

TOP 10 CHORD FORMS FOR BLUES GUITAR

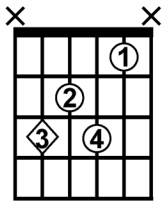
LEARN THE SHAPES HEARD ON THOUSANDS OF SONGS

Blues guitar uses a fairly standard collection of chord voicings. The chords on these pages represent the top chord voicings you hear in most blues songs. I started out with 10 but added a few more along the way. Learn all you can!

Blues Chords with a Fifth String Root

The diamond indicates the root.

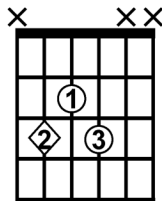
C7



Dom 7th

Very stable.
Works well
on I, IV or V.

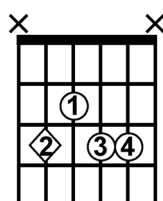
C7



Dom 7th 3-String

Great for rhythm
parts. Works well
on I, IV or V.

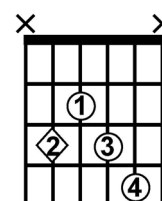
C9



Dom 9th

Great substitute
for Dom 7th
chord. Works
well on I, IV or V.

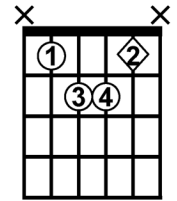
C7 (#9)



7(#9)

Less stable -
more bluesy.
Works well on V.

C13

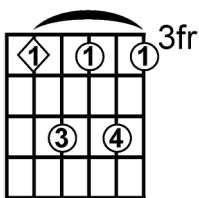


Dom 13th

More complex
sounding. Sounds
better higher up on
neck. Works on I,
IV or V.

Other Options:

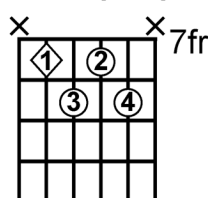
C7



Dom 7th

Very stable.
Works well
on I, IV or V.

Em7(b5)



Half-Dim 7th

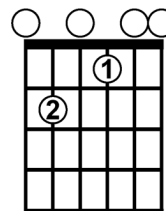
Can be substituted
for the Dom 7th or
Dom 9th.

For example:
C7=Em7(b5)

Works on I, IV or V.

Open Voicings:

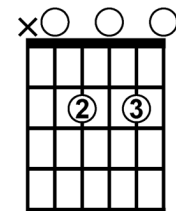
E7



Open E7

Great sounding
Open E7 Chord
Works on I, IV or V.

A7

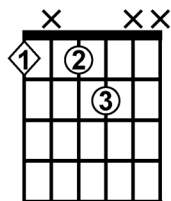


Open A7

Great sounding
Open A7 Chord
Works on I, IV or V.

Blues Chords with a Sixth String Root

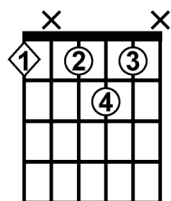
F7



Dom 7th

Very stable.
Great for rhythm.
Works on I, IV or V.

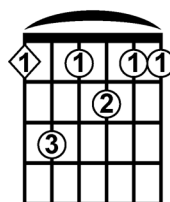
F7



Dom 7th

Very stable.
Works well
on I, IV or V.

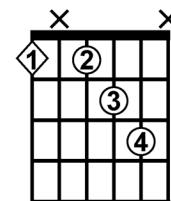
F7



Dom 7th Barre

Sometimes can be
too thick for rhythm
Works on I, IV or V.

F13

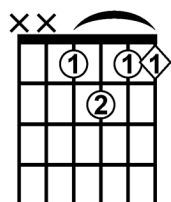


Dom 13th

Can be substituted
for Dom 7th for
added color.
Works on I, IV or V.

Blues Chords using Four Strings

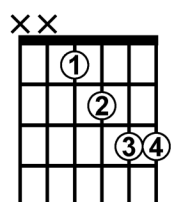
F7



Dom 7th

Higher sounding.
Hammer-On 2nd Finger
Works on I, IV or V.

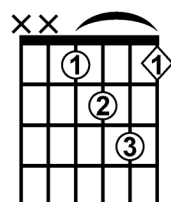
F13



Dom 7th Rootless

Colorful Substitute
for Dom 7th.
Works on I, IV or V.

