

Blues Player Documentation

Blues Player is a unique and revolutionary way of learning how to play blues music. Please take a few moments to see how Blues Player differs from traditional Music Minus One systems.

Blues Player is a Music Minus One system that runs on every Windows PC. By running such a system on the computer instead of a normal CD player, you get a lot of benefits and features that simply isn't possible on traditional hi-fi equipment.

Variable playback

Normally Music Minus One consists of some sheet material and a cd with static music tracks that sounds the same every time you play them. When practising to the music you have to start and play the same piece of music over and over again, so in the long run the music gets boring. With Blues Player things are different. First of all you design your own band consisting of either drums, bass, piano or all three instruments together.

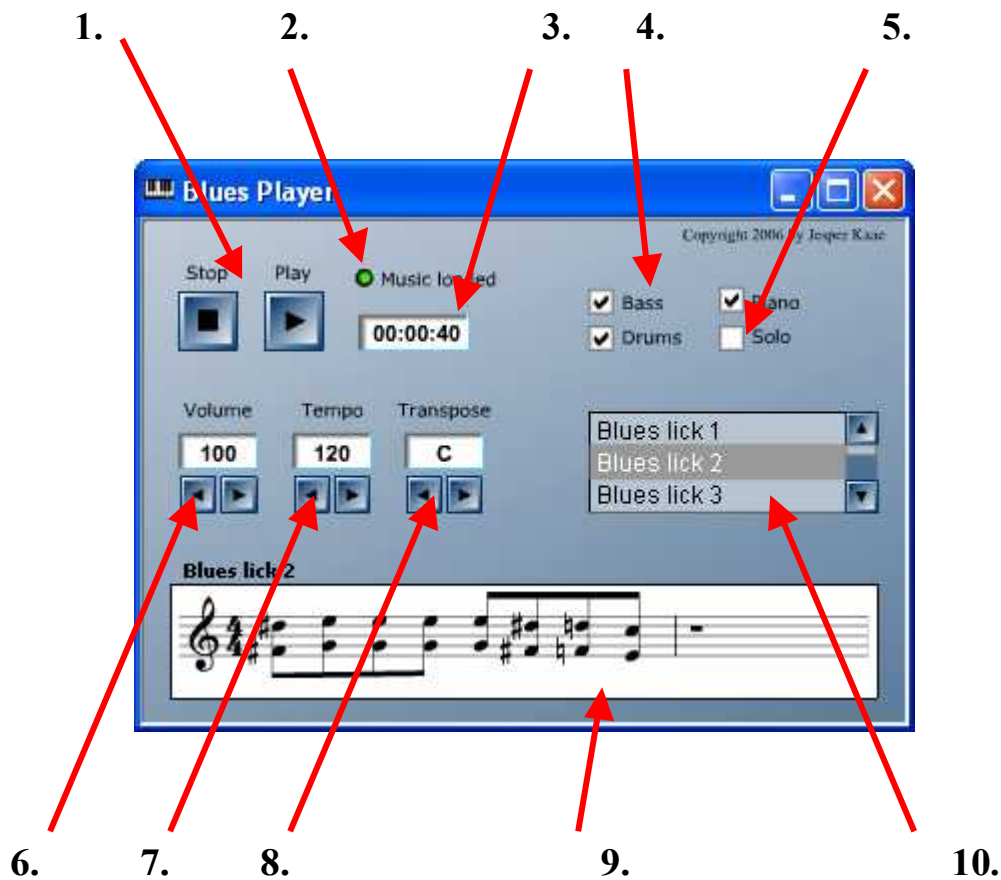
The system plays a 12 bar blues scheme over and over again, but each instrument consists of a lot of variations of the 12 bar blues. This means that every time the blues is repeated it will sound a bit different than the previous performance. This gives a more authentic feeling of playing with a live band.

Controllable blues licks

Normally you can't change the key or tempo of your Music Minus One material. With Blues Player you can play the blues licks in any tempo and in any key you might wish. A slower tempo makes it much easier to practise some of the difficult licks. And the transpose function gives you a great opportunity to practise the licks in different keys, which normally is some of the less fun work to do. Every time you change the tempo or transposition the backing band will do the same. Every time you press a lick the system will automatically find an appropriate place in the music to play the lick. In that way you will learn where in a 12 bar blues the licks will fit in. Another feature is that the licks will automatically adapt to the chord changes in the blues scheme.

Automatic improvisation generator

If you prefer to practise how to accompany in blues music you can do so by letting Blues Player play a piano solo. Blues player will pick random from the 30 licks and combine them to an improvisation. In that way you can get an impression of how to use the licks.



1. **Stop and Play buttons.** Pressing play will start a 12 bar blues and play it over and over again. Be aware that nothing is heard until you choose your instruments (5.).
2. **Loading indicator.** This little light tells you whether the music is loaded or not. Red light means that no music has loaded, yellow light tells you that the music is loading, and green light tells you the music is loaded and Blues Player is ready for use.
3. **Time indicator.** This display tells you how long the backing band has been playing.
4. **Instrument check boxes.** Here you choose which instruments should be playing. The backing band consists of bass, drums and piano.
5. **Solo check box.** When checking this box Blues Player will automatically generate a piano solo by combining all 30 blues licks in different ways.
6. **Volume control.** Increase or decrease volume for both blues licks and backing band.
7. **Tempo control.** Increase or decrease volume for both blues licks and backing band.
8. **Transpose control.** Change the transposition for both blues licks and baking band.
9. **Blues lick display.** This display shows you the currently chosen blues lick as musical notation. Be aware that the licks are written in the most readable area of the staff. This means that especially when transposing, the licks may sound an octave higher or lower than the notation.
10. **Blues lick list.** Here you choose between 30 blues licks. Press the mouse button on one of the licks and the lick will play and be shown in the display beneath (9.). Be aware that Blues Player will automatically find a suitable place in the 12 bar blues to play the lick. It may therefore take a short while for the lick to sound.