

# The Blues Collection



## Blues 4: Blues and Bluegrass

**B**ILL MONROE, the "Father of Bluegrass" had a huge influence on popular music, not least because of his innovations in Bluegrass music. He learned a lot of old-time music from his mother's brother Pendleton,

known as Uncle Pen. In addition he was heavily influenced by a blues musician called Arnold Shultz, and the considerable blues influences can be heard in bluegrass music to this day.

### Enhancing the Blues Scale

Last time we started subtracting notes from the D major scale. Now we're going to bring some of them back. First, we're going to keep the *flattened 3rd*

but also add the non-flattened 3rd. The great effect we're after is to slide from the *flattened 3rd* to the 3rd; in the D scale, that's the **F** to the **F#**. In the G scale, it's **Bb** to **B**, and in A it's **C** to **C#**. We'll also keep the *flattened 7th* and re-introduce the 6th.

The tune below makes much use of the two main elements discussed above: the *flattened 3rd to 3rd slide*, and the *flattened 7th* in the

three different keys, all over a 12-bar blues structure. You could also try improvising by

### Downright Blue (Nigel Gatherer)

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