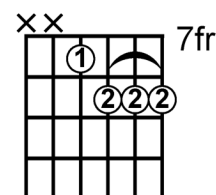
F13



Dom 7th Rootless

Colorful Substitute
for Dom 7th.
Works on I, IV or V.

Am7(b5)

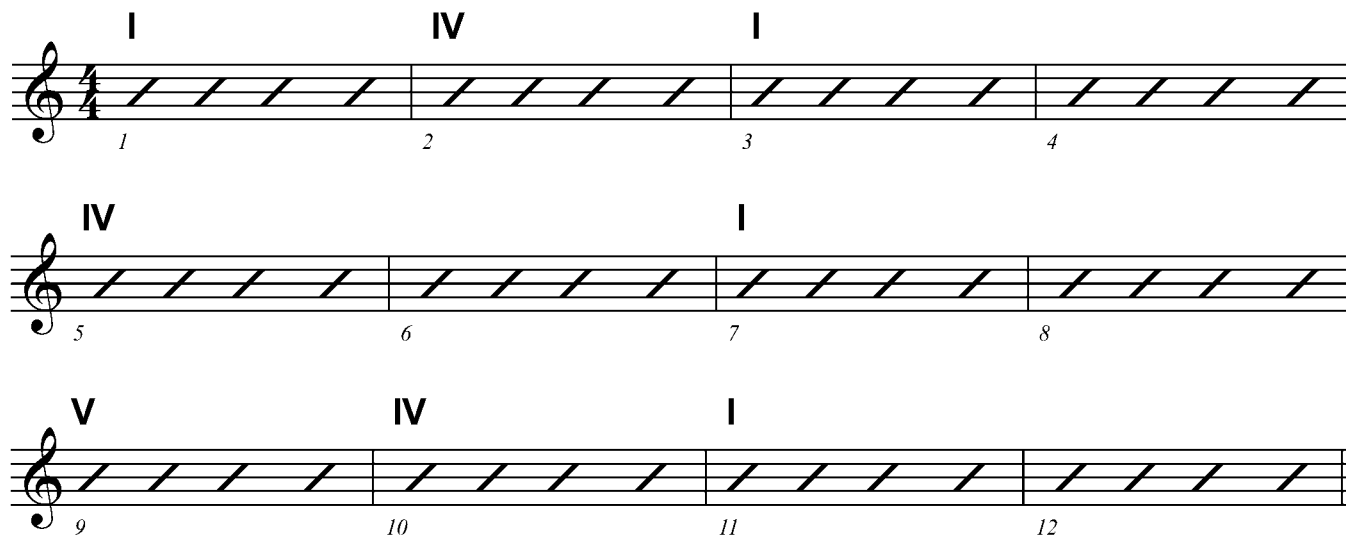


Half-Dim 7th

Can be substituted
for the Dom 7th.
For example:
F7=Am7(b5)
Works on I, IV or V.

Blues Chord Progressions

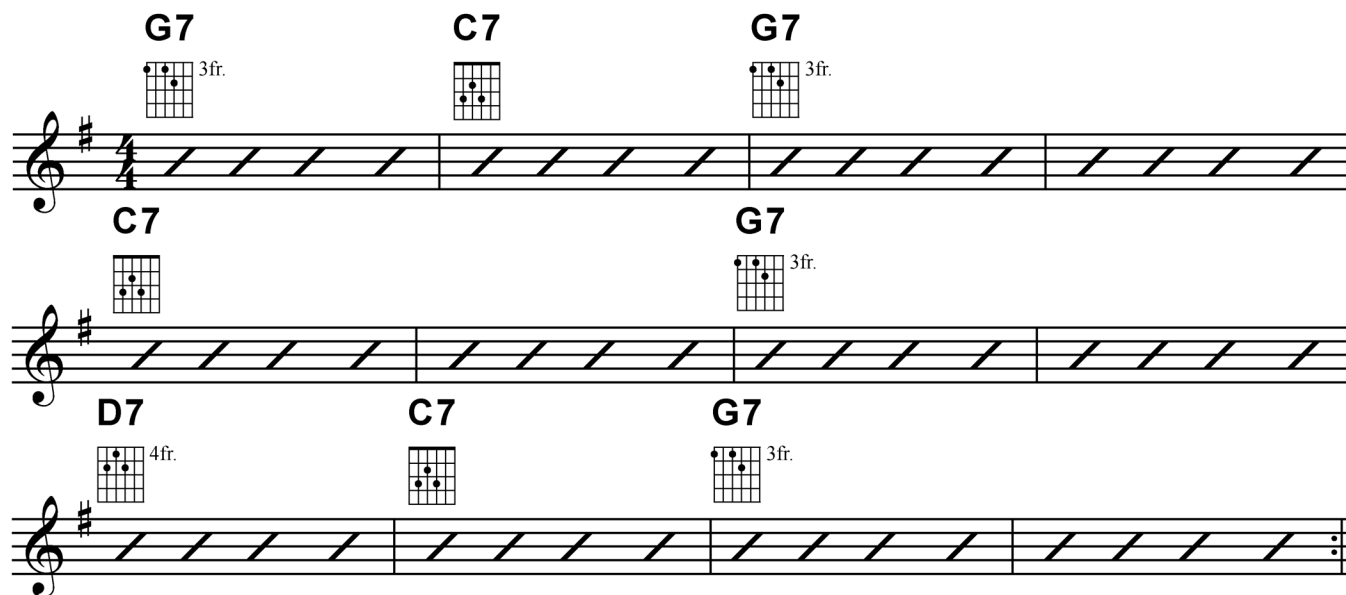
Here is the standard 12 bar blues progression using the I, IV and V chords.



