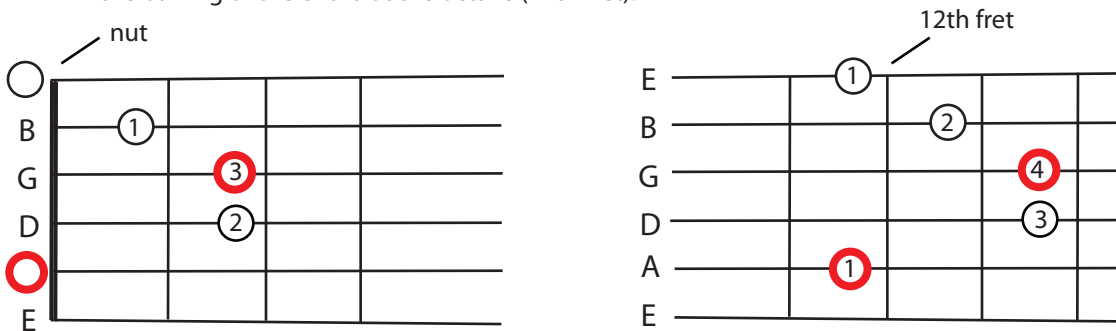


Blues scales

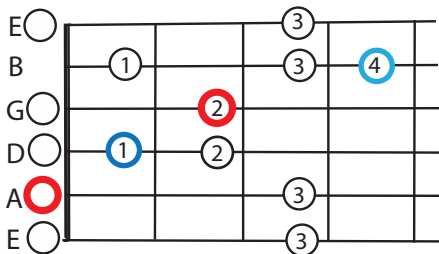
The blues scale is a six note scale. It is the minor pentatonic scale with the #4 (b5) note added to it. This would be scale degrees 1, b3, 4, #4(b5), 5 and b7 of the major scale. In the key of A minor (no sharps or flats in the key signature) these notes in order of ascension would be: A, C, D, D#(Eb), E, G and the the octave A. Note that D# and Eb are on the same place on the fret board. This different spelling of the same note is referred to as an **enharmonic** spelling. That spelling depends on the context in which the note appears. In ascending this A blues scale, it is more proper to think of the spelling as A, C, D, D#, E, G, A. In descending the scale, it is more proper to think of it as A, G, E, Eb, D, C, A. Because one of the seven letters that designate the notes of the scale appears twice in the scale (D and D# ascending and E and Eb descending) this scale is known as an artificial scale.

The blues scales are prominent scale forms used in modern and pop music as they contain the classic blues tones, namely b3, b5 and b7. In our A blues scale example these notes would be: C - the flatted third, Eb(D#) - the flatted 5th and G - the flatted 7th.

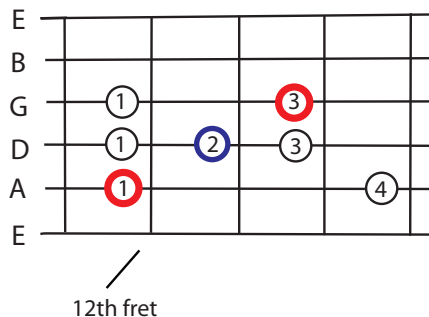
The A minor chord is comprised of the notes A, C and E. Shown below in first position and at then at 12th fret. Note the chord shape is the same for this chord at both the nut and 12th fret. The fingering is changed to accomodate the barring of the chord at the octave (12th fret).



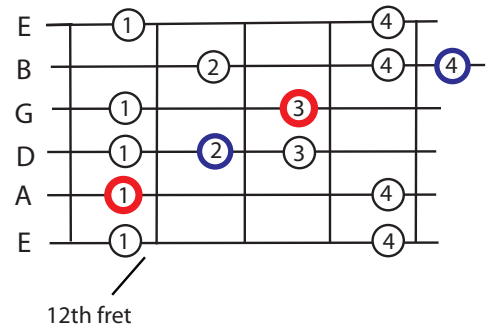
A minor Pentatonic scale at nut (compare to scale at far right)



A Minor Pentatonic Scale, one octave the notes are A, C, D, E, G and A. All note that are tonic (root) note A are circled in **red**. The #4/b5 note added to the pentatonic to form the blues scale is circled in **blue**.



A minor Pentatonic scale, with added notes* (compare to scale at far left)



*See last page for alternate fingering