

The Steve Benzian Pedal Steel Course

The following pages support the Steve Benzian Pedal Steel Course playlist in the Lessons Section. While all of these files are available on Steve's web site, which is included in the links section, they have been combined here for your convenience. It is the policy of this web site to show you useful offerings from a wide variety of content creators, but at the same time we do not wish to take too much from anyone. Toward that end, I should tell you there are very many useful lessons on Steve's steel guitar channel on YouTube: SBenzian. Supporting tabs are on his web page as well.

Originally I had used these lessons integrated into the overall index, and some of them are still there as they are excellent introductions to the subject. However I have come to think of them as a good stand-alone mini-course which is suitable for beginners, and which might be better served as an integral unit.

This document comes in when you have progress to the point of learning scales and works with the remainder of the ensuing lessons.

Scales 1

1	F#									1
2	D#			8						2
3	G#									3
4	E					8			8E 8	4
5	B			8	8A				8 8A	5
6	G#		8	8B				8	8B	6
7	F#	8	8				8			7
8	E	8					8			8
9	D									9
10	B									10

vertical c scale

1	F#									1
2	D#									2
3	G#									3
4	E					8E	8A	10A		4
5	B			8	8A	8	8B	10B		5
6	G#	8	8B	8	8B					6
7	F#		8							7
8	E	8								8
9	D									9
10	B									10

vertical c-scale with harmony (above)

alternative

(8)
(B)

1	F#									1
2	D#									2
3	G#		1	3	3B	5B	8	10	10B	3
4	E	3								4
5	B		1	3	3A	5A	8	10	10A	5
6	G#	3								6
7	F#									7
8	E									8
9	D									9
10	B									10

G scale with harmony (below)

1	F#									1
2	D#									2
3	G#			3	3B	5B	8	10	10B	3
4	E	3		3E	3	5	8	10	10	4
5	B	3		3	3A	5A	8	10	10A	5
6	G#	3								6
7	F#									7
8	E									8
9	D									9
10	B									10

G scale - 3 notes

1	F#									1
2	D#									2
3	G#	3	3B	5B	8	10	10B	13	15	3
4	E	3	3C	5C	8	10	10C	13F	15	4
5	B	3	3C	5C	8	10	10C	13	15	5
6	G#									6
7	F#	1	2m	3m	4	5	6m	7o	1	7
8	E	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F#dim	G	8
9	D									9
10	B									10

G scale - 3 notes - harmonized scale

Scales 2

1	F#										1
2	D#										2
3	G#										3
4	E										4
5	B	1	1A	3A	4A	6A	8A	10A	11A		5
6	G#										6
7	F#										7
8	E	1E	1	3	4F	6F	8	10	11F		8
9	D										9
10	B										10

C scale on 5 and 8

1	F#										1
2	D#										2
3	G#										3
4	E										4
5	B	1	1A	3A	6	8	8A	10A	11A		5
6	G#										6
7	F#										7
8	E	1E	1	3	6E	8E	8	10	11F		8
9	D										9
10	B										10

C-scale on 5+8 - alternative

1	F#										1
2	D#										2
3	G#										3
4	E	1E	1	3	4A	6F	8	10	11F		4
5	B	1	1A	3A	4A	6A	8A	10A	11A		5
6	G#										6
7	F#										7
8	E										8
9	D										9
10	B										10

C-scale on 4+5

1	F#										1
2	D#										2
3	G#										3
4	E										4
5	B	1	1A	3A	4A	6A	8A	9A	11A	8A	5
6	G#										6
7	F#										7
8	E	1E	1	3	4F	6	8	9F	11F	8	8
9	D										9
10	B										10

C7 scale leading to F chord

lower $\frac{1}{2}$ tone

1	F#										1
2	D#										2
3	G#										3
4	E										4
5	B										5
6	G#										6
7	F#										7
8	E										8
9	D										9
10	B	1	1A	3A							10

vertical C scale pedals down position

Dominant 7th Chord

Definition: root + major 3rd + perfect 5th + minor 7th

Definition: 1,3,5, flatted 7th

example: C7 is C,E,G,Bb

4 notes in the chord...don't need to play all

b7 note destabilizes chord and emphasizes movement
used in up 5 frets movement (perfect 4th) but not the other way.

