

## 7 Practical Tips for Better Slow Blues Improvisation

Tip	Why It Matters	How to Practice
Use space between licks	Gives your solos a vocal, conversational quality and prevents overplaying.	Play a lick, then count 2-3 beats before playing another. Practice with a metronome.
Target chord tones	Resolves phrases clearly and locks in with harmony.	Isolate the root, 3rd, 5th, and 7th of each chord in the 12-bar blues.
		Land phrases on those notes.
Use blues scale variations	Adds depth and interest to your lines beyond just the standard scale.	Practice switching between minor blues, major blues, and 'bluesy' pentatonic scales.
Work on rhythmic phrasing	Strong rhythm makes your solo groove and feel intentional.	Alternate between swung 8ths, triplets, and rests. Clap rhythms before you play.
Develop motifs	Gives your solo structure and memorability.	Repeat a short 3-5 note phrase, then vary it slightly over the next few measures.
Keep the left hand simple	A solid groove supports your right hand and avoids clutter.	Use root + 7th or root + shell voicings. Practice comping steady rhythms.
Play slow blues at different tempos	Builds control and dynamic range in your playing.	Practice the same lick at 50 bpm, 70 bpm, and 90 bpm to internalize feel.