



LESSON BOOK



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SESSION 11- Pentatonic Scales - The Foundation of Soloing



Estimated Time to Learn These Concepts - 4 Weeks

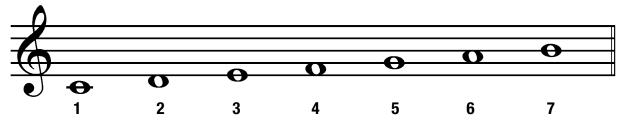
"Our musical minds know everything they have ever heard, while our hands know only what we've trained them to do."

~ Chris Proctor, Fingerstyle Guitarist

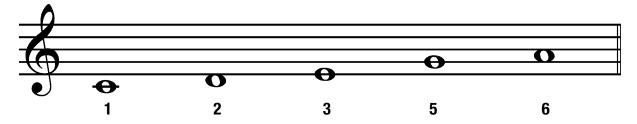
What's a Pentatonic Scale?

A PENTATONIC SCALE is a five note scale derived from the major scale. It uses the first, second, third, fifth, and sixth steps of the major scale.

C Major Scale

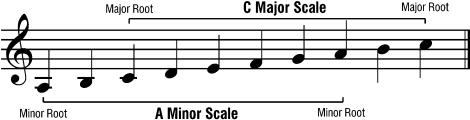


C Pentatonic Scale



Parallel Major & Minor Roots

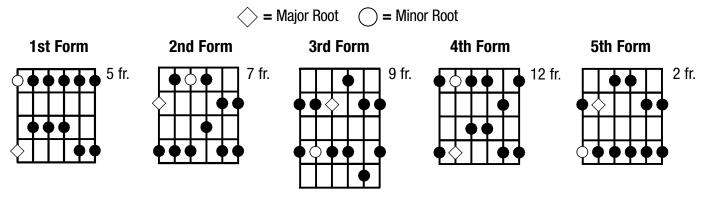
There is a special relationship between the first and sixth step of the major scale which is called PARALLEL. The first step of the major scale is called the PARALLEL MAJOR. The sixth step is called the PARALLEL MINOR. To find the parallel minor when given the parallel major you would go up from the parallel major six steps in the major scale. You could also go down two steps from the parallel major to find the parallel minor. After you find the parallel major or minor root, you can then build the appropriate major or minor scale. Parallel major and minor scales share the same KEY SIGNATURE.



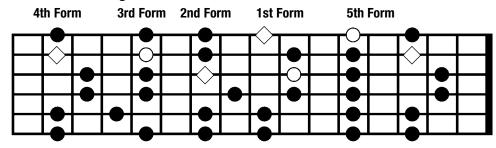


The Five Pentatonic Forms

Since there are five notes in a pentatonic scale, there are five different forms that we can use to play the scale if we start on each different note. These are the five forms of a C major pentatonic scale or an A minor pentatonic scale. The diamond shows the major root and the open circle shows the minor root. On guitar, these five forms connect together like overlapping puzzle pieces as shown in the lower example.

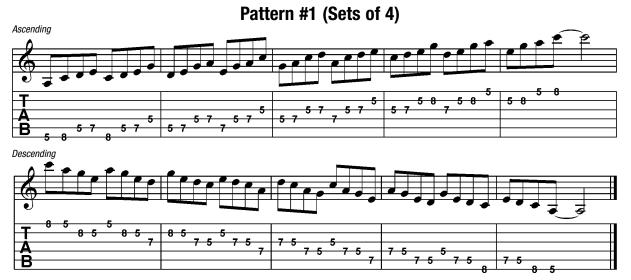


Pentatonic Forms Connect Together



Common Pentatonic Patterns

Directions: These examples are given in pentatonic form #1. Practice each pattern. Begin slowly, then gradually increase speed. Try playing these patterns in different keys and places on the neck. Use all pentatonic forms.





Pattern #2 (Sets of 3)



Pattern #3 (3 Pairs)







Session 11 Assignment

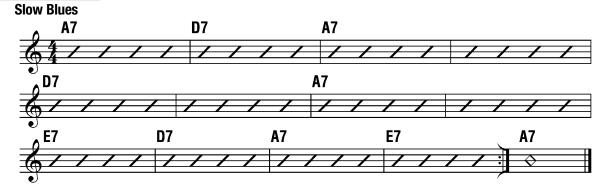
- Practice all of the pentatonic forms ascending and descending. Memorize them. (page 64)
- Practice the pentatonic forms in all of the keys. (page 64)
- Practice connecting them together to play in all the keys the full length of the guitar. (page 64)
- Practice the common pentatonic patterns in various keys and places on the neck. (pages 64-65)
- Practice soloing using pentatonic scales on A Minor Pentatonic Blues, G Major Pentatonic, and Around the Pentatonic World. Make up your own solo using the scales suggested. (page 66)





A Minor Pentatonic Blues

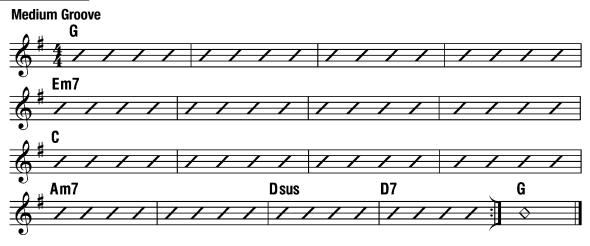
Solo using the A Minor Pentatonic Scale





G Major Pentatonic

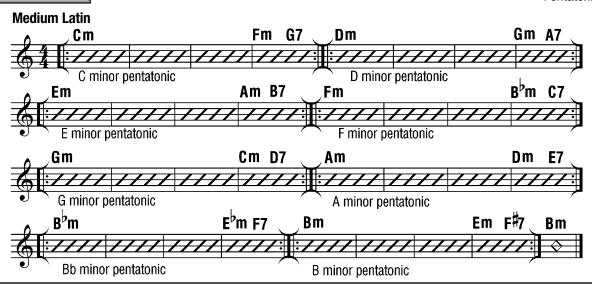
Solo using a G Major Pentatonic Scale





Around the Pentatonic World

Solo using the appropriate Pentatonic Scale





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