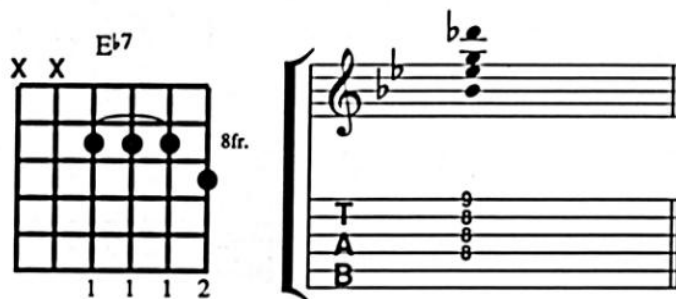
Example 33C:

This form of the 7th chord has the root in the bass and the 3rd on top.



Example 33D:

This voicing for E $\flat$ 7, with the $\flat$ 7th on top, has a very funky blues sound. Of course, by sliding it up two frets you get the F7 (V7) chord.



Example 34: 2nd Comping Demo over a B $\flat$ Blues

In this example, Robben uses the four new voicings, plus a few of the previous, to comp over an up tempo, funky blues feel.

The musical notation for Example 34 consists of six staves of music in 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B $\flat$). The notation includes various guitar chords and fret positions, indicated by chord diagrams and fret numbers above the staff.

- Staff 1:**
 - Chord: B $\flat$ 7 (11fr.)
 - Chord: A7 (10fr.)
 - Chord: B $\flat$ 7 (11fr.)
- Staff 2:**
 - Chord: E $\flat$ 9 (10fr.)
- Staff 3:**
 - Chord: E $\flat$ 9 (10fr.)
 - Chord: A7 (11fr.)
 - Chord: B $\flat$ 7 (12fr.)
- Staff 4:**
 - Chord: B $\flat$ 7 (11fr.)
 - Chord: F7 (10fr.)
- Staff 5:**
 - Chord: E $\flat$ 7 (8fr.)
- Staff 6:**
 - Chord: B $\flat$ 7 (11fr.)

B♭7

8fr.



E $\flat$ 7

8fr.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. Above the staff, there is a guitar fretboard diagram for the 8th fret, with the chord E $\flat$ 7 indicated. The diagram shows the 8th fret on the 1st string (E $\flat$), 9th fret on the 2nd string (G), 10th fret on the 3rd string (A), and 10th fret on the 4th string (D $\flat$). The musical notation on the staff consists of a series of eighth notes and rests, representing a specific rhythm or scale run.

B $\flat$ 7
8fr.



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. Above the staff, there are two fretboard diagrams. The first diagram is for the F7 chord at the 10th fret, showing the notes F, A, C, and E. The second diagram is for the Eb7 chord at the 8th fret, showing the notes Eb, G, Bb, and D. The musical notation on the staff consists of a series of eighth notes, with some notes beamed together in groups of four.

GUITAR TAB GLOSSARY **

TABLATURE EXPLANATION

READING TABLATURE: Tablature illustrates the six strings of the guitar. Notes and chords are indicated by the placement of fret numbers on a given string(s).



BENDING NOTES



HALF STEP: Play the note and bend string one half step.*



WHOLE STEP: Play the note and bend string one whole step.



WHOLE STEP AND A HALF: Play the note and bend string a whole step and a half.



TWO STEPS: Play the note and bend string two whole steps.



SLIGHT BEND (Microtone): Play the note and bend string slightly to the equivalent of half a fret.



PREBEND (Ghost Bend): Bend to the specified note, before the string is picked.



PREBEND AND RELEASE: Bend the string, play it, then release to the original note.



REVERSE BEND: Play the already-bent string, then immediately drop it down to the fretted note.



BEND AND RELEASE: Play the note and gradually bend to the next pitch, then release to the original note. Only the first note is attacked.



BENDS INVOLVING MORE THAN ONE STRING: Play the note and bend string

while playing an additional note (or notes) on another string(s). Upon release, relieve pressure from additional note(s), causing original note to sound alone.



BENDS INVOLVING STATIONARY NOTES: Play notes and bend lower pitch, then hold until

release begins (indicated at the point where line becomes solid).



UNISON BEND: Play both notes and immediately bend the lower note to the same pitch as the higher note.



DOUBLE NOTE BEND: Play both notes and immediately bend both strings simultaneously.

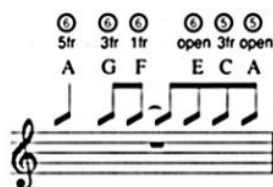
*A half step is the smallest interval in Western music; it is equal to one fret. A whole step equals two frets.

RHYTHM SLASHES



STRUM INDICATIONS:
Strum with indicated rhythm.

