

easyscales:

guitar

s c a l e p a t t e r n s

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Contents

I. Preface	4
The scale diagrams	4
II. Fingerings	6
III. The most important scales	
C	8
C# / D \flat	14
D	20
D# / E \flat	26
E	32
F	38
F# / G \flat	44
G	50
G# / A \flat	56
A	62
A# / B \flat	68
B	74
IV. Chord-scale chart	80

I. Preface

In this booklet we have tried to present an easy-to-use overview of the most important guitar scales. We tried to choose the most useful ones from the almost limitless possibilities to build scales. We believe that these scales assure your “survival” in most musical situations. However, if you want to broaden your horizon on this subject, there are lots of books available with enough material to last you several lifetimes.

The scales are arranged in chromatically ascending order (from C to C# to D etc.).

The scale diagrams

In these diagrams, horizontal lines represent the strings, vertical lines the frets of the guitar.

The diagrams show the guitar neck as seen from the guitar player; the bottom line representing the low E-string while the uppermost line represents the high E-string.

Each note of the scale is shown with a black circle, while white circles indicate the root of the scale.

If you want to play or practice any scale, start with the first note on the low E-string, then play all the other notes on the low E-string. Having accomplished this, change to the lowest note on the A-string, then the lowest one on the D-string, etc.

If you reach the highest note on the high E-string, reverse the procedure to play the scale descending.

Hint: always memorize the root of the scale. In most cases, the highest/lowest playable note of a fingering is **not** the root!

If you have played a given scale enough to memorize the sound and the fingering, there are lots of ways to really practise these scales intensively and creatively. We couldn't mention even a small selection of practice possibilities without writing several more books, so we'll leave you on your own to check them out and to develop your own. There are lots of books available on this topic.

The five fingerings shown for each scale connect seamlessly, so you can play the scale using the whole neck of the guitar. Each fingering repeats an octave (twelve frets) higher, so you can play as high up on the neck as your guitar permits.

Each group of fingerings starts with the lowest possible position without open strings.

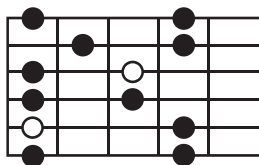
We didn't notate these scales in standard notation. This was done on purpose to keep things simple.

Hint: there are dozens of fingerings for each of these scales. Some of them are optimized for special purposes (speed picking or string-skipping, for example), some are used almost exclusively by certain musicians (check out Shawn Lane's or Steve Morse's often unconventional fingerings) etc.

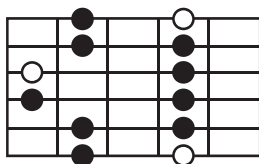
These fingerings are only meant as a starting point for further study and, above all, experimentation.

Root C

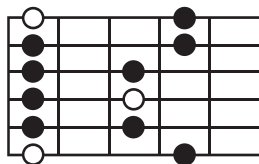
Minor pentatonic scale



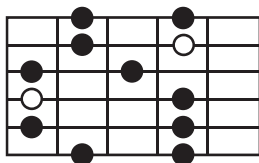
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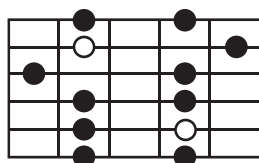
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VIII.

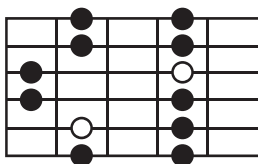


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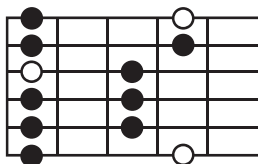


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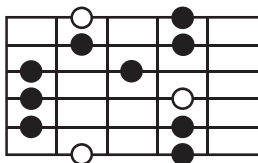
Major pentatonic scale



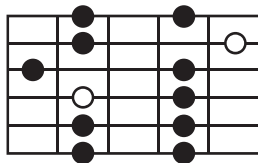
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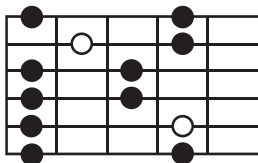
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VII.



IX.



XII.