

Chapter 4 The Blues Scale

If we add one more certain note to the minor pentatonic scale, the "flat Five", that's the fifth step of the major scale flattened one fret, (also called the tri-tone) we get yet another important scale; "the Blues Scale".

This "Flat Five" interval (written b5), in historic times was called the "Devils Interval". There are stories that in the olden days of Europe, composers who used this interval too much could actually be tried as a witch and then burned at the stake! Well, at least ex-communicated from the church, (burned at the stake makes for a better story though).

I'm not sure if this is true but if it was true nowadays, we'd have a lot of crispy guitar players around. My point is that this b5 adds dissonance and blues and rock players use this dissonance to create tension and a generally meaner, nastier sound than the minor pentatonic.

Here is the A minor Pentatonic scale, same pattern as above only I added the flat five, transforming it into the Blues Scale.