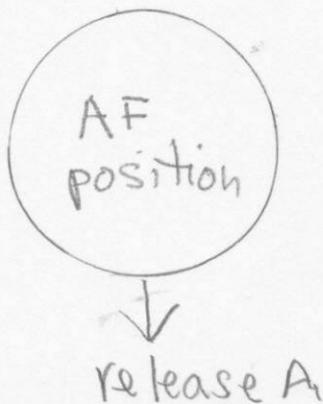
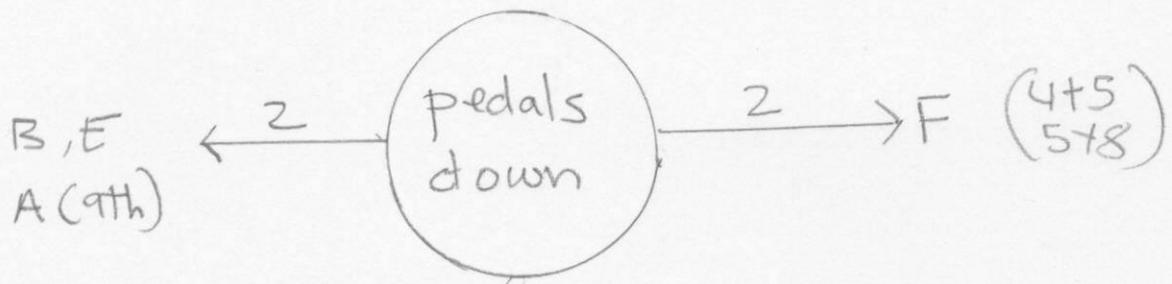
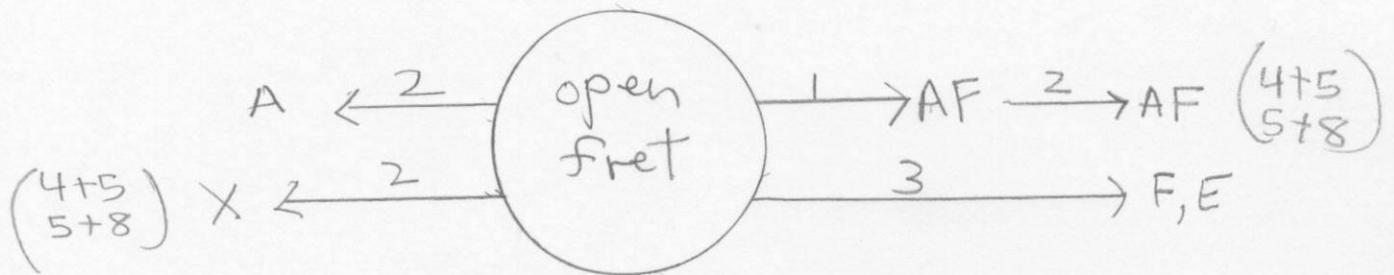
Example: C to F, G to C, D to G or 1 to 4, 5 to 1 or 2 to 5

in jazz nearly every chord is a 7th

don't confuse with major 7th, minor 7th, diminished 7th

look for opportunities to use 7th as a chord or a run or phrase

E9 pedal steel 7th positions



Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain-C

C C C C

G7 G7 C C

C C C C

G7 G7 C C7

F F F F

C C G7 G7

C C C C

G7 G7 C C

Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain-C

C	C	C	C
3AB	8	11AF	15AB

G7	G7	C	C
15	10AB	8	3AB

C	C	C	C
1E	3AB	8	11AF

G7	G7	C	C7
16AB	6AF	8	3AB

F	F	F	F
1	4AF	8AB	6E

C	C	G7	G7
3AB	8	10AB	15

C	C	C	C
15AB	11AF	8	3AB

G7	G7	C	C
3	6AF	8	11AF

Let's Play 1

Chord progression for Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain---no 7th chords shown; the positions using the E lever use strings 4&5 or 5&8 only--all the others positions can use strings 3,4, 5, 6, 8 10.. E lever lowers 4&8 strings from E to Eb; A pedal raises 5 & 10; B to C# and B pedal raises 3&6 from G# to A

