

STYLISTIC & CREATIVE IDEAS FOR YOUR BLUES SHUFFLE WELCOME

Thanks for checking out the course :) I really hope you'll learn a lot and your playing gains some added dimensions. This course is essentially a box of ideas from which you can pick and choose, mix and match. I hope it will be of benefit to people from different backgrounds – whether an enthusiastic amateur wanting to improve, a professional piano player looking for inspiration or a competent player who hasn't played much Blues before looking for some stylistic secrets. Either way, I hope this course has lots to offer you and I wish you good luck! Any questions along the way, just get in touch.

Cheers!
Paddy Milner

GENERAL TIPS

- **PRACTICE :)**

Short & concentrated regular practice is better than long but infrequent practice. It's true that you will need to do some regular practice & playing in order to make the most of any music learning process. But the good news is you don't have to do 5 hours a day! Most of us have busy lives one way or another and Time can be a premium. So, 10 minutes a day of concentrated practice is worth more than an hour or two at the weekend.

- **LISTEN, LISTEN & LISTEN AGAIN**

Make time to listen to the style of music you're learning to play. I can't underestimate how important this is! With time, you will absorb the musical language.

Load up with Blues tunes and listen to:

Johnnie Johnson (listen to his fantastic playing on Chuck Berry records)

Otis Spann (solo records & with Muddy Waters amongst others)

Pinetop Perkins (solo records & with Muddy Waters amongst others)

Champion Jack Dupree

Memphis Slim

Albert Ammons

Pete Johnson (solo work and records with Big Joe Turner)

Meade Lux Lewis

James Booker

Dr John

GENERAL PRACTICE EXERCISES & METHODS

I've suggested specific practice exercises for each lesson but here are some general tips that can be used for most of the material we will be covering:

- **Use a metronome.** This will help improve your musical time and show up where you are rushing or lagging behind.

Whichever concept you are working on, **get it under your fingers consistently & fluently at a slow tempo before increasing the tempo** bit by bit until at full tempo.

- Practice at **different volumes** (very loud, very soft & a moderate volume that feels natural).
- Practice with **different volumes in each hand** – e.g. quiet in the left hand and loud in the right, then swap (a little like tapping your head and rubbing your tummy!).
- **Practice with your eyes shut** so your fingers really get to know the keyboard. In the case of the left hand, try getting to a point where you can play around the 12 bar sequence repeatedly, while reading a paper or book! The aim being to get the left hand as automatic and independent as possible.
- **Practice concepts around the cycle of 5ths**
- **Practice concepts in different keys**