

MASTER The BASICS SERIES
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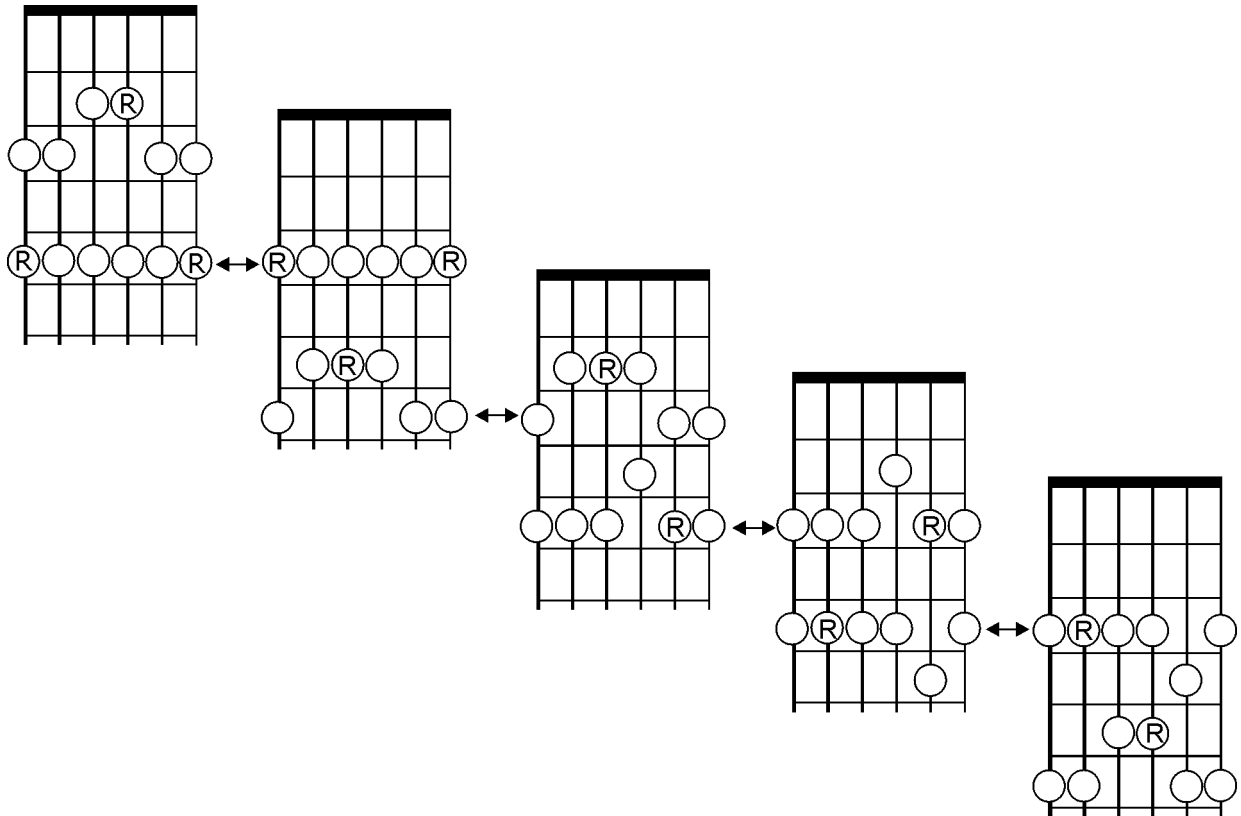
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Master the Basics in Half the Time!

Pentatonic Guitar Magic...

How To Use The Simple Pentatonic Scale To Solo Over Chords... from Blues to Rock to Jazz.

This eBook may be freely distributed but not copied or altered in any way.



WARNING: There is a very powerful secret in this eBook that most don't know about. It's the repeating patterns thing I go on about all the time.

Find, learn it and own it. You will never be at a loss of what notes to play when soloing ever again.

Please feel free to pass this eBook on to your friends.



Hi, and welcome to

Pentatonic Scales for Guitar

A pentatonic scale has just 5 notes.