C
3AB

C
8

C
11AF

C
15AB

G7
15

G7
10AB

C
8

C
3AB

C
1E

C
3AB

C
8

C
11AF

G7
10AB

G7
6AB

C
8

C7
3AB

F
1

F
4AF

F
8AB

F
6E

C
3AB

C
8

G7
10AB

G7
15

C
15AB

C
11AF

C
8

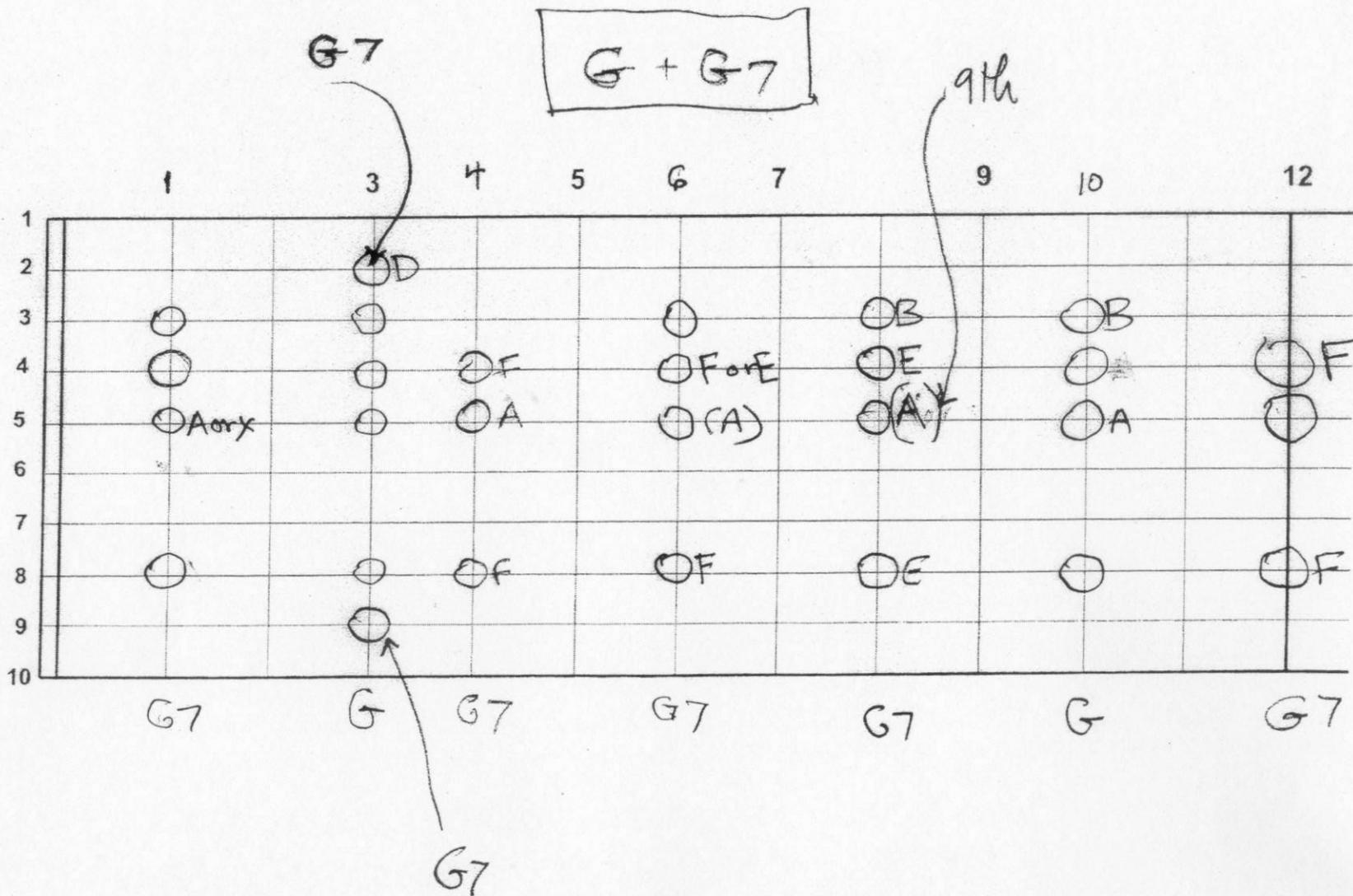
C
3AB

G7
3

G7
6AF

C
8

C
11AF



D - lower 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
 X - lower 5 $\frac{1}{2}$

E - lower 4+8 $\frac{1}{2}$
 F - raise 4+8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain-C

on 3+8	^C 3AB/4AF	^C 3AB/1A/1E	^C 3AB	^C 1C
3,4,5	^{G7} 6F/1A	^{G7} 3/8AB	^C 8	^C _____
5+8	^C 3AB/6E	^C 3AB/8E/6E	^C 3AB	^C 3AB 6,8,10
5,6,8	^{G7} 10AB/8BE	^{G7} 13A/12F ← 5+8	^C 11AF/11AF ↑	^{C7} 11H/12/13 3+5
3+5	^F 12/13AB/13	^F 8AB	^F 11	^F 8A/8E/6E 4+5 ↩
3+5	^C 3AB/8	^C 11AF/8AB/8	^{G7} 10AB/8AB	^{G7} 8/6
3+5	^C 3AB/6	^C 8/6/3AB	^C 8	^C 3AB/1/2
3+5	^{G7} 3/8AB	^{G7} 8/6	^C 3AB	^C _____

Let's Play 3 tab-1

tab for Let's Play 3 video

Key of C---Blues Eyes Crying in the Rain progression

C G7 C

3
4
5 15A~13A~11A 8~~6~~3A 3A~1A 1A~1 3A~4A~3A 10A 4A 8A~6A 3A
6
7
8 15~~13~~11F 8E~6E~3 3~~1 1~~1E 3~~4F~3 10 4F 8~~6F 3

C G7 C

3
4 3 3~~1~~1~0F~1E 6F~4F~8 8 8~~10~~11F~15 15~~13~~11F 10 8 6 3
5 3A 3A~1A~1~0~~1 6A~4A~8 8 8A~10A~11A~15A 15A~13A~11A 10A 8A 6A 3A
6
7
8

C7 F C G7

3
4 5F~6 8 8 10 11F 15 13~~13E
5 5~~6A 4A~6A~8A 11A~9A~8A 4A~6A~8A 8A 8A~10A~11A~15A 13A~13 13A
6
7
8 4F~6~~8 11F~9F~8 4F~6~~8 13

C G7 C

3
4
5 15A~13A~11A 8~~6 3A 3A~1A 1A~1~1 3A~4A~3A 10A 1A~3A 4A 4A 3A~1A~1
6
7
8 15~~13~~11F 8E~6E 3 3~~1 1~~1~1E 3~~4F~3 10 1~~3 4F 4F 3~~1~~1E
9