

Learn how to play the guitar in 10 steps

(Start)

Anyone can learn to play the guitar, so long as there are willing to practice, practice, practice. Despite what the, pay for to learn, web based lessons might tell you:-

- A small bit of music theory will go a long way;
- There is no easy way to learn the does not include an awful lot of practice;
- and finally, you will have to enjoy the process of learning the guitar, if you are to succeed, at all.

These are just the steps that we consider you will need to understand and master if possible over a short or long time span depending on your own application and ability. We are on this learning journey ourselves. These steps are what we aspire to learning into the future.

[Step_1-Fretboard \(Anchor to STEP1\)](#)

[Step_2-Notes \(Anchor to STEP2\)](#)

[Step_3-Chords \(Anchor to STEP3\)](#)

[Step_4-Circle-of-fifths \(Anchor to STEP4\)](#)

[Step_5-How-to-find-the-key-of-a-song \(Anchor to STEP5\)](#)

[Step_6-Change-the-key-using-a-Capo \(Anchor to STEP6\)](#)

[Step_7-Pentatonic scales \(Anchor to STEP7\)](#)

[Step_8-Major or Minor—Pentatonic-1456 Backing \(Anchor to STEP8\)](#)

[Step_9-Modes \(Anchor to STEP9\)](#)

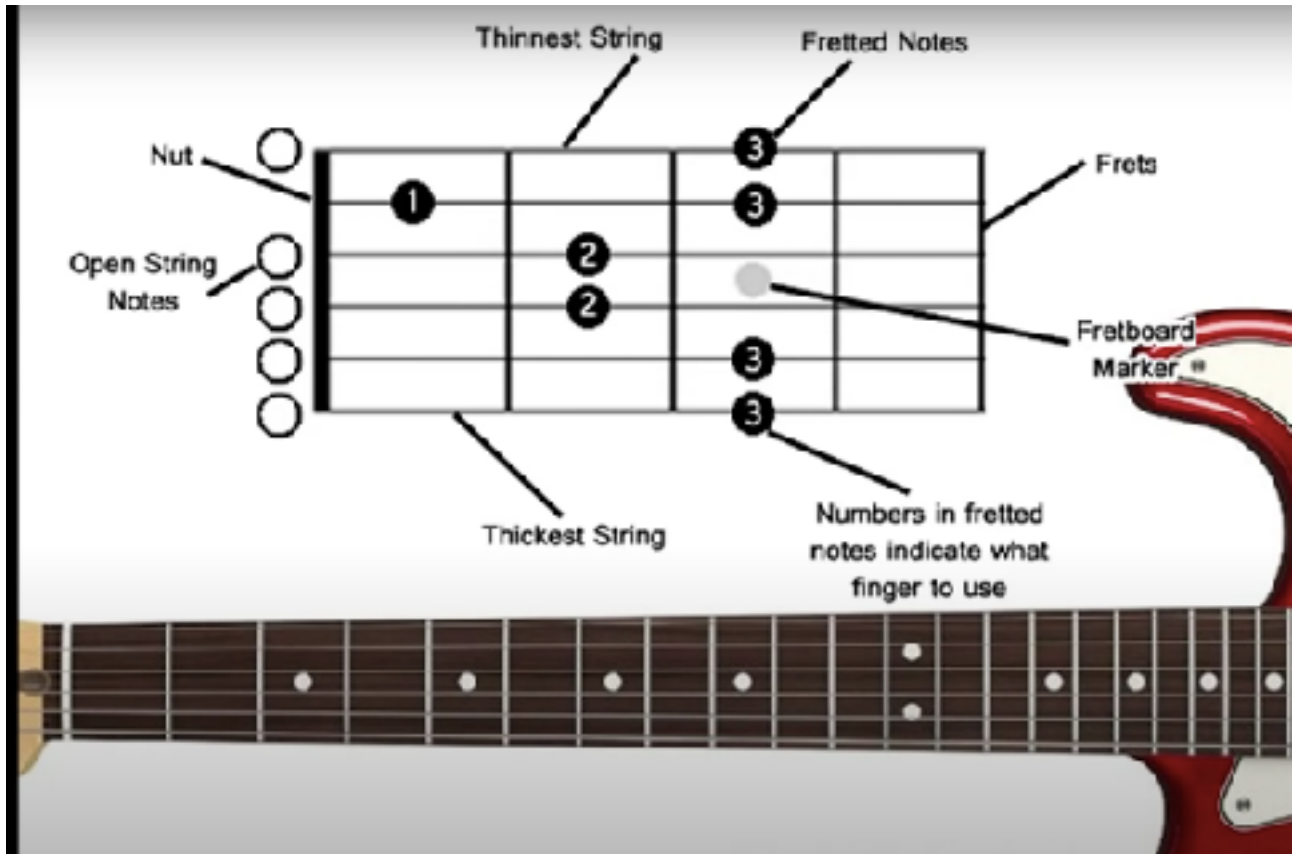
[Step_10-Summation-of-instrument-learning-process \(Anchor to STEP10\)](#)

