

Blues 1: 12-Bar Blues

**T**WELVE-BAR BLUES is a popular form of music, especially with guitarists; it's quite easy to learn, and great fun! It follows a certain formula based on twelve "units" (or bars) and is quite recognisable when heard. A basic form of this formula can be expressed like this:

**I** is the root note of the key you're in, so if you're playing the blues in "D", the chord is D major.

**IV** is the fourth note of the scale - 4th note in the D scale is G, so the chord is G major.

**V** is the fifth note of the scale - A, so the chord played is A. (The V chord is very often played in its "7th" form, so you would play an A7.)

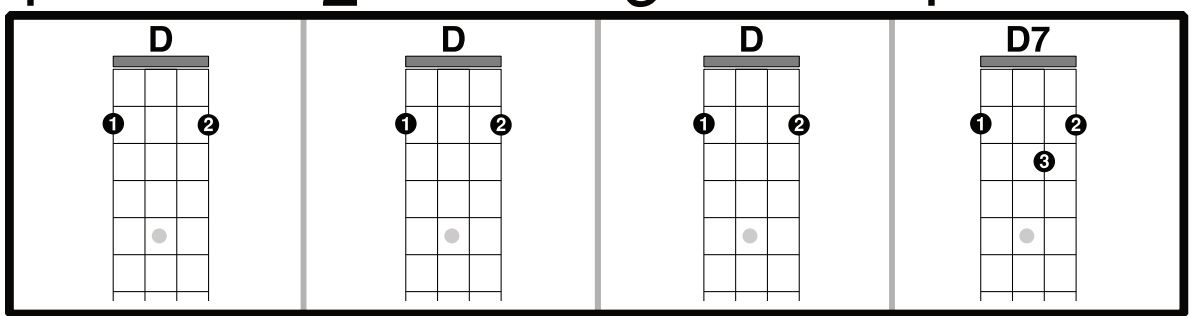
Therefore, applying the formula to the D scale, you would get this:

There are lots of slight variations to the formula, but that's basically it. Try the following sequence playing four strums for each unit:

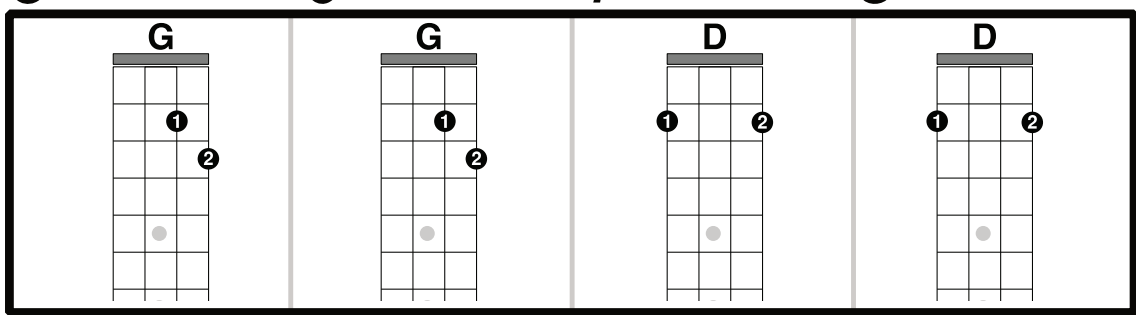
1	2	3	4
<b>I</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>I7</b>
5	6	7	8
<b>IV</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>I</b>
9	10	11	12
<b>V7</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>V7</b>

1	2	3	4
<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D7</b>
5	6	7	8
<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>
9	10	11	12
<b>A7</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>A7</b>

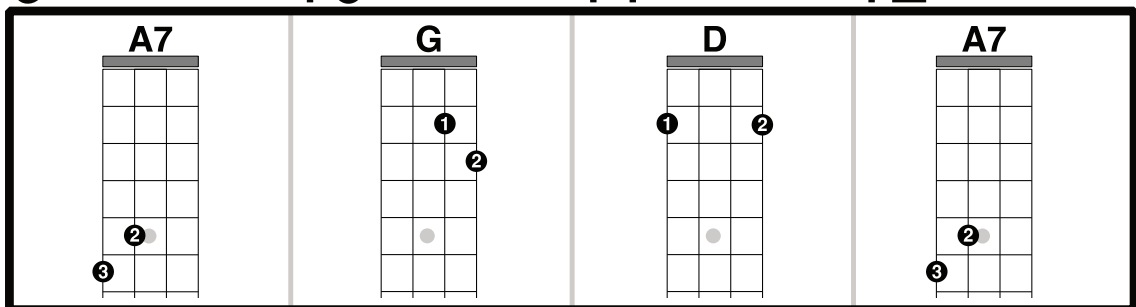
1                      2                      3                      4



5                      6                      7                      8



9                      10                      11                      12



Twelve-Bar Blues