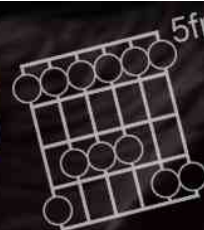




# PENTATONIC SCALES

GUITAR TOOLS YOU NEED TO KNOW

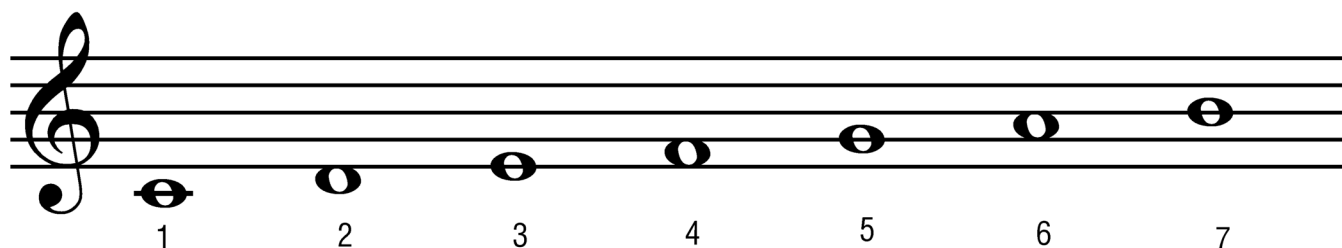


## Pentatonic Scales

A pentatonic scale is a 5-note scale derived from the major scale. The five notes of the pentatonic scale create five pentatonic forms that connect together like jigsaw puzzle pieces on the neck of the guitar. Many players know some of the forms but don't understand how they connect together. This lesson shows you how these scales connect together so you can play any pentatonic scale anywhere on the neck.

### C Major Scale

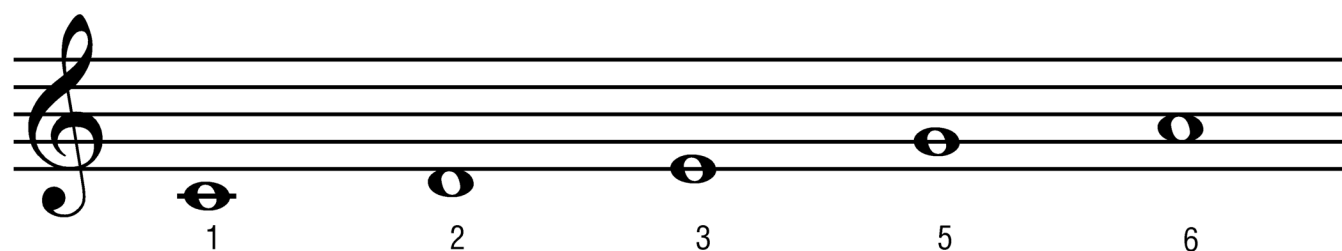
The major scale has 7 notes. Here is the C major scale.



### C Pentatonic Scale

The pentatonic scale has 5 notes – hence the name “pentatonic”.

The pentatonic scale is a subset of the major scale and uses the first, second, third, fifth and sixth steps of the major scale. The pentatonic scale omits the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> step of the major scale.



### Relative Major and Minor Roots

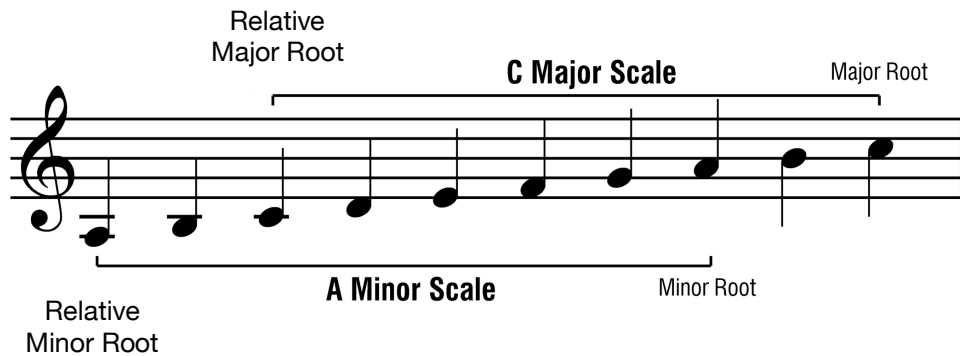
There is a special relationship between the first and sixth steps of the major scale which is called RELATIVE.

The first step of the major scale is called the RELATIVE MAJOR.

The sixth step is called the RELATIVE MINOR.

So, a major scale can be made starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> step, and a minor scale can be made by using the same set of notes starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> step.

It's two scales that share the same key signature.