A diagram of the standard 12 bar blues progression in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves, each with four measures. The first staff shows measures 1-4 with chords I, IV, and I. The second staff shows measures 5-8 with chords IV and I. The third staff shows measures 9-12 with chords V, IV, and I. Each measure contains a single sixteenth note, represented by a diagonal line. Measure numbers 1 through 12 are written below the staves.

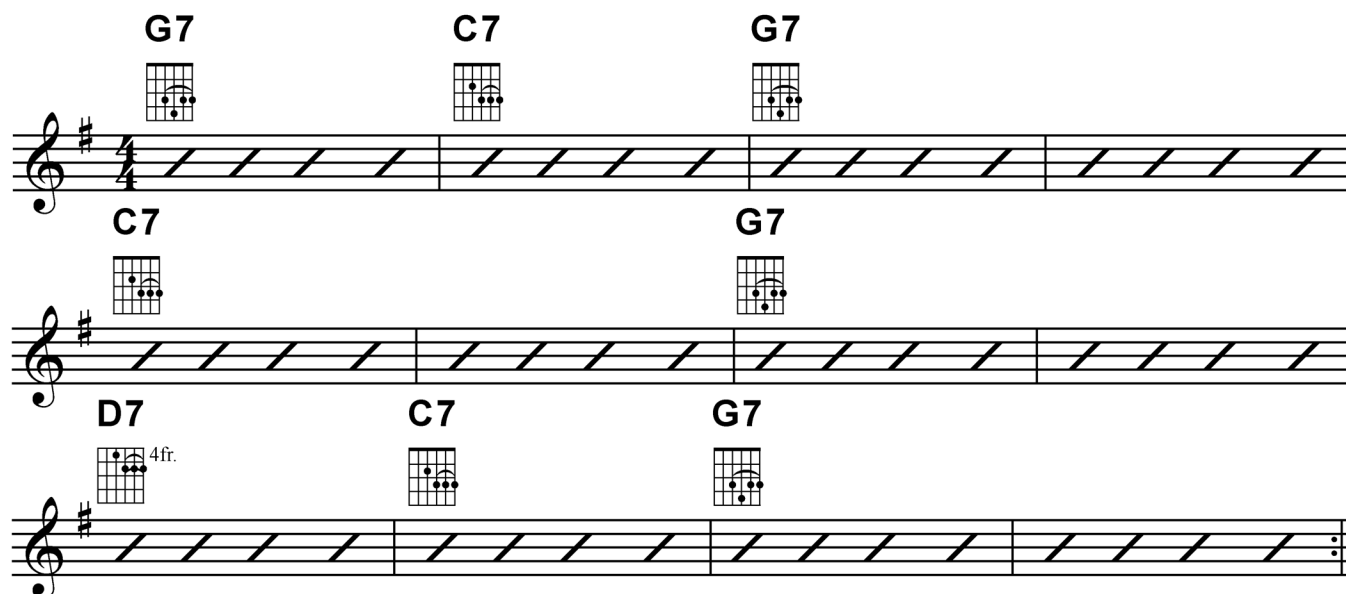
Blues in G

Here is a standard blues in G with basic rhythm lower chord voicings.



