

Learn & Master GUITAR

with **Steve Krenz**

LESSON BOOK

LEGACY
LEARNING SYSTEMS



Learn & Master
GUITAR
with Steve Krenz

LESSON BOOK



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SESSION 11 - Pentatonic Scales - The Foundation of Soloing



Estimated Time to Learn These Concepts - 4 Weeks

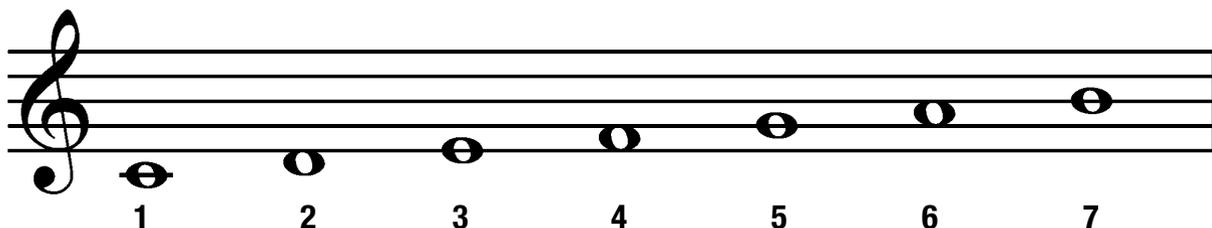
“Our musical minds know everything they have ever heard, while our hands know only what we've trained them to do.”

~ Chris Proctor, *Fingerstyle Guitarist*

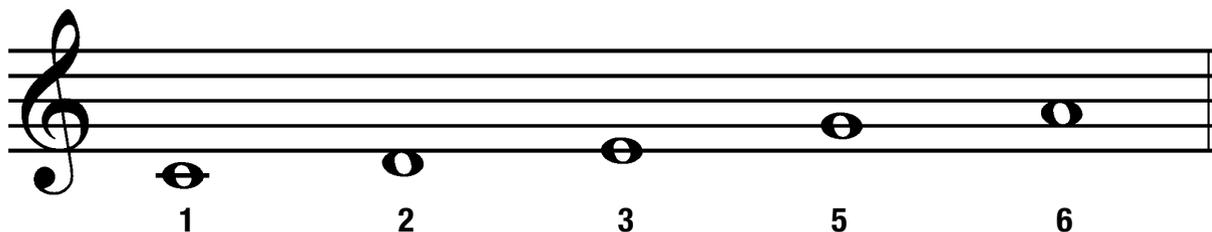
What's a Pentatonic Scale?

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

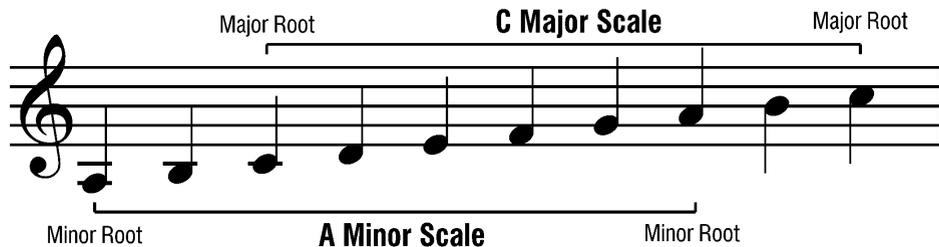


C Pentatonic Scale



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.

◇ = Major Root ○ = Minor Root

1st Form

5 fr.

2nd Form

7 fr.

3rd Form

9 fr.

4th Form

12 fr.

5th Form

2 fr.

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 #1 (Sets of 4)

Ascending

Descending

Pattern #2 (Sets of 3)

Ascending and Descending

Musical notation for Pattern #2 (Sets of 3) showing ascending and descending scales with guitar tablature. The notation includes a treble clef staff with notes and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers.

Pattern #3 (3 Pairs)

Ascending

Musical notation for Pattern #3 (3 Pairs) showing ascending scales with guitar tablature. The notation includes a treble clef staff with notes and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers.

Descending

Musical notation for Pattern #3 (3 Pairs) showing descending scales with guitar tablature. The notation includes a treble clef staff with notes and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers.

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)

 Jam Along CD #3
Track 17

A Minor Pentatonic Blues

Solo using the A Minor Pentatonic Scale

Slow Blues

 Jam Along CD #3
Track 18

G Major Pentatonic

Solo using a G Major Pentatonic Scale

Medium Groove

 Jam Along CD #3
Track 19

Around the Pentatonic World

Solo using the appropriate Pentatonic Scale

Medium Latin



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