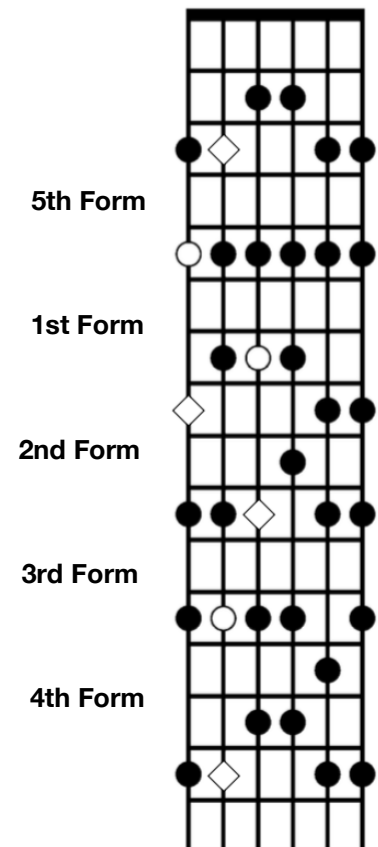
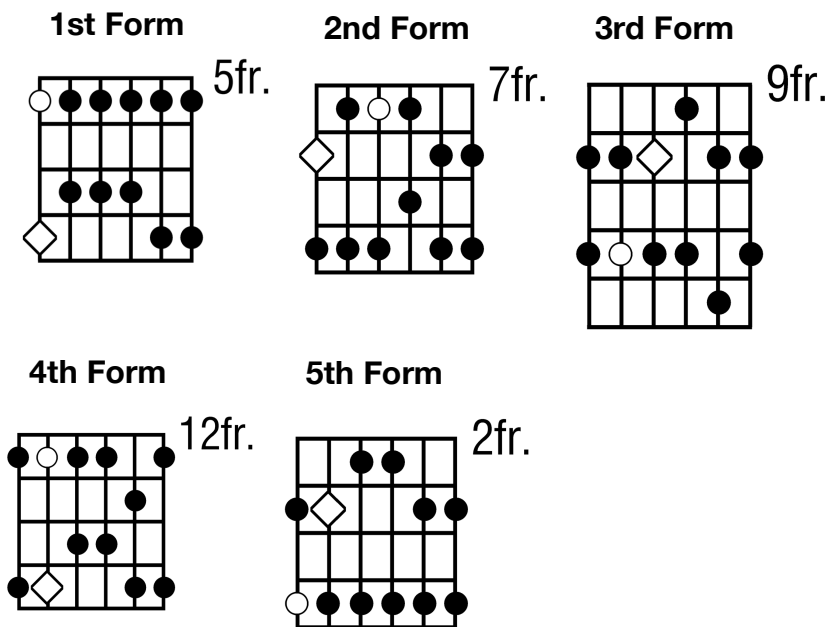


## The Five Pentatonic Forms

Since there are five notes in a pentatonic scale, there are five different forms that we can use to play the scale on guitar – each starting on a different note.

Below are the five forms of a C major pentatonic scale which can also be used to form an A minor pentatonic scale. (The diamond indicates the major root and the circle is the minor root.)

◇ = Major Root ○ = Minor Root



## Pentatonic Forms Connect Together

The pentatonic forms connect together on the guitar neck like puzzle pieces – with one side of a form sharing the same side as the next one.

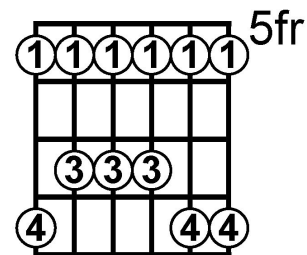
# Common Pentatonic Patterns

Here are some common pentatonic patters played on guitar. These patterns are shown using pentatonic form #1 – but they can be applied to the other forms as well.

Directions: Practice each pattern – slowly at first, then gradually increase your speed. Then, play the patterns in different keys and places on the neck.

Finally, apply them to all of the five pentatonic forms.