This file was compiled and published on:-

<https://www.justretired50plus.com>

Step 1

Firstly, you need to know the basic names of the bits of the guitar neck. Before you start every time with a guitar, you have to tune it.



Link to video on guitar tuning [Step 1 Get-it-in-tune.mov](#)
([Back to start](#))

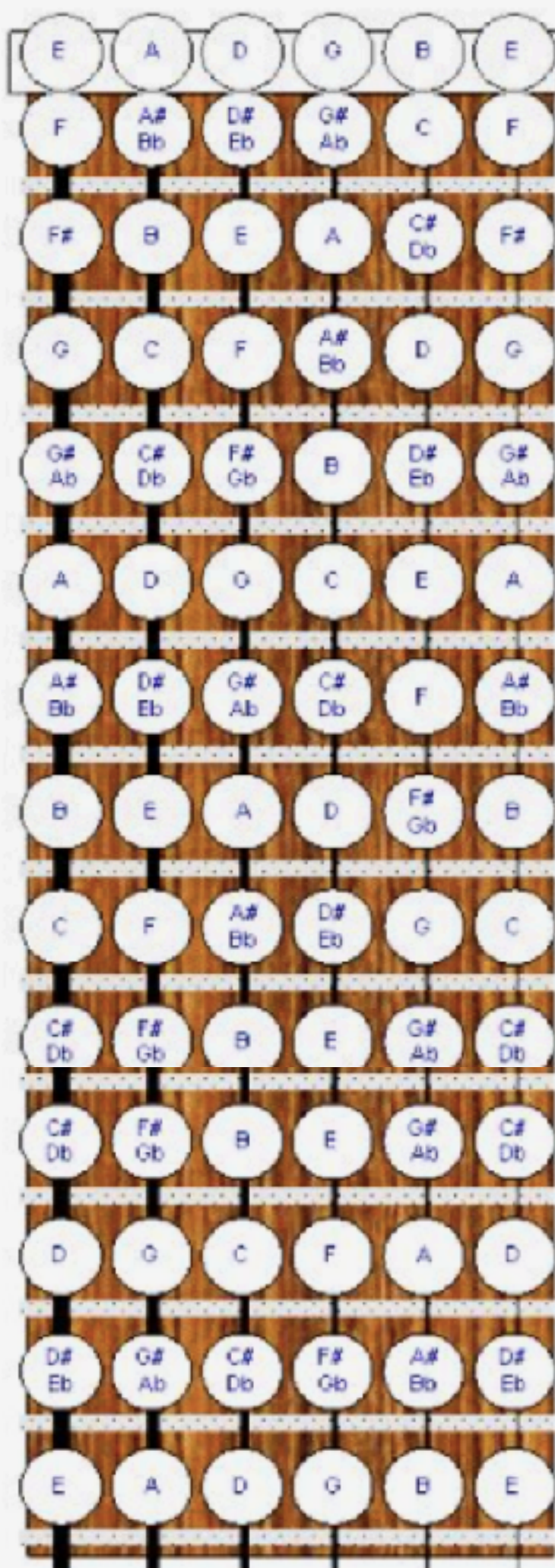
Step 2

It will speed up your learning of the guitar if you first learn the various note positions on the guitar fretboard neck.

