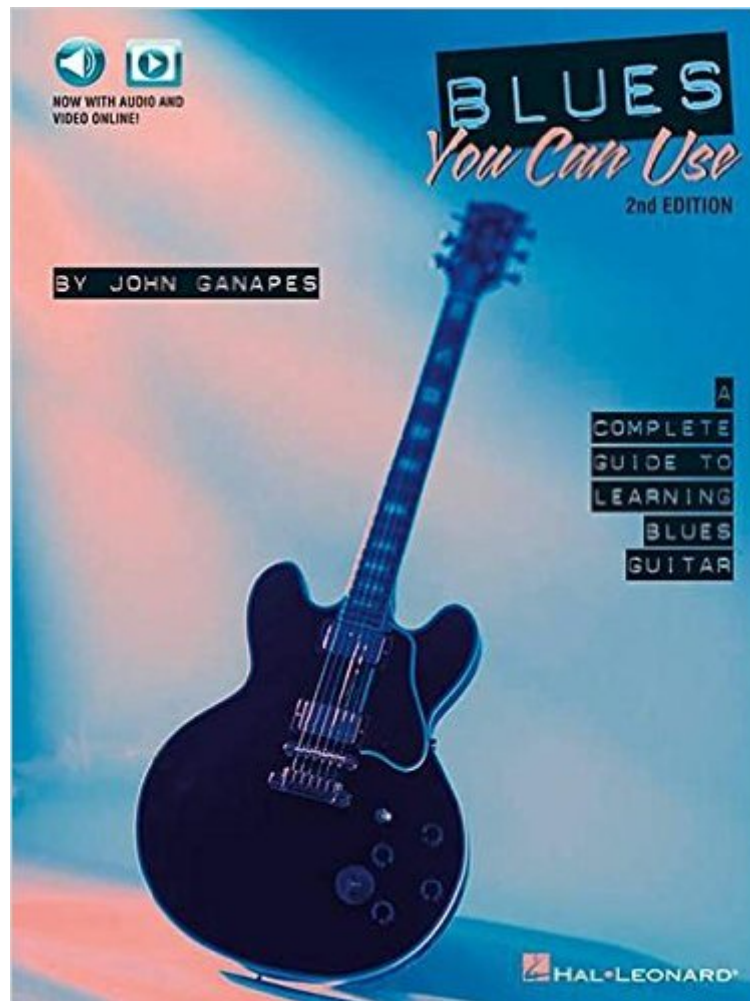


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# Blues You Can Use: A Complete Guide To Learning Blues Guitar



## Synopsis

(Guitar Educational). This comprehensive source for learning blues guitar is designed to develop both your lead and rhythm playing. Blues styles covered include Texas, Delta, R&B, early rock & roll, gospel and blues/rock. The book also features: 21 complete solos \* blues chords, progressions and riffs \* turnarounds \* movable scales and soloing techniques \* string bending \* utilizing the entire fingerboard \* using 6ths \* chord-melody style \* music notation and tab \* audio with leads and full band backing \* video lessons \* and more. This second edition now includes audio and video access online! Online audio and video is accessed at [halleonard.com/mylibrary](http://halleonard.com/mylibrary)

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## Customer Reviews

Hands down the best book I have in my collection so far. If you are like me and get bored of playing other peoples tabbed music and want to learn how scales can fit together to create music, this is the book for you. I knew very little about scales coming into this book and learned so much about how to play a scale over the entire fretboard. I love blues music, but more importantly, I enjoy heavily blues-influenced rock and roll. If anyone is frustrated that their playing is not getting better and do not know why, this will definitely help. The book is not for beginners and you must have a basic understanding of chords but that is about it! I see plenty of reviews here about how this book is too hard because they cannot do barre chords, well suck it up and start learning because if you ever want to become good you will need them!

This book is excellent - it is beautifully presented in simple and concise manner - lessons are broken down into fundamental assignments that gradually build to form a solid foundation - just like taking lessons in person. I have been struggling to learn the core elements of Blues guitar - until I found this book. Other writers delve too deeply into theory and complex explanations of what the lesson is about. This book does not do that - there are, of course, explanations as to why one is learning the lesson and what the lesson serves, but it is the only book I have found so far that gets you playing almost at once. I am looking forward to completing these lessons and moving along to the next book in the series. Thanks to John Gnapes for sharing his teaching ability -

I just finished this book ... with a distinct advantage. I got to take lessons directly from John as he teaches in St Paul. I started taking the lessons in December informing John that my goals were to 1) Fill the many gaps in my playing, 2) Expand my vocabulary and 3) improve my technique. We accomplished all three in very short time (disclaimer: I've been playing rock for many years). I felt kinda funny, maybe "played down to" in the beginning but kept my mouth shut and my head down. The material gradually progressed, becoming more challenging. Along the way I discovered many points of the Blues language. About halfway through I had epiphany after epiphany as to why the material is organized the way it is and started to hear the many nuances of a living art form. And I was glad I paid attention to the early lessons. Most importantly, I learned how to practice. The fret board can still be a little foreign to me but that will change over time. Try this book if you're looking for the best course on the blues. Be patient. Allow the material to breakdown what you know and build your knowledge back up. The progressions, scales and lead lines you learn are very useful ... as well as diverse. Once you discover what you want to pursue, John's got tons of material in his other books. I'm taking some time to go back over everything we covered, get it absorbed and integrated into my playing. Then, I get to take more lessons from him! Check out John's website: [bluesyoucanuse.com](http://bluesyoucanuse.com) and the Blues You Can Use facebook page. Take some lessons from him. He's great!

This book contains some of the most basic blues you'll ever play, but that's what you need at a beginning level. Some of the studies are a bit advanced and take some time to play well. In the long run you'll learn some blues lead guitar phrasing and simple rhythm that you can embellish to fit your own style of playing. If you take the proper time to practice the suggestions, you'll eventually find yourself freelancing the ideas into your own music. One reviewer mentioned that the studies lack soul. This is somewhat true in my opinion. However, I think development of the "soul" has to come

from within the guitar player. Before you can put real soul into your playing, you have to learn how to do it in the first place. This book provides some building blocks that'll assist you in getting there. It's by no means an exhaustive study of the blues, but it sure does provide some good studies that'll help you in your quest to play the blues in an impressive fashion, and in your own style. Remember: Emulation, not imitation, will make you a great player that'll be recognized for your own skills. Again, this book can assist you in that quest.

This is one of the best topic-specific guitar books in my library. I'm an experienced hobbyist player and found the content to be useful and fun. Be sure to download the example songs and the video lessons using the info on page 1 (note: the Zip file contains only the songs; you'll have to download the video lessons one at a time -- but they are worth the extra effort). The focus on common chord progressions plus movable chord shapes and minor pentatonic patterns provides a blues foundation you can use in any key. Recommended.

No wonder this series gets recommended so often--perfect balance between music theory in connection with scales and blues numbers. Nicely done. I've been playing blues for nearly a year, every day basically, and the first practice number is just about at my speed-ideal start for early intermediate playing and probably fine for a beginner.

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