We'll look at the A minor pentatonic as an example.

The A minor pentatonic comes from the natural minor scale. In this case, A natural minor.

The natural minor is the Aeolian mode of the relative major scale. In this case, C major. The Aeolian mode (Natural Minor) is the 6th mode of the major scale.

The notes of the A Natural (Aeolian) minor are:

A B C D E F G

The minor pentatonic scale uses the 1(A), 3(C), 4(D), 5(E), 7(G) notes of the scale. 2(B) and 6(F) are missed out.

Two notes per string

The pentatonic is an ideal scale for the beginner and experienced pro alike because it only has two notes per string. This makes it relatively easy to remember and also is great for hammer-on's and pull-off's.

Pentatonics can also be used in a variety of ways — from a 'one scale fits all approach' to using a different scale over each chord being played, to substitution pentatonics.

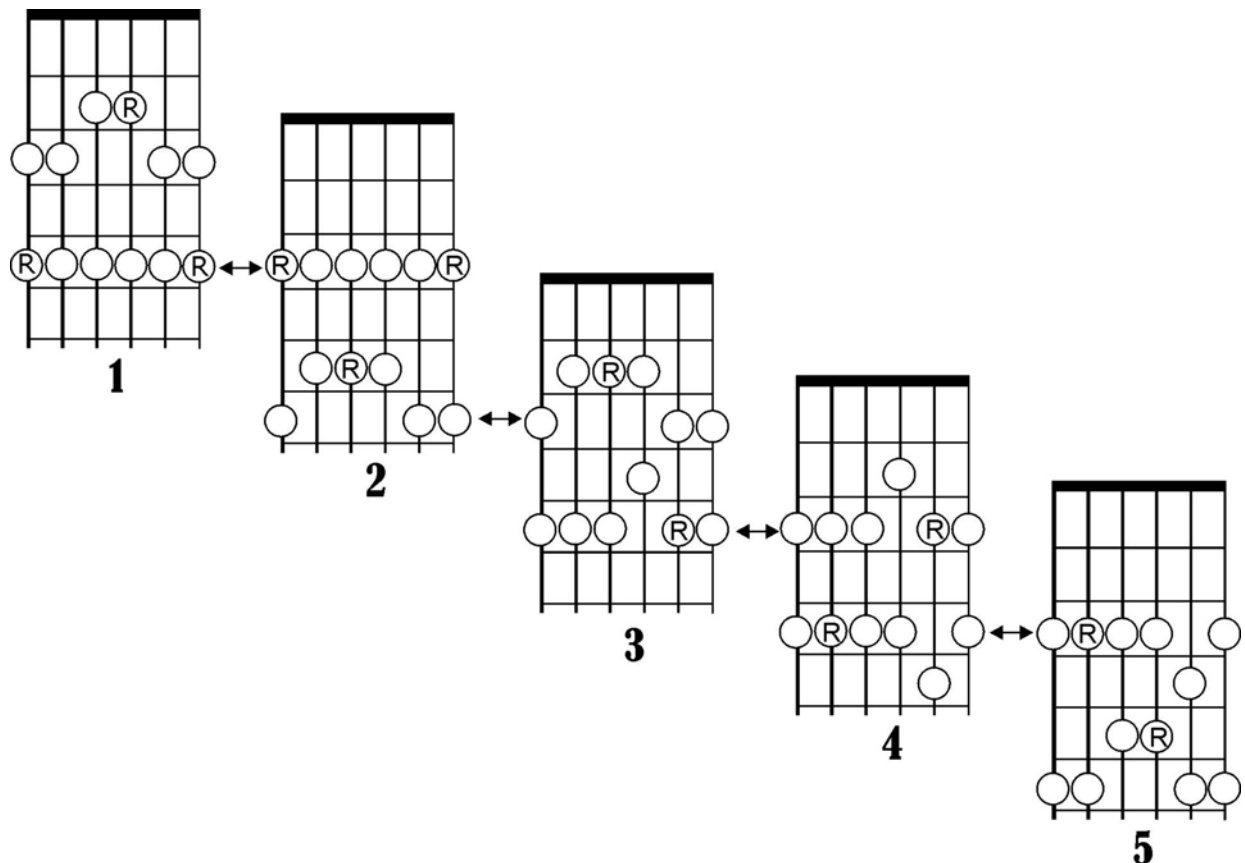
They can also be altered to create a variety of different sounds or 'tone sets'.