Link to video on guitar tuning [Step 2 Notes-on-the-fretboard.mov](#)

Link to video on guitar tuning [Step 2b Notes-on-the-fretboard.mov](#)

Link to video on guitar tuning [Step 2d Notes-on-the-fretboard.mov](#)



Fret

1 or 13

2 or 14

3 or 15

4 or 16

5 or 17

6 or 18

7 or 19

8 or 20

9 or 21

9 or 21

10 or 22

11

12



[\(Back to start\)](#)

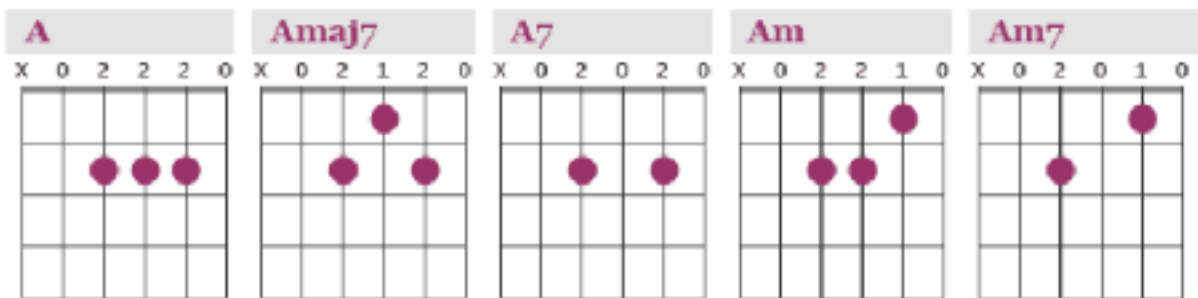
Step 3

It is best to learn the Notes on the fretboard first, however, many guitarists learn it the other way around i.e. chords first and then the notes.

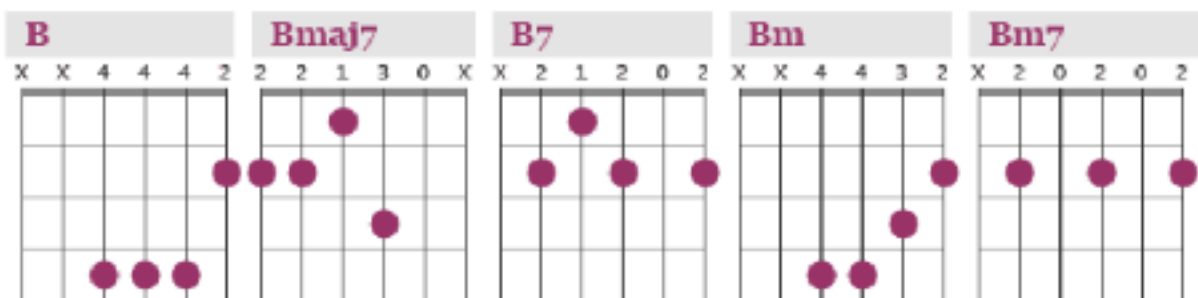
You will have to learn all of the chord finger positions and then you need to be able to transition through sequences of chords seamlessly.

