

Twelve-bar Blues

You have already discovered that the tonic, subdominant, and dominant triads are among the most important building blocks in the musical language. We have seen these triads used to build melodies and now we will see how they are used to create harmonic progression and structure in the **twelve-bar blues**.

The twelve-bar blues is a chord pattern often heard in popular music. It consists of this pattern:

I	I	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
V	IV	I	I

- ▶ Play this chord progression in the key of C major on the piano. After you've played the chords in solid/blocked form, you can have fun arranging the chords in different ways.
 - Experiment with broken-chord patterns or ask your teacher to show you some different figurations that could be used.
 - Play the chord progression with your left hand, and experiment with creating your own melodies using your right hand.
 - Explore the chord progression in different keys, starting with G major and F major and then continuing through the Circle of Fifths.