Continued on next page...



5 Pentatonic Fingering Patterns

There are 5 pentatonic fingering patterns which all link together as follows:



These patterns all link together as shown in the above diagram.

As we are looking at A minor, I have labeled where you find the root for each pattern. This needs to be memorized.

You will note that the 'top' notes of each pattern become the 'bottom' notes of the next pattern.

Each of these patterns uses the same notes: A C D E G. They are just arranged in a different order.



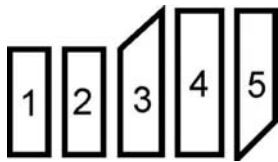
Stuck In The Box?

These pentatonic fingering patterns are also known as 'boxes'. If you have heard of people being stuck in the box, it usually refers to people knowing (usually) only 2 of the fingering patterns. Most guitarists get stuck in the two most popular pentatonic fingering boxes and hardly use the others, if ever. In fact, around 95% of guitar players don't even know the other 3 boxes even exist! That's what it means to be stuck in the box.

The most popular boxes are # 2 & 3.

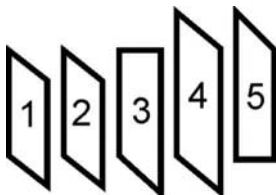
5 Shapes That Repeat

Within each of the 5 fingering patterns, there are five 'two-string' shapes that repeat. Here they are here:



These five shapes repeat in a consistent and predictable order. You just have to sus it out. Remember, they are ALWAYS in the same order. Each fingering pattern just starts on a different shape. But the others follow in the exact same order.

However, because of the major 3rd tuning between the 3rd and 2nd strings, these shapes have to be offset one fret on the 2nd string. That is, when you reach the 2nd string, you need to raise the notes on that string one fret higher.



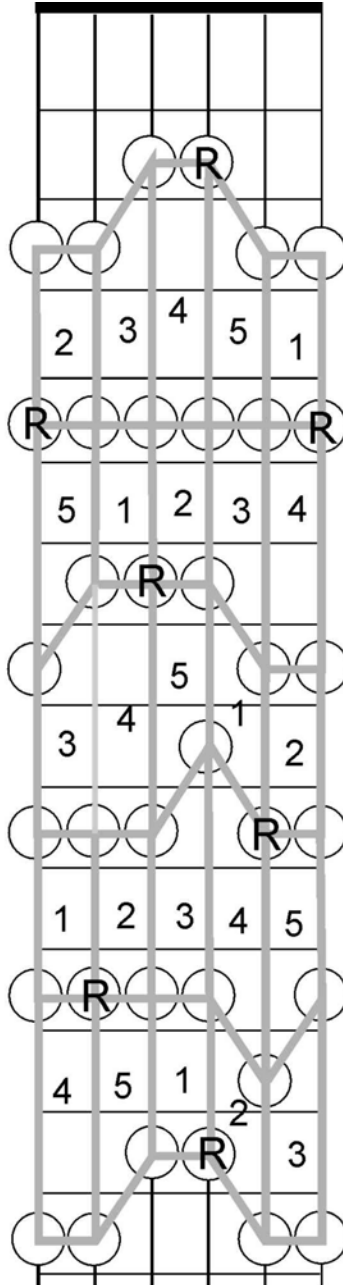
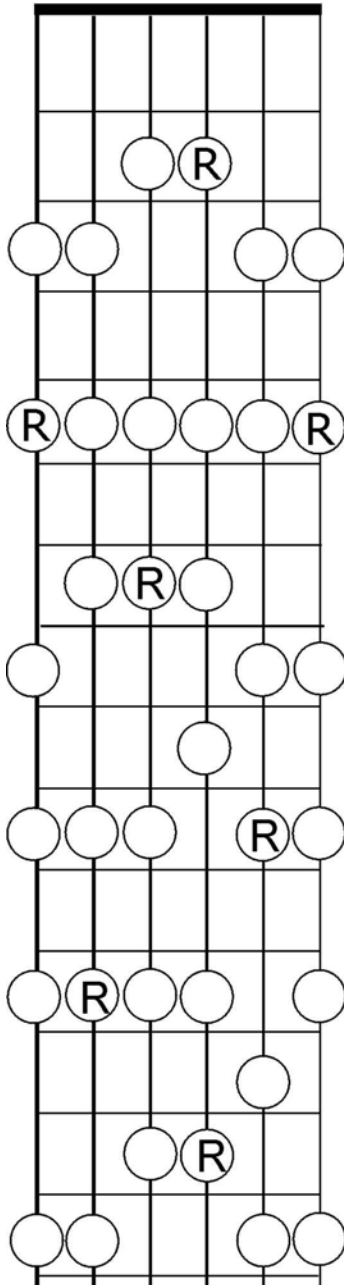
This is what happens to the above shapes when you play them on the 3rd and 2nd strings. As you can see, the shapes have become distorted. They are still the same shapes, but because of the guitars tuning, everything you play on the 2nd string has to be one fret higher.