The chord voicings are found on the first page of the transcription underneath the song title.



INDICATING SINGLE NOTES USING RHYTHM SLASHES:
Very often

single notes are incorporated into a rhythm part. The note name is indicated above the rhythm slash with a fret number and a string indication.

ARTICULATIONS



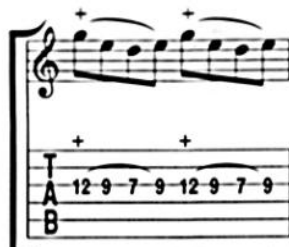
HAMMER ON:
Play lower note, then "hammer on" to higher note with another finger. Only the first note is attacked.



LEFT HAND HAMMER:
Hammer on the first note played on each string with the left hand.



PULL OFF:
Play higher note, then "pull off" to lower note with another finger. Only the first note is attacked.



FRET-BOARD TAPPING:
"Tap" onto the note indicated by + with

a finger of the pick hand, then pull off to the following note held by the fret hand.



TAP SLIDE:
Same as fretboard tapping, but the tapped note is slid randomly up the

fretboard, then pulled off to the following note.



BEND AND TAP TECHNIQUE:
Play note and bend to specified interval. While holding bend,

tap onto note indicated.



LEGATO SLIDE:
Play note and slide to the following note. (Only first note is attacked).



LONG GLISSANDO:
Play note and slide in specified direction for the full

value of the note.

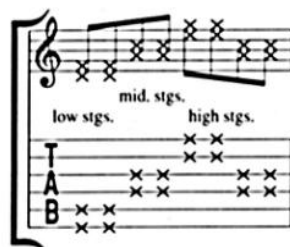


SHORT GLISSANDO:
Play note for its full value and slide in specified direction at the last possible moment.



PICK SLIDE:
Slide the edge of the pick in specified direction

across the length of the string(s).



MUTED STRINGS:
A percussive sound is made by laying the fret hand

across all six strings while pick hand strikes specified area (low, mid, high strings).



PALM MUTE:
The note or notes are muted by the palm of the pick hand by lightly touching the string(s) near the bridge.



TREMOLO PICKING:
The note or notes are picked as fast as possible.



and the grace note.

TRILL:

Hammer on and pull off consecutively and as fast as possible between the original note



ACCENT:

Notes or chords are to be played with added emphasis.



STACCATO (Detached Notes):

Notes or chords are to be played roughly

half their actual value and with separation.



DOWN STROKES AND UPSTROKES:

Notes or chords are to be played with either a downstroke

(∇) or upstroke (∇) of the pick.



VIBRATO:

The pitch of a note is varied by a rapid shaking of the fret hand finger, wrist, and forearm.

HARMONICS



NATURAL HARMONIC:

A finger of the fret hand lightly touches the note or notes indicated in the tab and is played by the pick hand.



ARTIFICIAL HARMONIC:

The first tab number is fretted, then the pick hand produces the harmonic by using a finger to lightly touch the

same string at the second tab number (in parenthesis) and is then picked by another finger.



ARTIFICIAL "PINCH" HARMONIC:

A note is fretted as indicated by the tab, then the pick hand

produces the harmonic by squeezing the pick firmly while using the tip of the index finger in the pick attack. If parenthesis are found around the fretted note, it does not sound. No parenthesis means both the fretted note and A.H. are heard simultaneously.

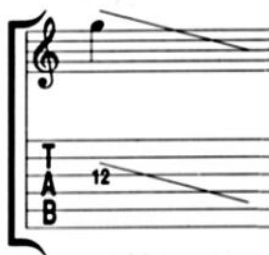
TREMOLO BAR



SPECIFIED INTERVAL:

The pitch of a note or chord is lowered to a specified interval and then may or may not

return to the original pitch. The activity of the tremolo bar is graphically represented by peaks and valleys.



UN-SPECIFIED INTERVAL:

The pitch of a note or a chord is lowered to an unspecified interval.



Blues guitarist, Robben Ford is famous for his melodic, soulful and expressive style. He has recorded and toured with an impressive variety of legendary artists including: George Harrison, Miles Davis, Michael McDonald, Joni Mitchell, and the Yellowjackets. Robben is currently touring with his new group, The Blue Line.

In *Playin' the Blues*, Robben lays out all the basics – the scales, chords, licks and phrases that are the foundation of modern blues guitar style. Robben compares and contrasts three variations on the blues scale, including a "lick" section and several complete solos. Robben discusses his fingering technique, vibrato and string-bending and also shows his favorite chord forms and comping patterns. All music is written in standard notation and tablature.

This book/audio package may be used alone or in conjunction with Robben's REH video – *Playin' the Blues*, making it one of the most complete and important instructional tools available.

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