## 1st Form



## Pattern #1 (Sets of 4)

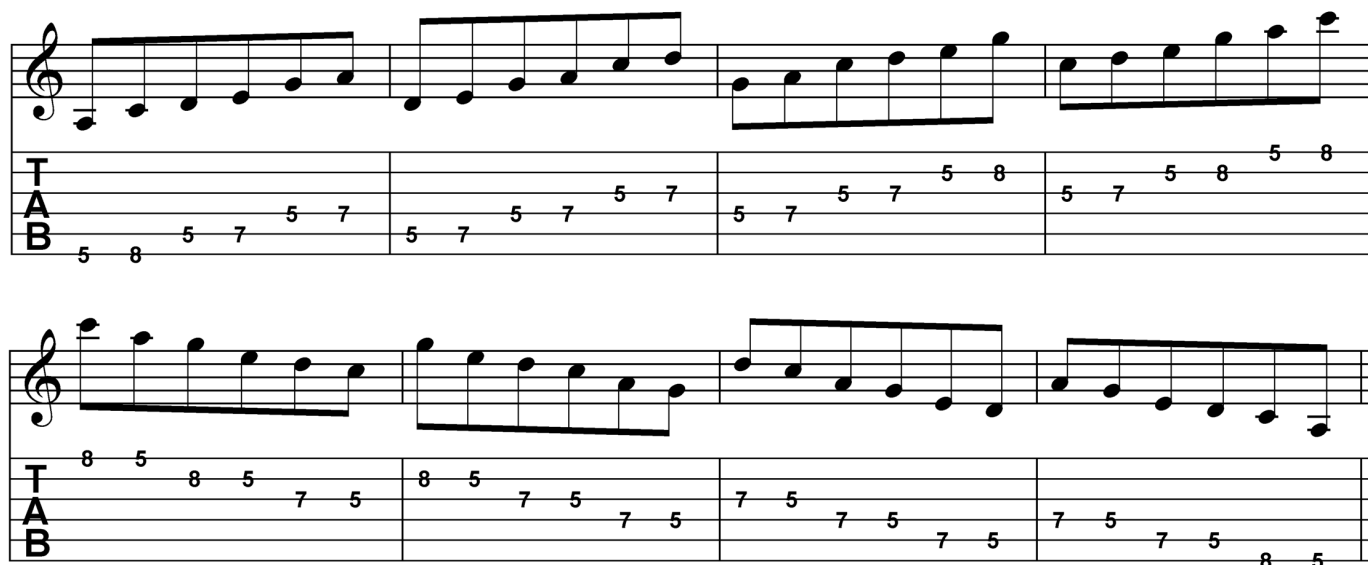
The first system of the musical score for 'The Wind' features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a single staff. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4-B4, C5-B4, and A4. The second measure contains eighth notes G4-A4, B4-A4, and G4. The third measure contains eighth notes F4-G4, A4-G4, and F4. The fourth measure contains eighth notes E4-F4, G4-F4, and E4. The fifth measure contains eighth notes D4-E4, F4-E4, and D4. The sixth measure contains eighth notes C4-D4, E4-D4, and C4. The seventh measure contains eighth notes B3-C4, D4-C4, and B3. The eighth measure contains eighth notes A3-B3, C4-B3, and A3. The ninth measure contains eighth notes G3-A3, B3-A3, and G3. The tenth measure contains eighth notes F3-G3, A3-F3, and G3. The eleventh measure contains eighth notes E3-F3, G3-E3, and F3. The twelfth measure contains eighth notes D3-E3, F3-D3, and E3. The thirteenth measure contains eighth notes C3-D3, E3-C3, and D3. The fourteenth measure contains eighth notes B2-C3, D3-B2, and C3. The fifteenth measure contains eighth notes A2-B2, C3-A2, and B2. The sixteenth measure contains eighth notes G2-A2, B2-G2, and A2. The seventeenth measure contains eighth notes F2-G2, A2-F2, and G2. The eighteenth measure contains eighth notes E2-F2, G2-E2, and F2. The nineteenth measure contains eighth notes D2-E2, F2-D2, and E2. The twentieth measure contains eighth notes C2-D2, E2-C2, and D2. The twenty-first measure contains eighth notes B1-C2, D2-B1, and C2. The twenty-second measure contains eighth notes A1-B1, C2-A1, and B1. The twenty-third measure contains eighth notes G1-A1, B1-G1, and A1. The twenty-fourth measure contains eighth notes F1-G1, A1-F1, and G1. The twenty-fifth measure contains eighth notes E1-F1, G1-E1, and F1. The twenty-sixth measure contains eighth notes D1-E1, F1-D1, and E1. The twenty-seventh measure contains eighth notes C1-D1, E1-C1, and D1. The twenty-eighth measure contains eighth notes B0-C1, D1-B0, and C1. The twenty-ninth measure contains eighth notes A0-B0, C1-A0, and B0. The thirtieth measure contains eighth notes G0-A0, B0-G0, and A0. The thirty-first measure contains eighth notes F0-G0, A0-F0, and G0. The thirty-second measure contains eighth notes E0-F0, G0-E0, and F0. The thirty-third measure contains eighth notes D0-E0, F0-D0, and E0. The thirty-fourth measure contains eighth notes C0-D0, E0-C0, and D0. The thirty-fifth measure contains eighth notes B-1-C0, D0-B-1, and C0. The thirty-sixth measure contains eighth notes A-1-B-1, C0-A-1, and B-1. The thirty-seventh measure contains eighth notes G-1-A-1, B1-G-1, and A1. The thirty-eighth measure contains eighth notes F-1-G-1, A1-F-1, and G1. The thirty-ninth measure contains eighth notes E-1-F-1, G1-E-1, and F1. The fortieth measure contains eighth notes D-1-E-1, F1-D-1, and E1. The forty-first measure contains eighth notes C-1-D-1, E1-C-1, and D1. The forty-second measure contains eighth notes B-2-C-1, D1-B-2, and C1. The forty-third measure contains eighth notes A-2-B-2, C1-A-2, and B2. The forty-fourth measure contains eighth notes G-2-A-2, B2-G-2, and A2. The forty-fifth measure contains eighth notes F-2-G-2, A2-F-2, and G2. The forty-sixth measure contains eighth notes E-2-F-2, G2-E-2, and F2. The forty-seventh measure contains eighth notes D-2-E-2, F2-D-2, and E2. The forty-eighth measure contains eighth notes C-2-D-2, E2-C-2, and D2. The forty-ninth measure contains eighth notes B-3-C-2, D2-B-3, and C2. The fiftieth measure contains eighth notes A-3-B-3, C2-A-3, and B3. The fifty-first measure contains eighth notes G-3-A-3, B3-G-3, and A3. The fifty-second measure contains eighth notes F-3-G-3, A3-F-3, and G3. The fifty-third measure contains eighth notes E-3-F-3, G3-E-3, and F3. The fifty-fourth measure contains eighth notes D-3-E-3, F3-D-3, and E3. The fifty-fifth measure contains eighth notes C-3-D-3, E3-C-3, and D3. The fifty-sixth measure contains eighth notes B-4-C-3, D3-B-4, and C3. The fifty-seventh measure contains eighth notes A-4-B-4, C3-A-4, and B4. The fifty-eighth measure contains eighth notes G-4-A-4, B4-G-4, and A4. The fifty-ninth measure contains eighth notes F-4-G-4, A4-F-4, and G4. The sixtieth measure contains eighth notes E-4-F-4, G4-E-4, and F4. The sixty-first measure contains eighth notes D-4-E-4, F4-D-4, and E4. The sixty-second measure contains eighth notes C-4-D-4, E4-C-4, and D4. The sixty-third measure contains eighth notes B-5-C-4, D4-B-5, and C4. The sixty-fourth measure contains eighth notes A-5-B-5, C4-A-5, and B5. The sixty-fifth measure contains eighth notes G-5-A-5, B5-G-5, and A5. The sixty-sixth measure contains eighth notes F-5-G-5, A5-F-5, and G5. The sixty-seventh measure contains eighth notes E-5-F-5, G5-E-5, and F5. The sixty-eighth measure contains eighth notes D-5-E-5, F5-D-5, and E5. The sixty-ninth measure contains eighth notes C-5-D-5, E5-C-5, and D5. The seventieth measure contains eighth notes B-6-C-5, D5-B-6, and C5. The seventy-first measure contains eighth notes A-6-B-6, C5-A-6, and B6. The seventy-second measure contains eighth notes G-6-A-6, B6-G-6, and A6. The seventy-third measure contains eighth notes F-6-G-6, A6-F-6, and G6. The seventy-fourth measure contains eighth notes E-6-F-6, G6-E-6, and F6. The seventy-fifth measure contains eighth notes D-6-E-6, F6-D-6, and E6. The seventy-sixth measure contains eighth notes C-6-D-6, E6-C-6, and D6. The seventy-seventh measure contains eighth notes B-7-C-6, D6-B-7, and C6. The seventy-eighth measure contains eighth notes A-7-B-7, C6-A-7, and B7. The seventy-ninth measure contains eighth notes G-7-A-7, B7-G-7, and A7. The eightieth measure contains eighth notes F-7-G-7, A7-F-7, and G7. The eighty-first measure contains eighth notes E-7-F-7, G7-E-7, and F7. The