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Master the Basics in Half the Time!

Here, I have presented all five fingering patterns on the fretboard linked together. The next diagram shows the 5 'two string' patterns and how they link together in a consistent order.



Check it out and find the patterns and how they repeat. Work out a system to help you remember it all.

Note that they always repeat in the exact same order whichever one they start on. E.g.

2 3 4 5 1

5 1 2 3 4

3 4 5 1 2

1 2 3 4 5

4 5 1 2 3

The same thing happens going along the fretboard instead of across. But the order is different.

1 4 2 5 3

2 5 3 1 4

3 1 4 2 5

4 2 5 3 1

5 3 1 4 2

Really study this and get a handle on it. It is EXTREMELY POWERFUL!



OK, back to how to use these pentatonic fingering patterns to solo over chords.

The rules are simple.

1. Using a one-for-all pentatonic scale.

If you are playing in a **minor key**, use that minor pentatonic. If you are playing in a **major key**, then use the relative minor pentatonic scale.

e.g. If playing in A minor – use A minor pent. If playing in C major – use A minor pentatonic (also know as C major pentatonic.)

If you are playing in G major, use E minor pentatonic scale (also know as G major pentatonic)

You have probably noticed that the pentatonic scale can be either a major or minor scale. Some people find it easier to think in 'minor' terms, and some find it easier to think in minor AND major terms. You'll need to figure out what works best for you.

But any way, here are the 12 Major keys and their one-for-all pentatonics.

KEY	Minor Petntatonic scale to use
C	Am
G	Em
D	Bm
A	F#m or Gbm (enharmonic equivalents)
E	C#m or Dbm ' '
B	G#m or Abm ' '
Gb	D#m or Ebm ' '
Db	A#m or Bbm ' '
Ab	Fm
Eb	Cm
Bb	Gm
F	Dm

There you have it. Simple.



2. Soling over each chord

You can also choose to play a pentatonic scale over each chord that's being played.

Minor chords – just use the minor pentatonic of whatever the chord is. E.g. Cminor chord uses a Cmin pent. Em chord uses Em pent.

Major chords – just use the relative minor pent.

Dom 7th chords – use relative minor, or a pentatonic one whole step below that. E.g. For G7 you could use Em pent, or one whole step below that which is Dm pentatonic.

There you have it. Work with it, try to devise some exercises and different ways to navigate the whole system. Make it your... own it!

If you would like some more ideas and help with this, then please visit my website.

www.Free-Guitar-Chords.com

I have other charts and eBooks available for download including a **7-Part Guitar Chords eBook Course**.

I also have a membership area you can join for a very reasonable price. This is where we really get into the nitty-gritty of mastering the guitar basics that over 95% of guitar players never do... step-by-simple-step.

Until then... enjoy your practice.

John Bilderbeck
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www.Free-Guitar-Chords.com