

Lesson

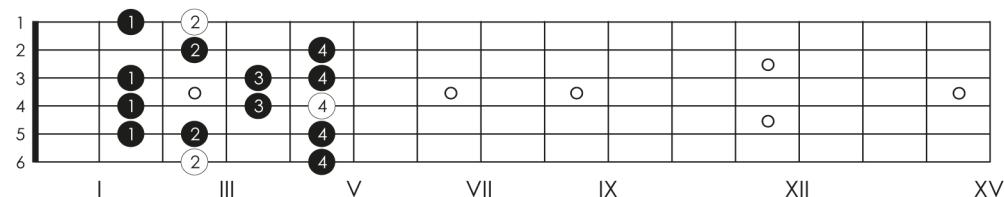
89

Learn Major Scale Pattern #1

The major scale is the most important scale in music. The whole planet uses it to make music and define music theory. These next few lessons will show you how to play this scale on the guitar in a way that is very similar to how you played the minor pentatonic scale patterns.

Here is the first of five patterns for the major scale:

G Major Scale Pattern #1



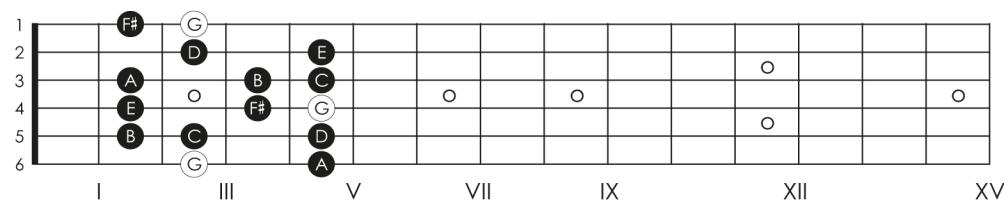
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A string diagram for the G major scale. It shows the strings T (top), A, B, and G (bottom). Fingerings are indicated above the strings: T (2-3-2), A (3-5), B (2-4-5), and G (5-4-2). Below the strings, a sequence of numbers represents the fingering pattern: 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 2 4 1 2 1 4 2 4 3 1 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2.

The major scale has seven different notes:

G major scale = **G A B C D E F#**

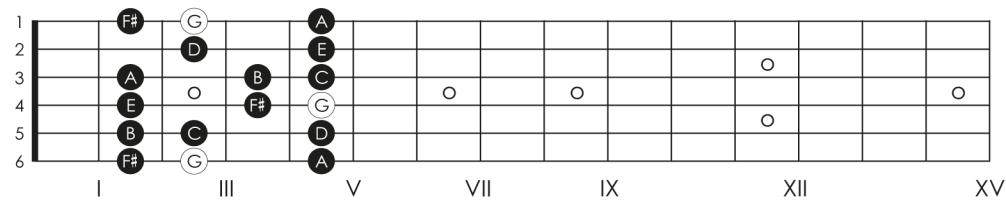
This first pattern covers two octaves worth of the G major scale notes, starting on G and going up to G (two octaves higher).



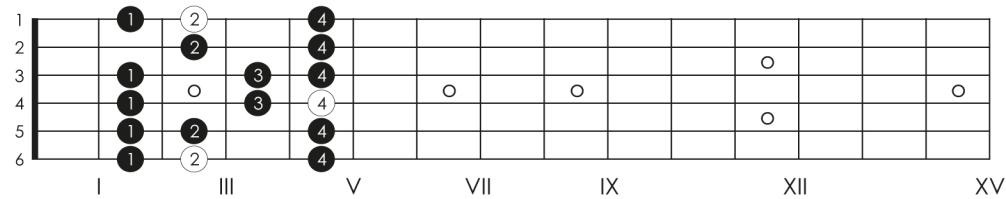
Our brains are “wired” in a way where we like to hear this scale played from the tonic up to a tonic and back down again. That is how scales have been practiced for centuries. However, as a guitarist, it is more practical to know your scales in a different way: you want to be able to locate all the notes of any particular scale that occur in the position that the hand is in at the moment. That is how these following patterns have been organized.

So for pattern #1, let’s add the F# that occurs on the 6th string, 2nd fret and the A that occurs on the 1st string, 5th fret. This way, when you use this pattern to make music, you will have *all* the notes of the major scale right under your fingertips.