eighty-second measure contains eighth notes D-7-E-7, F7-D-7, and E7. The eighty-third measure contains eighth notes C-7-D-7, E7-C-7, and D7. The eighty-fourth measure contains eighth notes B-8-C-7, D7-B-8, and C7. The eighty-fifth measure contains eighth notes A-8-B-8, C7-A-8, and B8. The eighty-sixth measure contains eighth notes G-8-A-8, B8-G-8, and A8. The eighty-seventh measure contains eighth notes F-8-G-8, A8-F-8, and G8. The eighty-eighth measure contains eighth notes E-8-F-8, G8-E-8, and F8. The eighty-ninth measure contains eighth notes D-8-E-8, F8-D-8, and E8. The ninetieth measure contains eighth notes C-8-D-8, E8-C-8, and D8. The hundredth measure contains eighth notes B-9-C-8, D8-B-9, and C8. The hundred-first measure contains eighth notes A-9-B-9, C8-A-9, and B9. The hundred-second measure contains eighth notes G-9-A-9, B9-G-9, and A9. The hundred-third measure contains eighth notes F-9-G-9, A9-F-9, and G9. The hundred-fourth measure contains eighth notes E-9-F-9, G9-E-9, and F9. The hundred-fifth measure contains eighth notes D-9-E-9, F9-D-9, and E9. The hundred-sixth measure contains eighth notes C-9-D-9, E9-C-9, and D9. The hundred-seventh measure contains eighth notes B-10-C-9, D9-B-10, and C9. The hundred-eighth measure contains eighth notes A-10-B-10, C9-A-10, and B10. The hundred-nineteenth measure contains eighth notes G-10-A-10, B10-G-10, and A10. The hundred-twentieth measure contains eighth notes F-10-G-10, A10-F-10, and G10. The hundred-twenty-first measure contains eighth notes E-10-F-10, G10-E-10, and F10. The hundred-twenty-second measure contains eighth notes D-10-E-10, F10-D-10, and E10. The hundred-twenty-third measure contains eighth notes C-10-D-10, E10-C-10, and D10. The hundred-twenty-fourth measure contains eighth notes B-11-C-10, D10-B-11, and C10. The hundred-twenty-fifth measure contains eighth notes A-11-B-11, C10-A-11, and B11. The hundred-twenty-sixth measure contains eighth notes G-11-A-11, B11-G-11, and A11. The hundred-twenty-seventh measure contains eighth notes F-11-G-11, A11-F-11, and G11. The hundred-twenty-eighth measure contains eighth notes E-11-F-11, G11-E-11, and F11. The hundred-twenty-ninth measure contains eighth notes D-11-E-11, F11-D-11, and E11. The hundred-thirtieth measure contains eighth notes C-11-D-11, E11-C-11, and D11. The hundred-thirty-first measure contains eighth notes B-12-C-11, D11-B-12, and C11. The hundred-thirty-second measure contains eighth notes A-12-B-12, C11-A-12, and B12. The hundred-thirty-third measure contains eighth notes G-12-A-12, B12-G-12, and A12. The hundred-thirty-fourth measure contains eighth notes F-12-G-12, A12-F-12, and G12. The hundred-thirty-fifth measure contains eighth notes E-12-F-12, G12-E-12, and F12. The hundred-thirty-sixth measure contains eighth notes D-12-E-12, F12-D-12, and E12. The hundred-thirty-seventh measure contains eighth notes C-12-D-12, E12-C-12, and D12. The hundred-thirty-eighth measure contains eighth notes B-13-C-12, D12-B-13, and C12. The hundred-thirty-ninth measure contains eighth notes A-13-B-13, C12-A-13, and B13. The hundred-fortieth measure contains eighth notes G-13-A-13, B13-G-13, and A13. The hundred-forty-first measure contains eighth notes F-13-G-13, A13-F-13, and G13. The hundred-forty-second measure contains eighth notes E-13-F-13, G13-E-13, and F13. The hundred-forty-third measure contains eighth notes D-13-E-13, F13-D-13, and E13. The hundred-forty-fourth measure contains eighth notes C-13-D-13, E13-C-13, and D13. The hundred-forty-fifth measure contains eighth notes B-14-C-13, D13-B-14, and C13. The hundred-forty-sixth measure contains eighth notes A-14-B-14, C13-A-14, and B14. The hundred-forty-seventh measure contains eighth notes G-14-A-14, B14-G-14, and A14. The hundred-forty-eighth measure contains eighth notes F-14-G-14, A14-F-14, and G14. The hundred-forty-ninth measure contains eighth notes E-14-F-14, G14-E-14, and F14. The hundred-fiftieth measure contains eighth notes D-14-E-14, F14-D-14, and E14. The hundred-fifty-first measure contains eighth notes C-14-D-14, E14-C-14, and D14. The hundred-fifty-second measure contains eighth notes B-15-C-14, D14-B-15, and C14. The hundred-fifty-third measure contains eighth notes A-15-B-15, C14-A-15, and B15. The hundred-fifty-fourth measure contains eighth notes G-15-A-15, B15-G-15, and A15. The hundred-fifty-fifth measure contains eighth notes F-15-G-15, A15-F-15, and G15. The hundred-fifty-sixth measure contains eighth notes E-15-F-15, G15-E-15, and F15. The hundred-fifty-seventh measure contains eighth notes D-15-E-15, F15-D-15, and E15. The hundred-fifty-eighth measure contains eighth notes C-15-D-15, E15-C-15, and D15. The hundred-fifty-ninth measure contains eighth notes B-16-C-15, D15-B-16, and C15. The hundred-sixtieth measure contains eighth notes A-16-B-16, C15-A-16, and B16. The hundred-sixty-first measure contains eighth notes G-16-A-16, B16-G-16, and A16. The hundred-sixty-second measure contains eighth notes F-16-G-16, A16-F-16, and G16. The hundred-sixty-third measure contains eighth notes E-16-F-16, G16-E-16, and F16. The hundred-sixty-fourth measure contains eighth notes D-16-E-16, F16-D-16, and E16. The hundred-sixty-fifth measure contains eighth notes C-16-D-16, E16-C-16, and D16. The hundred-sixty-sixth measure contains eighth notes B-17-C-16, D16-B-17, and C16. The hundred-sixty-seventh measure contains eighth notes A-17-B-17, C16-A-17, and B17. The hundred-sixty-eighth measure contains eighth notes G-17-A-17, B17-G-17, and A17. The hundred-sixty-ninth measure contains eighth notes F-17-G-17, A17-F-17, and G17. The hundred-seventieth measure contains eighth notes E-17-F-17, G17-E-17, and F17. The hundred-seventy-first measure contains eighth notes D-17-E-17, F17-D-17, and E17. The hundred-seventy-second measure contains eighth notes C-17-D-17, E17-C-

