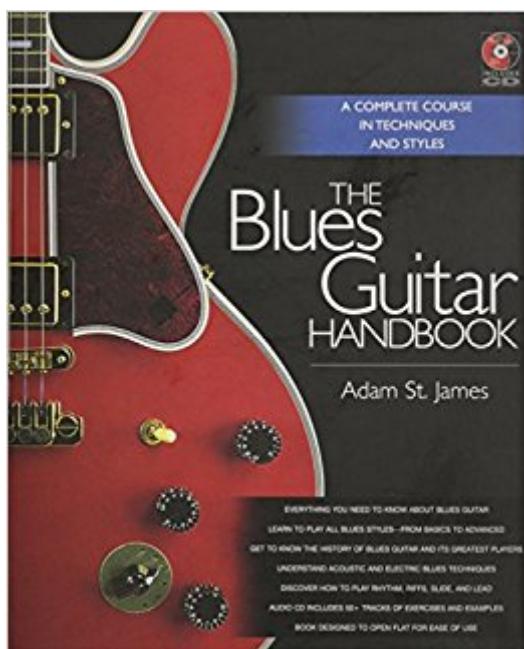


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# The Blues Guitar Handbook - A Complete Course In Techniques And Styles



## Synopsis

(Book). This latest entry in Backbeat's bestselling handbook series starts by exploring the humble beginnings of blues guitar through the early decades of the 20th century, including profiles of such players as Robert Johnson, Charley Patton, and Son House. As the story moves into the '40s and '50s, and blues players migrate to major urban centers, author Adam St. James follows the evolution of the music at the hands of such electric blues kingpins as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and B. B. King. Then it's the blues-rockers of the '60s, '70s, and '80s (including Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, Jeff Beck, and Stevie Ray Vaughan) before the story comes up to date, with blues flame-keepers such as Keb Mo' or Duke Robillard, and some not-quite-traditionalists, such as Robben Ford or Derek Trucks. A comprehensive section for mastering electric and acoustic blues follows this historic overview. Starting from the very basics, it leads you into more advanced rhythm and lead techniques before examining four key styles: acoustic blues, classic electric blues, blues rock, and jazz blues. The many exercises in the book are supported by specially recorded audio tracks accessed online using the unique code inside each book. The audio files include PLAYBACK+, a multi-functional audio player that allows you to slow down audio without changing pitch, set loop points, change keys, and pan left or right.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Adam St. James is the editor of Guitar.com and author or editor of numerous guitar and music books, including 101 Recording Tips: Stuff All the Pros Know and Use and The Picture Chord Encyclopedia.

I really like the approach this book takes to cover blues guitar. Giving you enough music theory to understand what makes the blues. Then building on that base, to teach you rhythm blues guitar, followed by lead stuff. Finally covering the styles of several famous blues guitarists. This step by step approach that tries to get you to understand what you are playing, rather than just "memorize these licks" approach so many books take. Working through this book takes some time, but it pays off well in the end.

This is a great book packed with tons of information. It has a pretty detailed history of the blues which is nice; if you aren't familiar with some of the old greats you can look up these names on youtube and listen to what they contributed to the genre. There is also a good section on reading music and tab. Then the book is broken down into sections on rhythm, riffs and leads. I like it as it teaches you practice exercises in the book and gives you ideas to keep expanding by creating your own exercises. This book has really helped me a lot so far; I've got a ways to go, but I'm encouraged and excited by the material and it makes me want to practice all the more. I also like the quality of the book itself- being spiral bound and the fact that there's a cd with it. I've been playing not so seriously for years and now that I'm more serious about where I want to go in my playing I can say I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn blues. Keep practicing, add in other sources, lessons, etc. and you'll be well on your way. Like another reviewer said- this book teaches you to think like a blues player, it teaches techniques that you can then apply and change and experiment with and not just lots of riffs. If you get it you'll like it.

A great book with some fun historic information in the beginning. The blues lessons are very fundamental - if you are an intermediate player be ready to "know a lot of this already" but even then it just helps to reinforce the basic blues concepts that can improve your playing. Also, in an era of online lessons, it is a nice break to learn from a book - where you can read the lesson, study the notation, play it, and make the lick more of your own vs. trying to play exactly like the person in a video. The spiral binding is an added bonus!

This is a book that struggling Blues players need. It does cover techniques and styles of blues guitar. This is a book to read if you are doing Adam's 12 weeks guitar course. The historical history in this book is very informative and teaches you the history of famous blues players.

Great book very detailed in the writing and the illustration. It's sort of like a college course book, you just go through each day with a lesson and practice what you've read. I'm still a novice but this is helping me with the understanding of reading sheet music and what everything means. I think this book would be useful with a novice or an intermediate player.

This series of books is excellent. I have the jazz one as well and really enjoy them.

Very nice book , much more than just a guitar tutorial. Very pleased.

These series are great. Makes an excellent text for individual or teacher led instruction.

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