

## Spanning the fretboard with the blues scale in the key of A

There are five notes  
in the pentatonic minor scale:  
I / IIIb / IV / V / VIIb

The 'blue note' is the Vb,  
and can be added to the  
the pentatonic minor scale  
to create our 'blues scale':  
I / IIIb / IV / Vb / V / VIIb

In the key of A, the blues scale notes are:  
A / C / D / E / Eb / G

'You can 'span the neck' with  
the blues scale by starting with  
open low E string and play all  
the way up to the A note on the  
high E string at the 17th fret.

Remember to use your third (ring)  
finger to slide up to the last note  
played on each string so that you  
continue the scale on the adjacent  
string with your index finger when  
ascending from low to high in the scale.

Conversely, remember to reverse this  
action when descending down the scale;  
going from high to low, fret the next  
adjacent string with your 3rd (ring) finger,  
play the note, and slide backward  
to the next note on that string.

This technique of sliding up/down  
to the note with your 3rd (ring) finger  
allows your fingers/hand  
to stay 'in position' to play  
up/down/across the fretboard  
with ease.

**A** = I

**C** = IIIb

**D** = IV

**Eb** = Vb

**E** = V

**G** = VIIb