Step 3 Power Chords from-the-circle-of-fifths

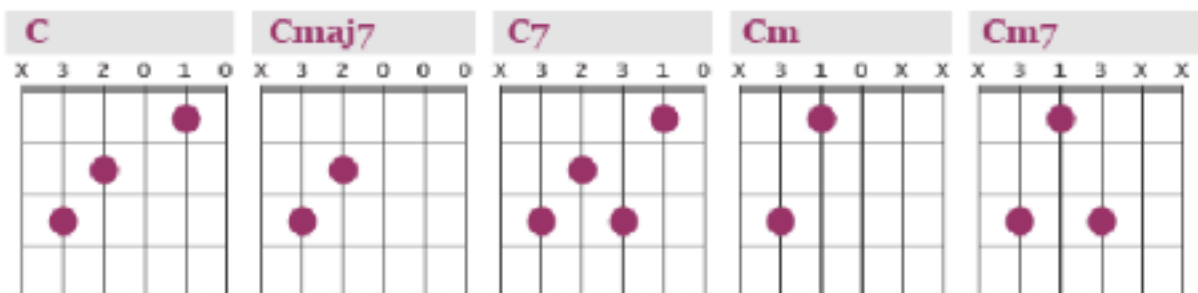
Step 3-Bar-chords

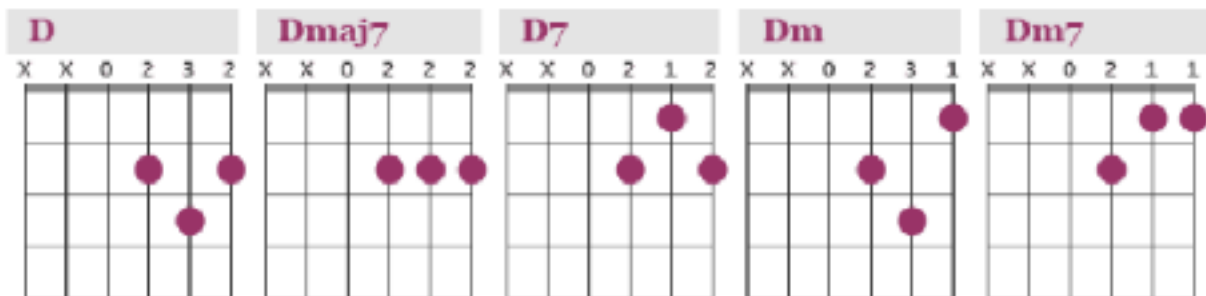


Full names: A major | A major 7th | A 7th | A minor | A minor 7th

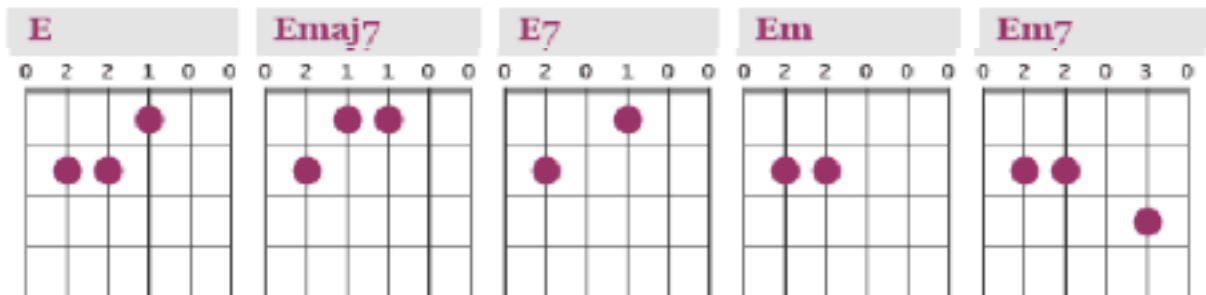


Full names: B major | B major 7th | B 7th | B minor | B minor 7th