And of course, the tonic shapes tell you what key the pattern is in.



Here’s the fingering for the complete pattern:



So spend some time getting to know this new scale. As always, when learning new material you want to take it very slowly. Use the same approach you did when you learned the minor pentatonic scale patterns:

- Go slowly! No tempo, just one note at a time
- Multiple passes, ascending and descending
- Strive for ten or more accurate repetitions
- Focus on fingering for now—note names will come later

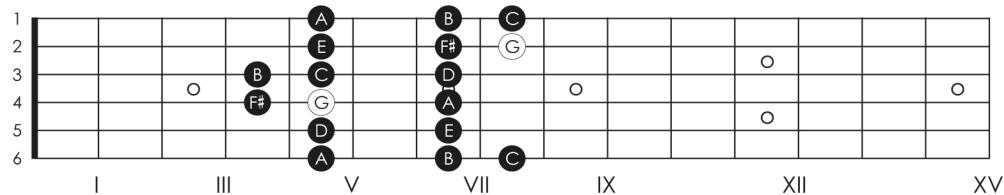
Lesson

90

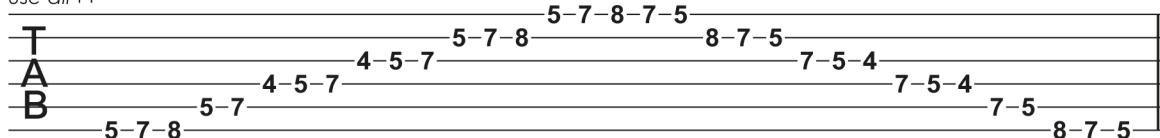
Learn Major Scale Pattern #2

Here is the second of the five patterns for the major scale. It starts on the note A and goes up to the note C. The tonics are on the 2nd and 4th strings.

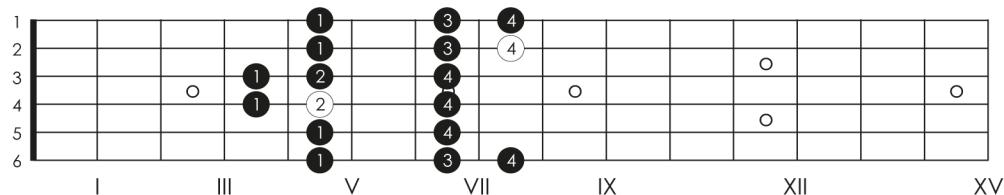
G Major Scale Pattern #2



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fingering: 1 3 4 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 1 4 3 1

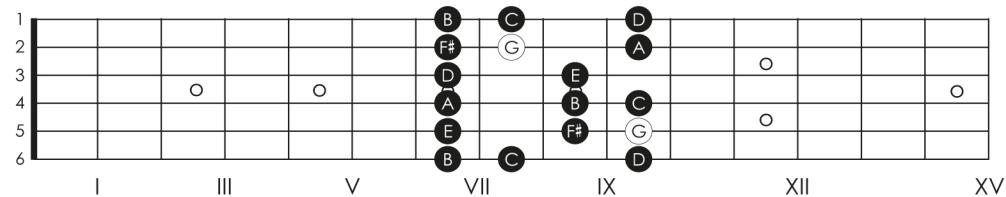


Notice the fingering on the 5th string. Using your 4th finger on the VII fret facilitates a smooth transition from V position to IV position.

Learn Major Scale Pattern #3

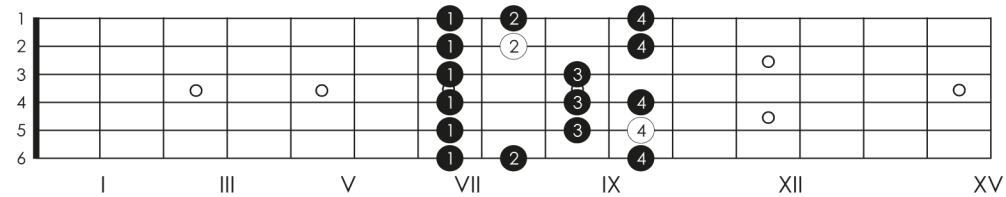
Here is the third of the five patterns for the major scale. It starts on the note B and goes up to the note D. The tonics are on the 2nd and 5th strings.

