

USING THE OCTAVES

12/8 SHUFFLE (Left Hand)

The great thing about piano is you can clearly see all the octaves. They all look exactly the same! So if you learn a riff in one octave you can EASILY move it up or down the piano to another octave. Even better is when you can LINK two or three duplicate riffs together to take you up the piano and then use another riff or run to bring you all the way down again.

Try the following exercise and then introduce it into your 12 bar blues.

Three PICK-UP's and a BLUES SCALE run

The musical score is written for a 12/8 shuffle, featuring a treble and bass staff. The exercise consists of three measures, each containing a pick-up riff in the treble staff and a steady bass line in the bass staff. The first measure has a riff starting on C4, the second on C5, and the third on C6. Each riff is marked with a red arrow and the word "Slide". Above the first two riffs are the notes C E G A, and above the third is C E G A. The third measure ends with a repeat sign. The second system shows a blues scale run in the treble staff, starting on C5 and moving downwards. The notes are C Bb G Gb F Eb, C Bb G Gb F, and C Bb G F. The first measure of this system is marked with a red "3" and the text "C BLUES SCALE - downwards motion". The bass staff continues with the same steady bass line pattern.

C E G A C E G A C E G A

Slide Slide Slide

C Bb G Gb F Eb C Bb G Gb F C Bb G F

3 C BLUES SCALE - downwards motion