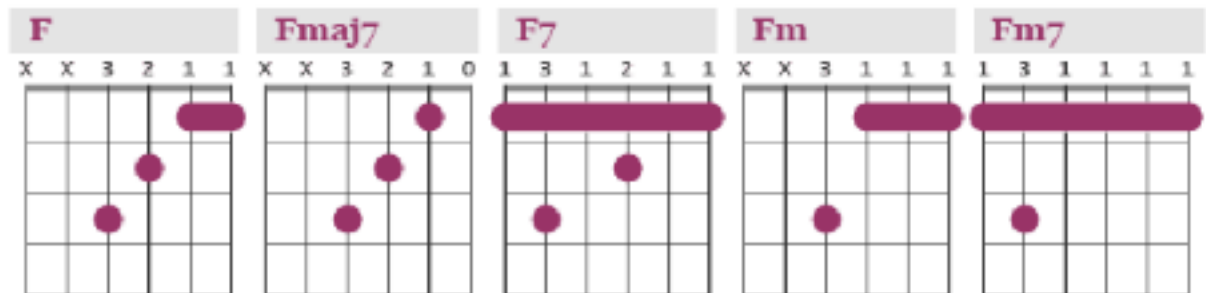




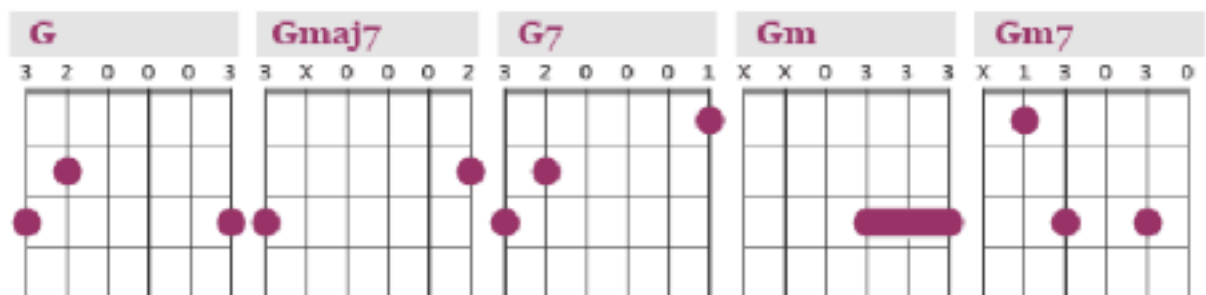
Full names: D major | D major 7th | D 7th | D minor | D minor 7th



Full names: E major | E major 7th | E 7th | E minor | E minor 7th

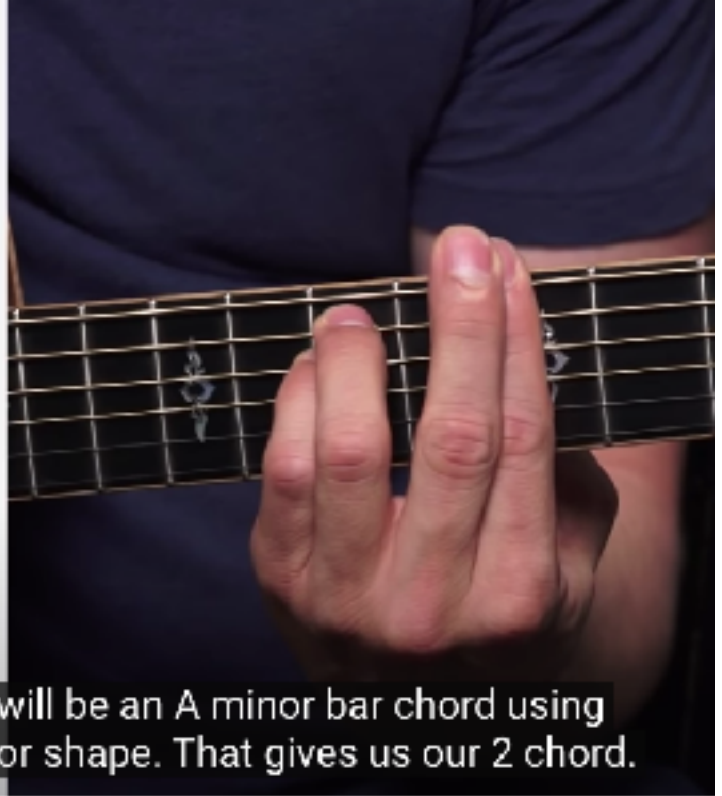
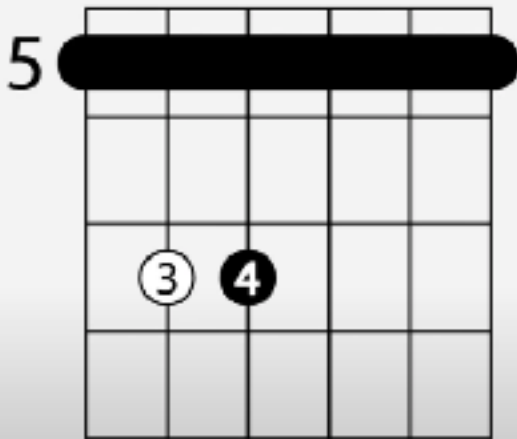