[illegible]

## Pattern #2 (Sets of 3)

The image shows a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of a treble clef staff with a melody and a guitar tablature below it. The melody is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The tablature is written on a six-line staff and includes fret numbers (1-5) and a "TAB" label. The melody is a simple, folk-like tune, and the tablature provides the corresponding fretting for the guitar.

## Pattern #3 (3 Pairs)



## Tips for Successful Learning

### Learn the Forms First.

Get the five pentatonic forms underneath your fingers first. Learn the finger patterns. A good way to learn these scales is to take one form and play it ascending and then descending. Then shift up a half step and play it again. Continue working your way up the neck until you run out of neck to play the form, then come back down descending.

Practice that for a few days then take the next pentatonic form and work on it ascending and descending – occasionally working on the first form to keep it in your memory.

Keep doing this until all forms are learned.

### Speed Will Only Come After You Know the Forms.

Don't try to play faster until you are confident in playing each form by memory. Speed comes as you develop the muscle memory needed to play the pentatonic patterns confidently.

### Solo Using the Notes of the Scale – Not the Scale Itself.

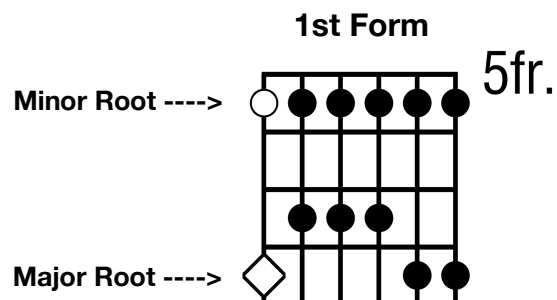
Think of these scales and finger patterns as letters and words that you are going to use to say what you want to say musically. Simply playing through the finger patterns does not make a good solo.