G Major Scale Pattern #3



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fingering: 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 1 4 2 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 4 2 1



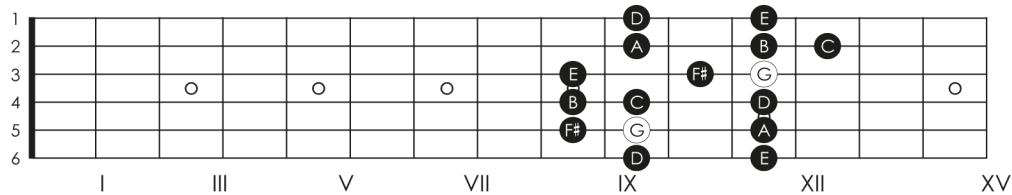
Lesson

92

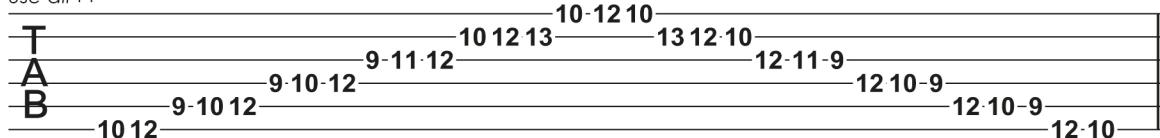
Learn Major Scale Pattern #4

Here is the fourth of the five patterns for the major scale. It starts on the note D and goes up to the note E. The tonics are on the 3rd and 5th strings.

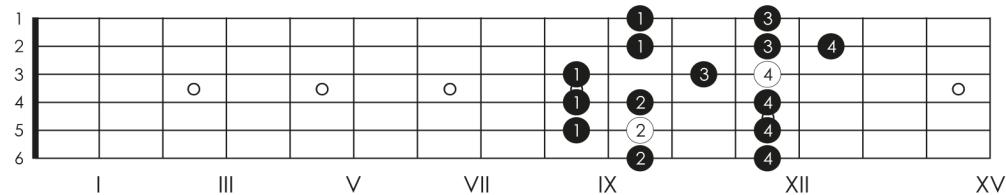
G Major Scale Pattern #4



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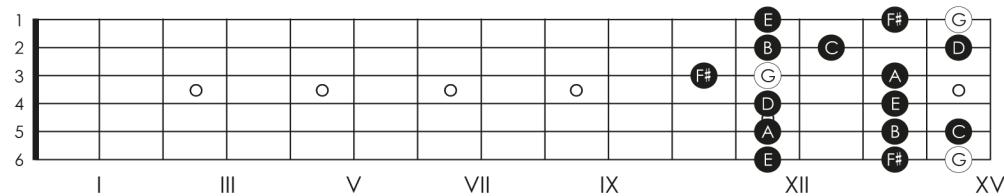
fingering: 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 2



Learn Major Scale Pattern #5

Here is the fifth of the five patterns for the major scale. It starts on an E and goes up to the note G. The tonics are on the 1st, 3rd and 6th strings.

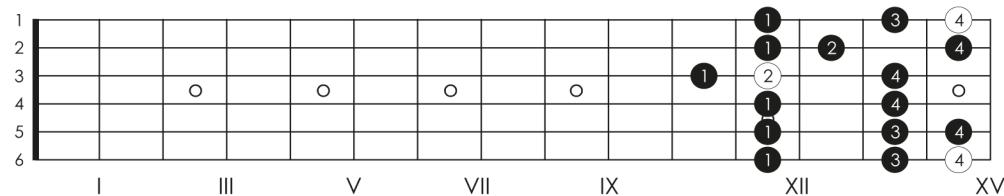
G Major Scale Pattern #5



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String diagram for G Major Scale Pattern #5. It shows fingerings for each string: T (12 14 15), A (11 12 14), B (12 14 15), and E (12 14 15).

fingering: 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 1



Notice the fingering on the 4th string. This helps with the position shift.

Important!

Once you've become comfortable with all five patterns, use Transposition Drill #1 to get accustomed to moving the major scale patterns around the fretboard to different keys.