

# 1.2 Twelve Bar Blues

in C

The **Twelve Bar Blues** is one of the most commonly used chord progressions in popular music. The blues can be thought of as 3 separate groupings of 4 bars. Play through each grouping and listen to how each chord sounds in comparison to each other.

1.

The first four bars of the Twelve Bar Blues in C. The first bar is labeled C7. The first four bars are grouped under a bracket labeled I.

The first four bars start on the **Tonic Chord** (the roman numeral **I Chord**.)

2.

The second four bars of the Twelve Bar Blues in C. The fifth bar is labeled F7 and the sixth bar is labeled C7. The first two bars of this group are grouped under a bracket labeled IV, and the last two bars are grouped under a bracket labeled I.

The second 4 bar group begins on the **Subdominant Chord** (the roman numeral **IV Chord**) for 2 bars before returning back to the tonic ( I ).

3.

The third four bars of the Twelve Bar Blues in C. The ninth bar is labeled G7, the tenth bar is labeled F7, the eleventh bar is labeled C7, and the twelfth bar is labeled G7. The first bar is grouped under a bracket labeled V, the second bar under IV, the third bar under I, and the fourth bar under V.

The third 4 bar group begins on the **Dominant Chord** (the roman numeral **V Chord**) for one bar, followed by the subdominant ( IV ), then the tonic ( I ), before returning to the dominant ( V ). This final grouping is typically called the **Turnaround** and is commonly reinterpreted using varying chord progressions.