Spend some time being creative with them. Experiment with starting on a note in the middle of the form or try to skip around on the notes. Try to create a melodic idea and develop it. That's what soloing is about.

# Pentatonic Scales Workout

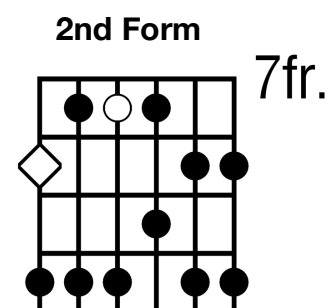
## 1<sup>st</sup> Pentatonic Form

- Review Form
- Exercise 1: Play C/Am Ascending & Descending
- Exercise 2: Play Bb Major Ascending & Descending
- Exercise 3: Play Eb Major Ascending & Descending
- Exercise 4: Play in F Minor Ascending & Descending



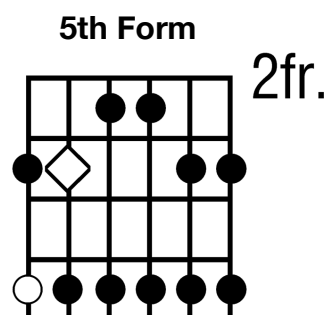
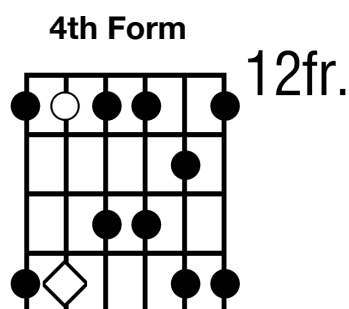
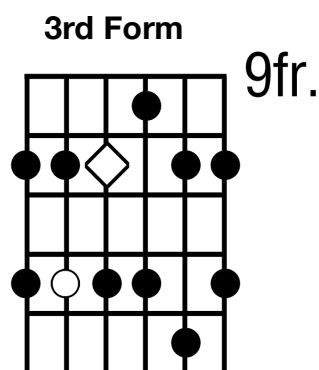
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Pentatonic Form

- Review Form
- Exercise 5: Play C/Am Ascending & Descending
- Exercise 6: Move to other keys
- Exercise 7: Play G Major Ascending & Descending



## 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Pentatonic Forms

- Review Forms
- Play Ascending & Descending

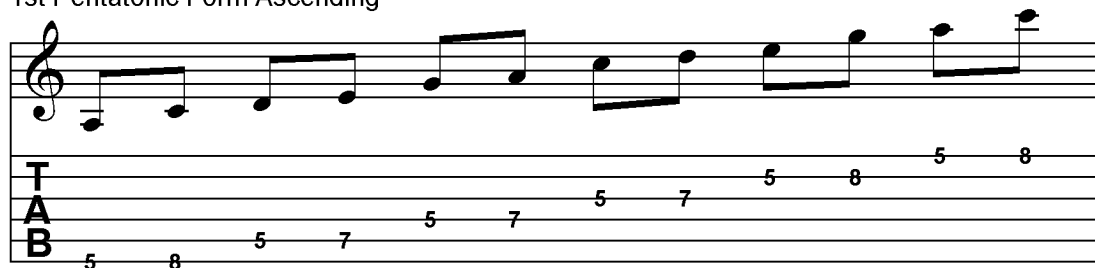


## Common Pentatonic Patterns (Shown on pages 3-4)

- Exercise 8: Play Pattern 1 (Sets of 4) in C/Am
- Exercise 9: Play Pattern 2 (Sets of 3) in C/Am
- Exercise 10: Play Pattern 3 (3 Pairs) in C/Am

## Connecting Pentatonic Patterns in C/Am

### 1st Pentatonic Form Ascending

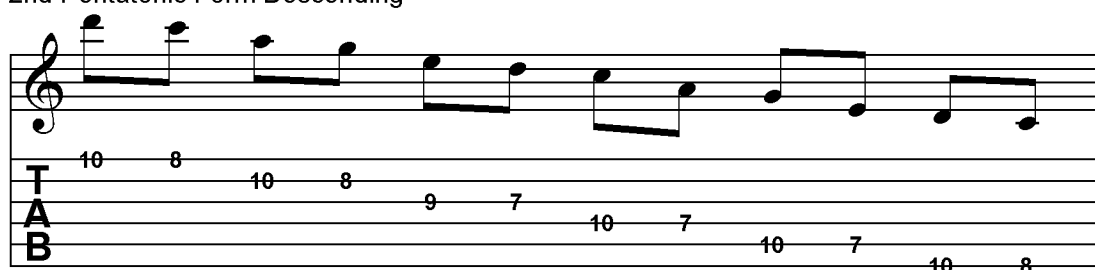


1st Pentatonic Form Ascending

Treble clef, C major key signature. Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5.

