THE BLUES SCALE - EXPANDED II SHAPE

Let's continue to add the b5th, or blue not, to the minor pentatonic scale in more positions. Below on the left is an expanded II minor pentatonic scale. By adding the blue note we now get the expanded II minor pentatonic blues scale, as shown below on the right. There is only one note added to make the blues scale. Examine the fingering carefully as it varies slightly between the two scales. The fingering shown below puts your fingers in the proper place on the fretboard to set you up for the next part of the scale, or if playing a solo, the next lick. Remember it is crucial to always have your fingers in the right position setting yourself up for the next lick or run. Practice the scales below in all keys.

When playing through these scales remember to make mental notes when hitting the root notes and the blue note, as you may want to emphasize these notes in your lead lines - its all about emphasis! Also remember, as I always state, just don't memorize the fingering for scales or just the scale shapes. Take the extra time to learn the notes and intervals that you are playing in a given key. Taking a little extra time to do this will make you a much better musician in the long run.



