

Aeron's helpful hints for anyone who may be interested

How to play a 12 bar blues progression. (That is 3 X 4 bars)

For the first chord below we will need to barre the first 2 strings at the 3rd fret. The next action will be to lower and lift your ring finger (3rd finger) onto the 2nd string at the 5th fret. (That's 2 frets higher) to add the extra note.

Concentrate on the timing and strum the chords where indicated below'

You are going to play a Down strum and an Up strum on each chord BEFORE you change to the next chord with the same Down and Up strums. Simple!!!???

C5		C5addA		C5		C5addA	
↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑
1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
C5		C5addA		C5		C5addA	

In the example below, play the F chord as usual then add the extra note (an added D in this case at the 2nd fret of the 3rd string) Just lower and lift your ring finger to add the extra note. Again, focus on the timing and follow the Down & Up strumming arrows

F		F addD		F		F addD	
↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑
1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&

For this one you will need to use your little finger (pinky) to add the extra note

G		G addE		G		G addE	
↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑
1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&



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Now let's try using the finger lowering and lifting technique over the following 12 bar blues chord progression. The timing is still 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & for each bar.

C C C C

F F C C

G F C C Play this until you know it backwards!!! Hee Hee

Let's use this pattern to play the Carl Perkin's song Matchbox

Matchbox (Carl Perkins)

Count in 1 2 1&2& 3 & Well

I'm [C] sitting here wondering would a [C] matchbox hold my [C] clothes [C]

I'm [F] sitting here wondering would a [F] matchbox hold my [C] clothes [C]

Well I [G] ain't got no matches but I [F] sure got a long way to [C] go [C]

I'm an [C] ol' poor boy and I'm a [C] long way from [C] home [C]

Yes, I'm an [F] ol' poor boy and I'm a [F] long way from [C] home [C]

Guess I'll [G] never be happy, 'cos [F] everything I ever do is [C] wrong [C]

Well [C] let me be your little dog, un-[C]-til your big dog [C] comes [C]

Oh, [F] Let me be your little dog, un-[F]-til your big dog [C] comes [C]

When the [G] big dog gets here, [F] tell him what this little puppy [C] done

I'm [C] sitting here wondering would a [C] matchbox hold my [C] clothes [C]

I'm [F] sitting here wondering would a [F] matchbox hold my [C] clothes [C]

Well I [G] ain't got no matches but I [F] sure got a long way to [C] go [C]

Do you fancy a challenge?

What about a 12 bar blues C turnaround to G7?

A turnaround is a sequence of chords or individual notes which provides some tension and more interest to a song. It is used at the end of the last line before resolving to the **Tonic chord** again to start the next verse. The **tonic chord** in a C major song is **C**. The chord pattern is exactly the same except for the last line.

The red **C** is where the turnaround will begin. (Not the Dead Sea)

C C C C

F F C C

G F **C** G7



Beginners look further down the page to the same C turnaround to G7 with the descending chord shapes.

The more proficient players can try the following blues TAB turnaround to develop their "plucking skills" over the last 2 chords of the song.

This is quite difficult at first BUT it is a great fill to get under your fingers

I is for **Index** finger,

M is for **middle** finger

R is for **ring** finger of your fretting hand.



But you can also strum ↓ ↑ ↓ etc. as shown below

I use the index, middle and ring fingers to pluck with my right hand. You use what feels comfortable for you.

Here is C to G7 blues turnaround TAB for you to try.

	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	G7 chord
	M	R	M	I	M	I	I	M	I	I&M	↑ ↓ ↑
A	[-----3-----3-----3-----3-----2--2--2-----]										
E	[-----3-----3-----2-----2-----1-----1-----0-----1--1--1-----]										
C	[-----2-----2-----2-----]										
G	[-----]										

Here is the same C turnaround to G7 with the descending chord shapes

These are the suggested fingers to use for this turnaround from C5 to G7 in a 12 bar blues song in C major. You can strum all the strings or you could just use your fingers to pluck the descending notes on strings 1 & 2, whichever is easier for you in the beginning.

C5	C addF#	C addF	C	G7



Matchbox (Carl Perkins) With **C** turnaround to **G7**.