Tab: T (empty), A (empty), B (5 8 5 7 5 7 5 8 5 8)

### 2nd Pentatonic Form Descending

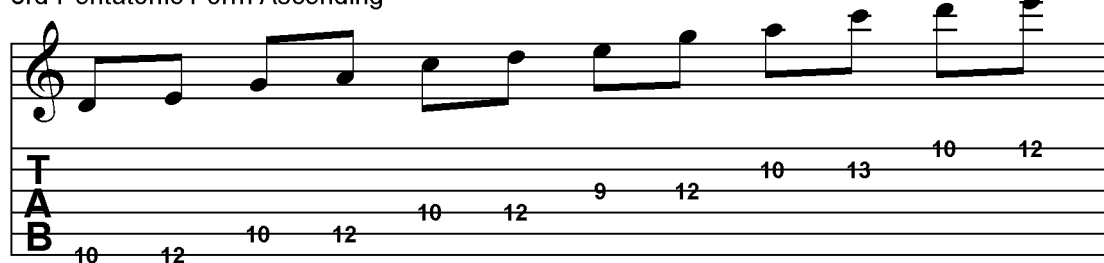


2nd Pentatonic Form Descending

Treble clef, C major key signature. Notes: B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3.

Tab: T (10 8 10 8 9 7 10 7 10 7 10 8), A (empty), B (empty)

### 3rd Pentatonic Form Ascending

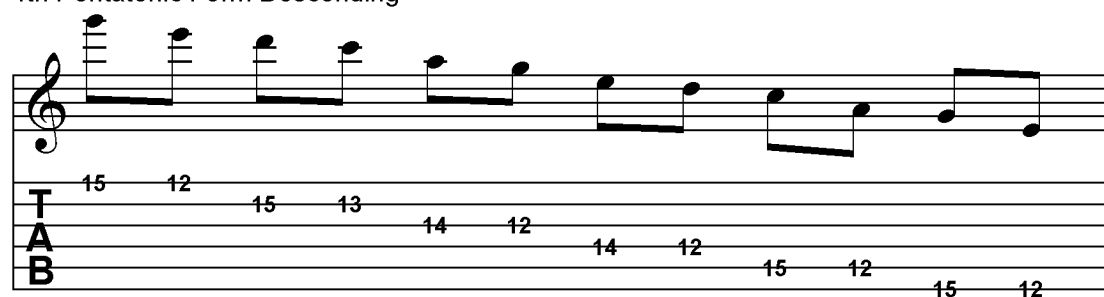


3rd Pentatonic Form Ascending

Treble clef, C major key signature. Notes: C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6.

Tab: T (empty), A (10 12 10 12 10 12 9 12 10 13 10 12), B (10 12 10 12 10 12 9 12 10 13 10 12)

### 4th Pentatonic Form Descending

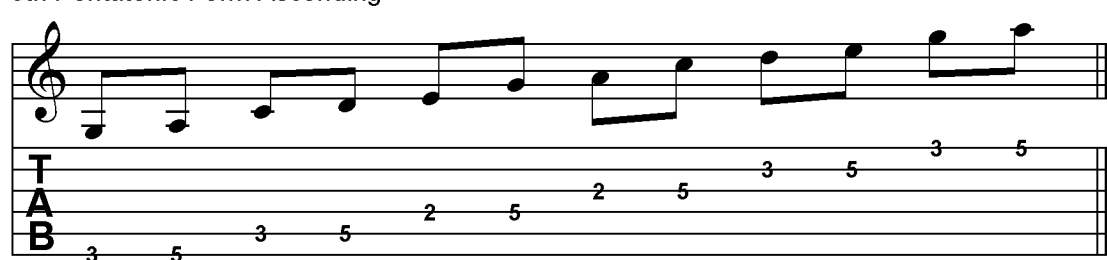


4th Pentatonic Form Descending

Treble clef, C major key signature. Notes: B5, A5, G5, F5, E5, D5, C5, B4.

Tab: T (15 12 15 13 14 12 14 12 15 12 15 12), A (empty), B (empty)

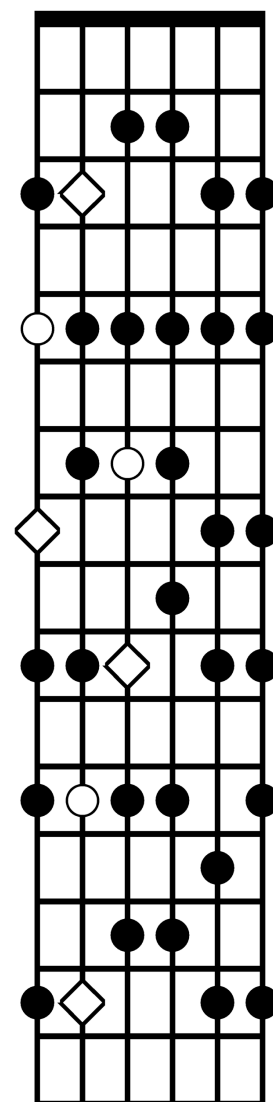
### 5th Pentatonic Form Ascending



5th Pentatonic Form Ascending

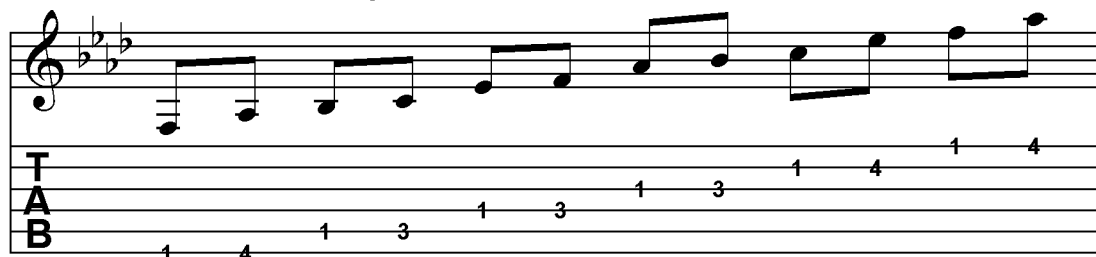
Treble clef, C major key signature. Notes: C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7.

