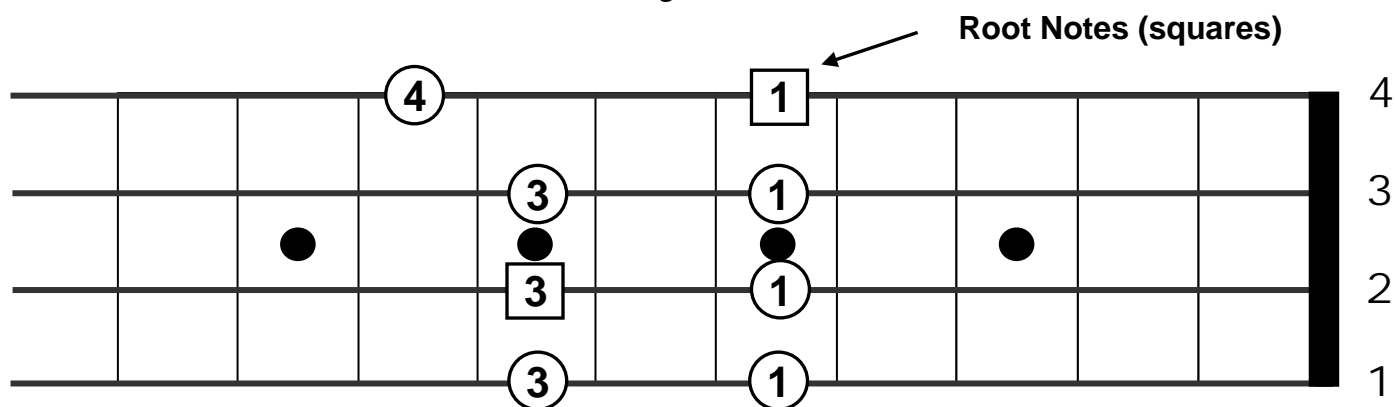


Basic Minor Pentatonic Scale – Bass Guitar

This lesson will introduce beginning bass guitar players to a very basic, but popular scale (The Minor Pentatonic Scale). Scale patterns help players to improve finger dexterity, get the pick and fret hand in sync, and to improvise (jam).

A Scale is a basic pattern that is used as a guide in making up runs, walks, and for improvising (creating bass lines). There are usually 5 scale patterns for each mode (the Minor Pentatonic Scale mode has 5 patterns). These patterns fit together on the fret board like a puzzle. Each scale has a “Root Note” that will indicate the Key (each scale can be moved up and down the fret board to change keys very easily).

Minor Pentatonic Scale - Key of “A”



***How to practice this scale pattern:** Start with your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 4th string (top string – fattest string), then your 4th finger on the 8th fret of the 4th string (top string). Then move to the next string with your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 3rd string, then your 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 3rd string. Then move to the next string with your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 2nd string, then your 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 2nd string, (and so on...). Once you play all the strings – then start at the bottom and play all the strings until you get back to the top string again. To start back up play the notes in reverse. Start with your 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 1st string, then your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 1st string. Then move to the next string up with your 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 2nd string, then your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 2nd string. Then move to the next string up with your 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 3rd string, then your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 3rd string (and so on...).

It is very important to try and get a good sound from each note as you play it.

*** Picking sequence** – It is very important that you use the proper picking sequence right from the start. Alternate your picking using the 1st and 2nd fingers of your pick hand. The 1st note is picked with your 1st finger, the 2nd note is picked with your 2nd finger, the 3rd note is picked with your 1st finger, and so on...alternate between your 1st and 2nd picking fingers.

This picking sequence should not be “neglected” and should be practiced and utilized right from the start to get the best results in the long run.