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Practice summary



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The Nitty Gritty

UNIT 4 • LESSON 1 « PREVIOUS NEXT »

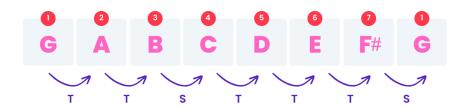
Lesson notes Interactive tab Diagrams

Major Scale Theory

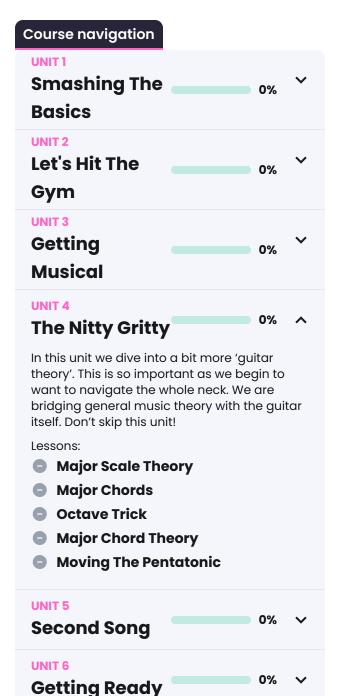
To kick off this unit, we need to catch up with a little bit of theory. Learning the major scale is absolutely crucial when it comes to understanding chords, scales, keys and pretty much everything you play on the guitar! So, let's go through it. To create a major scale, we need a simple formula. The formula is:

"tone, tone, semitone, tone, tone, tone, semitone"

So, to work out a major scale you pop the first note at the start, and let the formula do the rest. Let's work out the G MAJOR scale as an example.



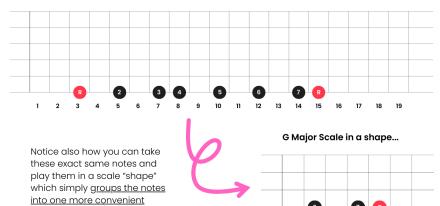
Using the full 12 notes of western music, we can apply our formula, remembering that a tone is 2 frets



and a semitone is 1 fret. We therefore get this result! Let's take a look at the fretboard and tab for this scale.



G Major Scale on 1 String





place to play them!

On the fretboard diagram - Instead of finger numbers, the numbers in the circles represent scale degrees. This is an important shift from

finger numbers.

So the notes are "root, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and root", which signifies the major scale. At this stage, this is as much as we need to understand! So there we have it, the major scale, and this can now be added to your Guitar Gym warm ups!



Want to know more?

If this intro to music theory has piqued your interest, of if you'd like to go into more detail check out our Essential Theory course in the Theory Lab section of the site.



Essential Theory Theory Lab



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