# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR4
INTRODUCTION5
CHAPTER I—GETTING STARTED
Half Steps, Whole Steps, and the Importance of Gravity6
The Fretboard7
Tuning Up
Music Notation
Reading Tablature
Reading Chord Boxes
Reading a Chord Chart—Rhythmic Notation
Reading Scale Diagrams
Reading Roman Numerals
•
CHAPTER 2—BLUES THEORY16
The Major Scale
Key Signatures
Minor Scales
Relative Minor
Intervals
Chords
Diatonic Harmony
Blues Harmony
CHAPTER 3—BASIC RHYTHM GUITAR26
Basic Rhythm Vocabulary
Basic Twelve-Bar Blues
Palm Muting
The Shuffle Pattern
Moveable Bar Chords
Left Hand Muting
Variations on the Shuffle Pattern
Stop Time
Boogie-Woogie in Open E
CHAPTER 4—BLUES SCALES37
Major Pentatonic
Phrasing
Call-and-Response Phrasing
Riff-Style Soloing40
Minor Pentatonic
Targeting Root Notes
Combining Call-and-Response with Root Targeting 44
Transposing45

CHAPTER 5—LEFT HAND TECHNIQUES	46
Hammer-ons	46
Pull-offs	
Hammer-ons and Pull-offs Together	
Slides	52
Bending	54
Reverse Bends	56
Signature Licks	58
Vibrato	
CHAPTER 6—RHYTHM GUITAR STYLES	
Muddy Waters—Vamps	63
Buddy Guy—Rhythm Riffs	65
Texas Swing	67
Slow Blues	69
Minor Blues	71
CHAPTER 7—INTROS, TURNAROUNDS	
AND ENDINGS	73
Turnarounds	74
Intros	76
Endings	78
CHAPTER 8—IMPROVISING	79
Alternating Major and Minor Pentatonic	
Adding Major Pentatonic Notes	
to the Minor Pentatonic	81
Adding Minor Pentatonic Notes	
to the Major Pentatonic	83
Chord Hits	85
Expanding the Basic Scale Patterns	
CHAPTER 9—PRACTICING	90
Set Goals	
Organize Your Time	
Metronomes, Drum Machines, and Practice Recordings	
Vary Your Sources	
Outside the Practice Room	
Individuality	95

## **CHAPTER 2**

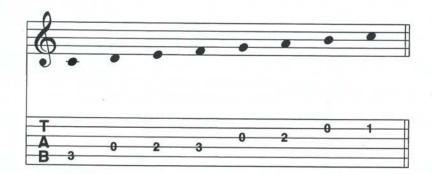
### **Blues Theory**

If you understand half and whole steps, note names and sharps and flats, you know enough to understand how scales, chords, keys and harmony work—everything you need to know to understand what's in this book.

#### THE MAJOR SCALE

Our basic reference point is the *major scale*, which is the scale you get when you sing "do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do." Here's a C Major scale ("do" is C):

17



Notice where the whole steps and half steps fall in this scale. This pattern is the definition of a major scale.

Notes: C D E F G A B C Steps: W W H W W H

**W** = whole step **H** = half step

#### **SCALE DEGREES**

The notes of the scale are numbered according to their distance from the first note, which is called the *root* (R). In the C Major scale, D is the second degree of the scale, or 2nd, E is the 3rd, and so on. The scale degrees are written above the staff in this example.

18

