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Eric Clapton

Player Studies

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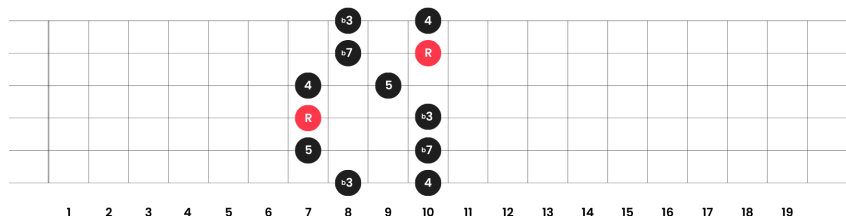
Minor Pentatonic

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Lesson notes   Interactive tab   Diagrams

Pentatonic Shape 2

Let's now look at pentatonic box 2. This time as we go through it we will really highlight all of the various tones within the shape. This is such an important part of learning this scale, and how we can then develop it later on down the line (and later in this course). Notice how shape 1 and 2 back onto each other. This is important when we come to join these two shapes.

A Minor Pentatonic Box 2

Here is a cool Clapton style lick using shape 2 of the pentatonic. Notice how we are combining two notes at the same time here to get a more overdriven, sludgy sound, notorious of Clapton in Cream. The repetitive nature of it, alongside the rhythm, make for an awesome blues tone!

"We start by sliding into the 5th and b7th!..."

Look out for these triplet groupings, where we count "1 2 3" or "tri-pl-let" to dive the beat!

> Once again notice how we're defining the lick in intervals rather than tab notes. Also, those triplet subdivisions are really important, especially in a blues repertoire of licks!
>
> **Dan** ❝❞

So, work through this shape in detail, learning the lick (using the interactive tab) and also learning those intervals. There is no rush to move on, but also note that this process is a long term one. Every time you play a lick within a scale, try to define it using intervals rather than tab numbers!

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