

Blues By the Step

Concert Pitch Instruments

Randy Hunter

F Concert Blues Scale

Actual progression from "I'll Be Back."

F7 B \flat 7 F7

B \flat 7 F7 Am7(\flat 5) D7(\flat 9)

Gm7 C7 F7 D7(\flat 9) Gm7 C7

Step 1

Simplified progression

F7 (I) B \flat 7 (IV) F7

B \flat 7 F7

C7(V) F7

Example 1

Example 1 shows three scales: F7(I), B \flat 7(IV), and C7(V). Each scale is written as a sequence of whole notes with fingerings 1-8 indicated below the notes.

Let's consider the tones written as whole notes to be "caution tones." By caution, I mean that they are suitable as passing tones but not as emphasis tones.

Step 2

Step 2 shows three staves of chords: F7, B \flat 7, and C7. Each staff contains two measures of chords with passing tones in parentheses, followed by two measures of empty staves with slashes.

All notes may be played in any range.

Step 3

Step 3 shows three staves of chords: F7, B \flat 7, and C7. Each staff contains two measures of chords with passing tones in parentheses, followed by two measures of empty staves with slashes.

Example 2

Example 2 shows three chords: F7, B \flat 7, and C7. Each chord is shown as a stack of notes in thirds, with the 11th omitted.

If you examine example 2, you will see that the tones we've used when stacked in thirds (with the omission of the 11ths, which we previously labeled "caution tones") form complete chords. Be aware that rhythm players often voice 7th chords to include both the 9th and 13th (seen in the scale as the 6th) tones of the scale.