

2 VIEWS OF THE BLUES

Before reading on - here's my disclaimer - both progressions shown below have many variations - some subtle some not so subtle. I'm showing these examples as they are two of the more commonly used. They are both generic forms so it's a good idea to memorise them. Feel free to use other chord shapes if you wish.

The first 12 bar - for those in the know - is the classic I IV V chord progression. It's been the mainstay of the blues and blues based rock n' roll for decades. All blues and rock guitarists know this one inside out. This makes it a great progression for an impromptu jam with other players if there's no other common meeting ground.

①

A⁷	D⁷	A⁷	A⁷
D⁷	D⁷	A⁷	A⁷
E⁷	D⁷	A⁷	E⁷
			A⁷ ENDING

The second 12 bar is more of a jazz style approach. Note the interesting harmonic twists and turns.

②

A⁷	D⁷	A⁷	E⁻⁷	A⁷
D⁷	D^{#o7}	A⁷	F^{#7}	
B⁷	E⁷	A⁷	F^{#7}	B⁷
				E⁷
				A⁷ ENDING