Play the descending turnaround chords, or the notes if you prefer where it says [C turn]

Don't play the chord then the turnaround as there isn't enough time to play both. It's either the turnaround or the strummed chord

Count in **1 2 1 & 2 & 3 &** Well

I'm **[C]** sitting here wondering would a **[C]** matchbox hold my **[C]** clothes**[C]**
I'm **[F]** sitting here wondering would a **[F]** matchbox hold my **[C]** clothes **[C]**
Well I **[G]** ain't got no matches but I **[F]** sure got a long way to **[C turn]** go**[G7]**

I'm an **[C]** ol' poor boy and I'm a **[C]** long way from **[C]** home **[C]**
Yes, I'm an **[F]** ol' poor boy and I'm a **[F]** long way from **[C]** home. **[C]**
Guess I'll **[G]** never be happy, 'cos **[F]** everything I ever do is **[C turn]** wrong**[G7]**

Well **[C]** let me be your little dog, un-**[C]**-til your big dog **[C]** comes **[C]**
Oh, **[F]** Let me be your little dog, un-**[F]**-til your big dog **[C]** comes **[C]**
When the**[G]** big dog gets here,**[F]** tell him what this little puppy **[C turn]**done**[G7]**

Repeat the first verse but finish on [G7↓] [C↓]

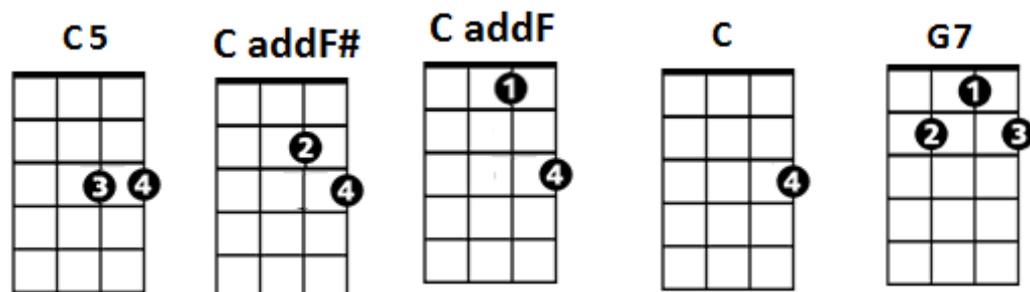
C turnaround to G7 using ALL of your fingers!

Here is another way of skinning the same cat!

(Please note No cats were killed in the making of this turnaround!)

For this one you will use all of your fingers. Yes even your "pinky."

It will require a bit of manual dexterity but it is a good one to add to your repertoire. You can also use this as a warm up routine.



Here are some more songs for you to help develop the 12 bar blues technique

You can apply the above progressions to almost any rock 'n roll or bluesy type song. I have included some song suggestions below, many of which appear in our Wolves Alphabetical song book.

Pick songs which are in the key of C major. Otherwise you'll have to "transpose" or "change the key" of the song to C major.

Songs to try;

Green Door, Singing the Blues, Jambalaya, I saw her standing there, Roll over Beethoven, Da doo ron ron, California Girls, Little Richard's Lucille, Folsom Prison blues, I hear you knocking. Many Elvis Presley songs also feature a "12 bar blues feel" too.

How to transpose a song (Note It is accepted in music circles to use Roman numerals to indicate a chords position above the **root chord**.)

Therefore In our blues progression we will **not use numbers 1, 4 & 5** but will go with the recognised convention of **I IV & V**

In a blues song we usually use 3 chords. These are known as the **I IV V** chords **I** is the **first** or **root chord** also known as **the tonic chord**, **IV** is the **4th chord** in the key and **V** is the **5th chord** in the key. I'll illustrate this formula below for the more popular keys. **It is also recognised that the V chord can also be a V7.**

I	IV	V	V7
C	F	G	G7
A	D	E	E7
G	C	D	D7
F	Bb	C	C7
D	G	A	A7



So if we look at The Elvis Presley Medley in our Wolves song book. You will notice that it is in the key of A. We use the chords A, D & E. Ignore the 7th chords in the song as our new technique will make it sound more interesting. Using the table above;

All the **A chords** will become **C's**. All the **D chords** will be **F's** and all the **E chords** will become **G's**..... **Simples???!!**

Enjoy

Stay cool, Keep strumming. Woooo Woooo Aeron