A diagram of a standard blues in G progression in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves, each with four measures. The first staff shows measures 1-4 with chords G7, C7, G7, and G7. The second staff shows measures 5-8 with chords C7, G7, G7, and G7. The third staff shows measures 9-12 with chords D7, C7, G7, and G7. Each measure contains a single sixteenth note, represented by a diagonal line. Above each measure is a chord diagram for the specified chord (G7, C7, D7) with a fret number (3fr. or 4fr.) indicated. Measure numbers 1 through 12 are written below the staves.

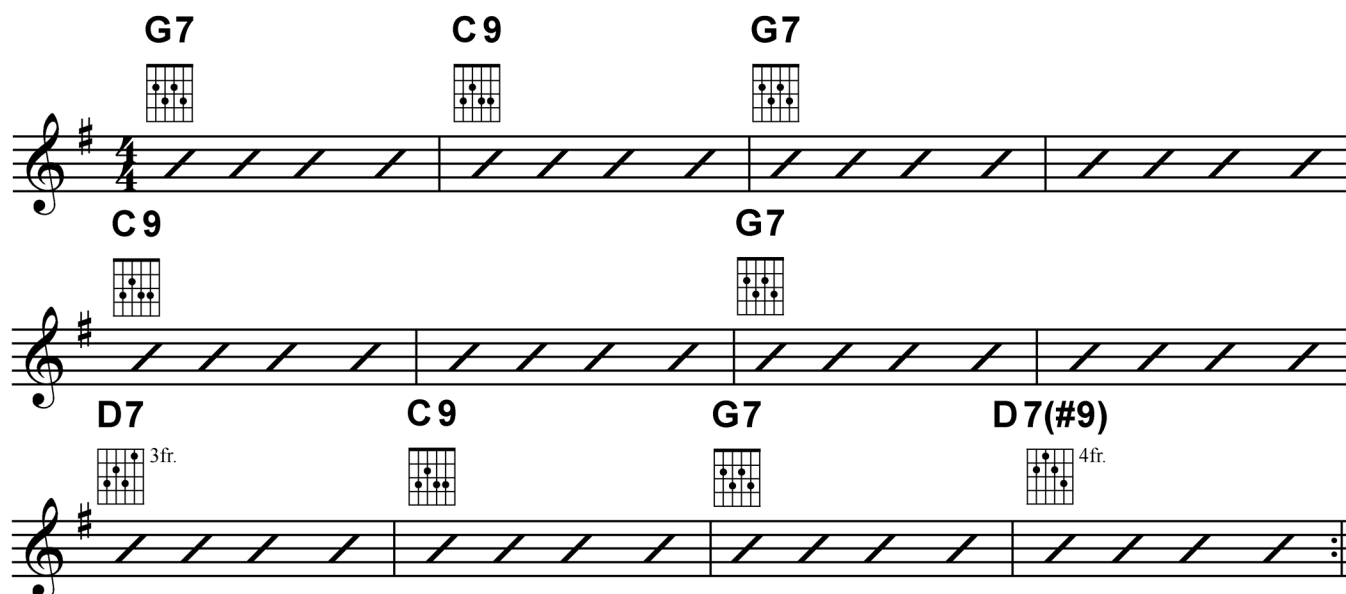
Here is a standard blues in G with basic rhythm higher chord voicings.



Chord voicings for higher positions:

- G7 (first staff, first measure)
- C7 (first staff, second measure)
- G7 (first staff, third measure)
- C7 (second staff, first measure)
- G7 (second staff, third measure)
- D7 (third staff, first measure)
- C7 (third staff, second measure)
- G7 (third staff, third measure)

Here is a standard blues in G with basic rhythm middle chord voicings.



Chord voicings for middle positions:

- G7 (first staff, first measure)
- C9 (first staff, second measure)
- G7 (first staff, third measure)
- C9 (second staff, first measure)
- G7 (second staff, third measure)
- D7 (third staff, first measure)
- C9 (third staff, second measure)
- G7 (third staff, third measure)
- D7(#9) (third staff, fourth measure)