Tab: T (empty), A (3 5 3 5 2 5 2 5 3 5 3 5), B (3 5 3 5 2 5 2 5 3 5 3 5)



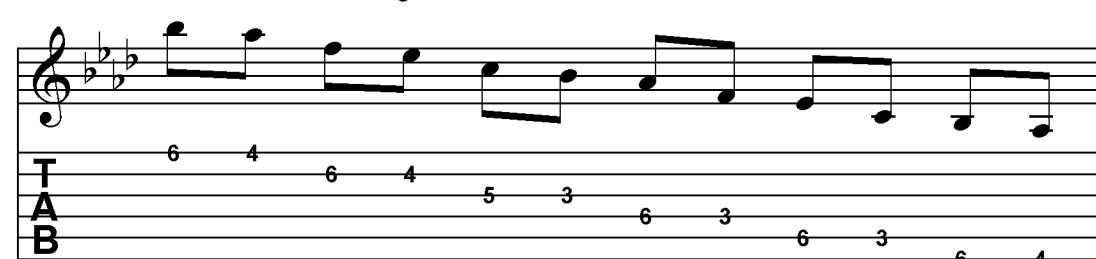
## Connecting Pentatonic Patterns in Fm/Ab

### 1st Pentatonic Form Ascending



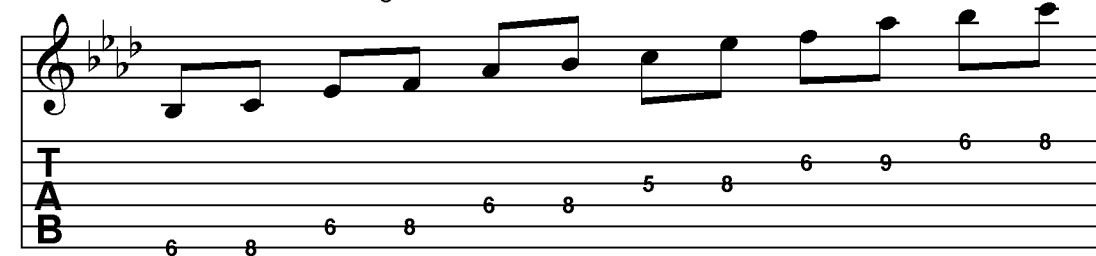
1 4 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4

### 2nd Pentatonic Form Descending



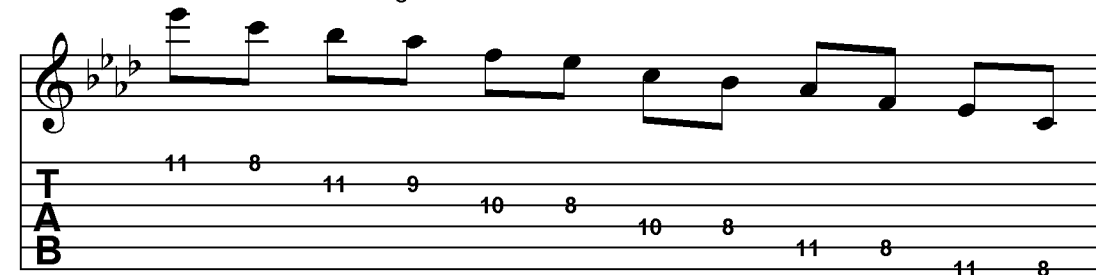
6 4 6 4 5 3 6 3 6 3 6 4

### 3rd Pentatonic Form Ascending



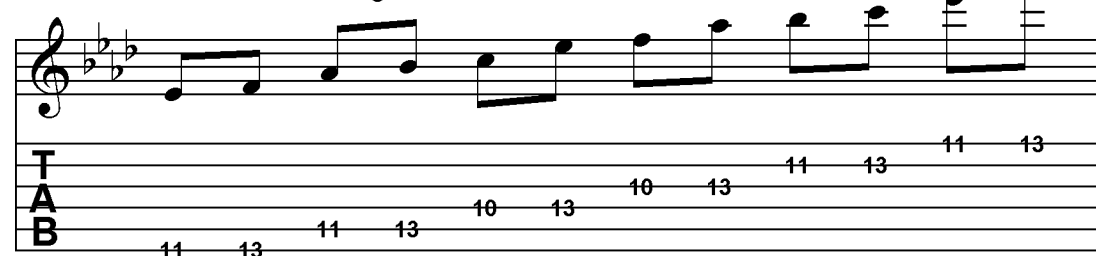
6 8 6 8 6 8 5 8 6 9 6 8

### 4th Pentatonic Form Descending



11 8 11 9 10 8 10 8 11 8 11 8

### 5th Pentatonic Form Ascending



11 13 11 13 10 13 10 13 11 13 11 13