

Music 238
Blues Chords and Bass Tutorial

Here is a standard version of a blues form's chords in the key of C. Each bar/box has 4 beats in it. A chord could be hit/struck once for each bar, or even once on each beat (4 times per bar).

C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾
F⁽⁷⁾	F⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾
G⁽⁷⁾ **	F⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾

Here are the notes that go into each chord (usually from low to high):

C: C, E, G

C⁷: C, E, G, B \flat

F: F, A, C

F⁷: F, A, C, E \flat

G: G, B, D

G⁷: G, B, D, F

To use a bass line (instead of chords), each "root note" of the chord can be hit once per beat (i.e. 4 per bar) like so: (these are single, low bass notes, with the first note larger to show that it's the most essential). Experimenting with variation here is encouraged...

C c c c	C c c c	C c c c	C c c c
F f f f	F f f f	C c c c	C c c c
G g g g **	F f f f	C c c c	C c c c

**The 9th bar is the one most easily varied. Other Notes/chords could be Eb⁽⁷⁾, or B \flat .

The chord spellings for Eb⁽⁷⁾ and B \flat are:

E \flat ⁽⁷⁾: Eb, G, B \flat , (D \flat)

B \flat : B \flat , D, F