

Ten Minute Tech

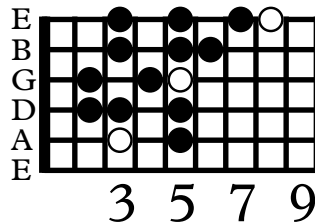
Important Scales on 5th & 6th strings

Here are four very important scales. Of course, there are many other scales, but these four are very important building blocks for scale technique and improvisation- Major, Minor, Major Pentatonic & the Blues scale (which is essentially the Minor Pentatonic we have already learned in previous lessons- see "Ten minute Tech- minor pentatonic & Blues scale").

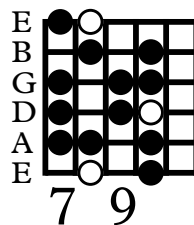
It is important to learn the scales starting on the 6th String (low E) and the 5th String (A). This gives us more choice of notes and also increases our fretboard knowledge.

The scales that follow are by no means exhaustive- there are many shapes and ways to play the same scales on the guitar. I have written them out here in a way that means your hand should stay in roughly the same position on the neck throughout the scale, except for some where we may need to "jump" up to the highest note. Generally staying in the same position helps us to avoid getting lost when improvising or moving the scale to another key for example.

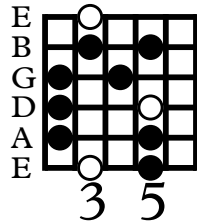
C Major - 5th String



C Major - 6th String

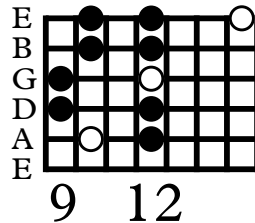


G Major Pentatonic
6th String



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G Major Pentatonic
5th String



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A Special note-

As I mentioned- each scale can be played in different shapes and positions- There are many ways to skin a cat! The pupil who seeks to master the guitar should seek out other shapes and ways of doing the same thing and through practice and experience they will realise which shapes suit them the best.

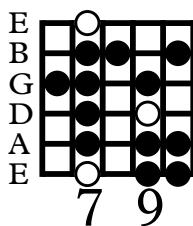
One of the most famous and influential guitarists of all time only had two working fingers on his left hand! So he certainly didn't play things the same way as other players.

Check out the solos on Django Reinhardt's song "Minor Swing" (or any of his other songs for that matter)- you won't believe he is only using two fingers!

The recommended fingers for these scales are written beside the actual notes of the scale (above the tab).

B Minor (Natural/Aeolian)

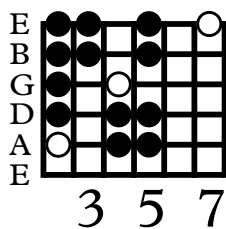
6th String



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B Minor (Aeolian)

5th String

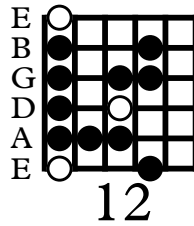


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D Blues

(based on D Minor Pentatonic)

6th String

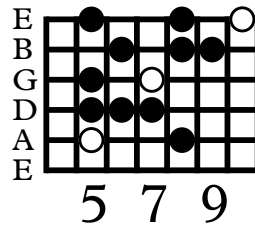


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D Blues

(based on D Minor Pentatonic)

5th String



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If you are wondering about the apparently random choice of keys for these scales there is a method to the madness! Firstly by choosing different areas of the neck we will hopefully avoid getting our scale "shapes" confused. Secondly we are covered a large area of the guitar neck and therefore increasing our fretboard knowledge. Once we understand these scales and shapes well, we will be looking at a more systematic approach to how they relate to each other.