

Open C Slide Blues

Arranged by Tenthumbs



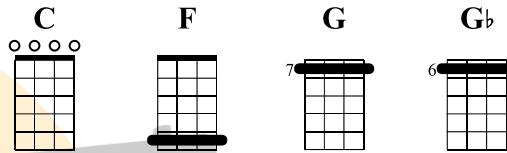
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Key: C

Harmony: C, C7, F, F7, Gb, G, G7

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGRrxr9aLUI>

Chord Shapes:



Open C Tuning

A -> G
E -> E
C -> C
G -> G

- Here we can see that the ONLY note that changes is the A note becomes a G note.
- If you have a high G ukulele you can use your ear to find that G easily, but that also means that we have two strings playing the exact same note. Is this repetitive? Yes, very much so, it is the literal definition of repetitive as it the note repeats itself, but that just means you need to push your creativity.
- If you have a low G, great, that extra octave can give you some very cool super powers for this style of play.

Measures 1-4 - The first 4

Musical notation for the first four measures of the piece. The top staff is in 4/4 time, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: Measure 1: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). Measure 2: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). Measure 3: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). Measure 4: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The bottom staff shows the ukulele fretboard with strings T, A, C, B from top to bottom. Fingering is indicated by numbers 1-3 and slash marks for triplets.

- The timing here is based around a fingerpicking pattern focusing mostly on the downbeats.

- You can see the thumbs plays the 1 2 3 4 in the first and 3rd measures and the 1 2 over the 2nd and 4th measures. Remember that you really just alternating your thumbs from the G string to the C string on the downbeats. This is something that you can practice independently when you are by yourself. Eventually you want your thumb to be able to move independently from the index, middle and ring fingers.
- The open E string is on the & after the 2nd beat. As you gain confidence you can add more syncopation, meaning more notes on the &.
- When you play the 3rd fret of the E and the G (formally tuned to A) you are playing the G and the Bb notes, these tonalities create a C7, a classic blues chord

Measures 5-8 - The middle 4

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measure 5 is over an F chord, measure 6 is over an F chord, measure 7 is over a C chord, and measure 8 is over a C chord. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The guitar part shows fingerings for the thumb and index finger on the G and C strings.

- You'll see here the 5th measure, over the F chord, it is the same rhythm as the 1st and 3rd measures over the C chord
- Measures 7 & 8 are the same two bar loop that we learned earlier.

Measures 9-12 - The turnaround

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Measure 9 is over a G chord, measure 10 is over an F chord, measure 11 is over a C chord, and measure 12 is over an F chord. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The guitar part shows a slide on the 7th fret in measure 12 and a riff in measure 11.

- Here the slide goes up to the 7th fret then there is a riff that starts on the 2nd beat. That riff plays the root, b7th and the root which turns our 6 into a G7 chord.
- By moving everything down two frets se get the exact same effect on the F chord, turning into an F7.
- The turnaround riff starts with the root note, C, then goes up to the b7th interval, Bb, and moves chromatically down to the 5th interval. After that it hits an open C to imply the C chord and then makes a chromatic chord movement from the IVth to the Vth.

Putting it all together

- In the following tabs we are going to put all 12 of these measures together to get a nice foundation of what we will be playing. You want to get this down before you move on to the more complicated 12 Bar blues with the fills

Full 12 Bar

Full 12-bar blues guitar notation. The piece is in 4/4 time and consists of 12 measures. The chords are: C (measures 1-4), F (measures 5-6), C (measures 7-8), G (measure 9), F (measure 10), C (measure 11), and F Gb G (measures 12). The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a bass clef. The bass line features various techniques such as triplets, slides, and bends. A large watermark 'TenThumbs' is visible in the background.

Adding Some Fills

Adding Some Fills guitar notation. This section shows measures 13-15. Measure 13 has a C chord with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and a triplet of eighth notes (B3, C4, D4). Measure 14 has a C chord with a triplet of eighth notes (C5, D5, E5) and a long slide (sl.) on the G string. Measure 15 has an F chord with a triplet of eighth notes (F4, G4, A4) and a triplet of eighth notes (A3, B3, C4). A large watermark 'TenThumbs' is visible in the background.

Lick 1

- This lick is an elaborate C7 arpeggio
- Usually blues music sings over the first two measures, then stops singing and then jams over the next two.
- The middle 4 follow that same pattern.
- That means that our C licks can be played over measures 3, 4, 7 and 8
- This first lick starts on a Bb note, pulls off to a G, add an E note, repeats that triplet and then moves up a whole step to the 5th fret... which is the C note. The notes of a C7 are C, E, G and Bb. That makes this lick a very cool arpeggio.
- Make sure to keep those triplets in time

Lick 2

- Another C lick. It starts on the 8th fret of the E string, C, down a whole step to Bb, the b7th chord then open, the E note and up to the 3rd. That makes another C7 arpeggio! The long slow slide up the fretboard really makes the arpeggio pop.

Lick 3

- This is our F lick. F7 is made up of an F note, A, C, Eb. The lick starts on the 5th fret, F note, open C string, C note, to the 3rd fret which is our Eb. It then goes up to the F and back down to the Eb.
- This lick has 3 of the 4 notes in the chord.
- An arpeggio doesn't need every note to make it work, it can also use notes that aren't in the chord, for example a G note over the F7 arpeggio would sound great. Technically it would change it to an F9 arpeggio, but the point is you don't need to use every note and you can use notes that aren't in the chord.
- Note that all the licks came from arpeggio... and note scales? Cool huh? Run with it in your own playing!

Full 12 Bar

The musical score is divided into three systems, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The first system (measures 16-19) is in C major, starting with a C chord. The second system (measures 20-23) is in F major, starting with an F chord. The third system (measures 9-12) is in G major, starting with a G chord. Each system includes a treble clef staff with notes and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers and techniques like bends, triplets, and slurs. A large watermark 'TenThumbs' is overlaid on the score.

Enjoy it and take it to the next level!