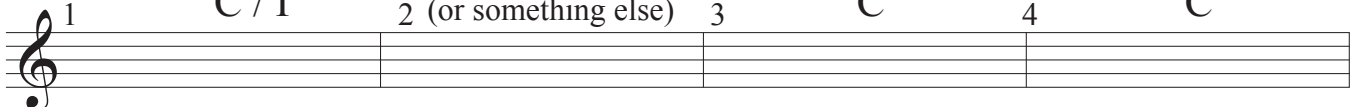


# 12-Bar Blues Format

**PHRASE 1**

( C )

1 C / I 2 (or something else) 3 C 4 C




**HOME** \_\_\_\_\_

Basic idea/lyrics stated

**PHRASE 2**

5 F / IV 6 F 7 C / I 8 C

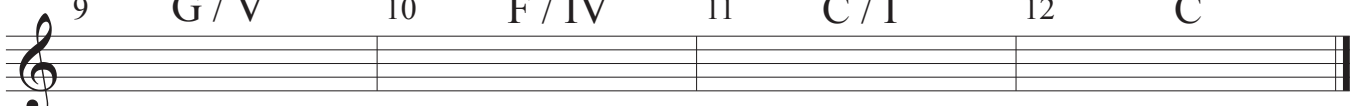


**AWAY** \_\_\_\_\_ **BRIEF RETURN** \_\_\_\_\_

Basic idea/lyrics re-stated or slightly modified **HOME**

**PHRASE 3**

9 G / V 10 F / IV 11 C / I 12 C



**FURTHER AWAY** **(RETURNING HOME)** **HOME** \_\_\_\_\_

Break away from basic idea / conclusion ("turn around") - the most dramatic part

*Note: the chords above are just possible examples.*

## GENERAL PLAN

The blues form actually comes in various incarnations/forms. The repeating 12-bar blues form is probably the most common. It subdivides into three groups (phrases) of four measures (as seen above), or like so, where we can say the music occupies three distinct areas (Home, Away, Further-Away) before returning home:

**Home:** basic idea stated

**Away:** basic idea re-stated / modified; Breif return home

**Further away:** idea concluded; Return home (sometimes called a "turn around")

Or put into a line diagram:

**HOME.....AWAY.....(BRIEF RETURN).....FURTHER AWAY (!) .....SOLID RETURN HOME**