Full names: F major | F major 7th | F 7th | F minor | F minor 7th



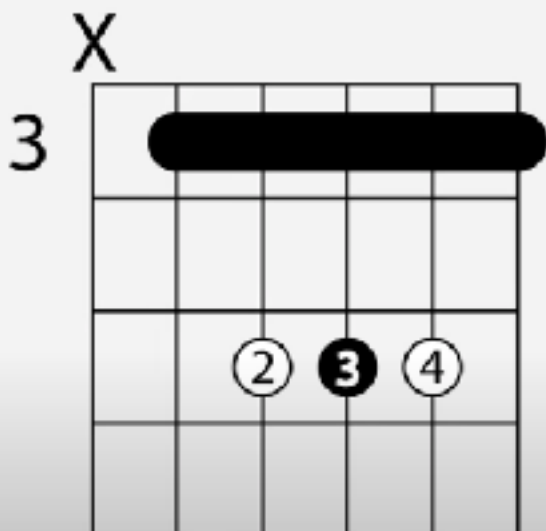
Full names: G major | G major 7th | G 7th | G minor | G minor 7th

A Minor



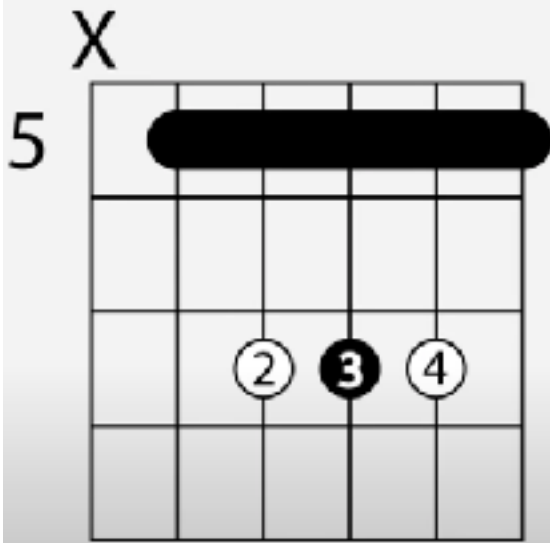
so that will be an A minor bar chord using the E minor shape. That gives us our 2 chord.

C Major



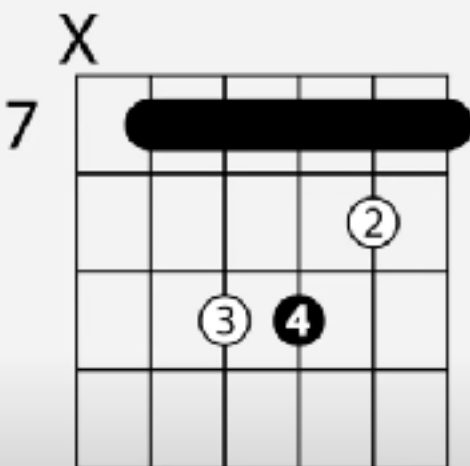
a C. That's our 4 chord. And our 5 chord is going to be a D, so we need to move up

D Major



to an A major bar chord shape. That D note right there on the fifth string tells us we're

E Minor Bar Chord



key is always minor, so in this case we need an E minor and that's the third chord in

[\(Back to start\)](#)

Step 4

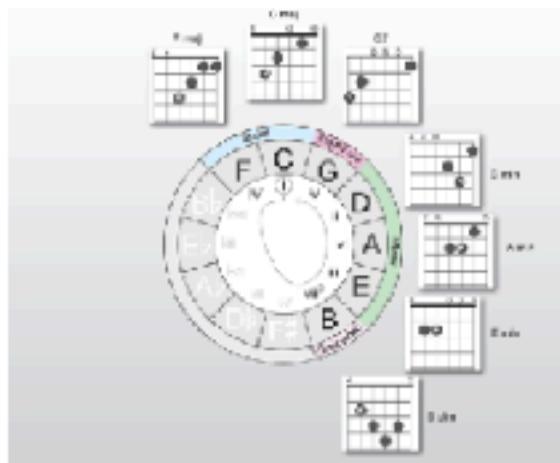
In our opinion, the Circle of Fifths diagram is one of the most powerful aids to memory that a guitarist can have as a handy reference.

Step 4-Very-basic-Circle-of-fifths

The circle of fifths

The circle of fifths is a diagram that shows the relationship between different keys in music. The keys that include sharps appear on the right of the circle, while the keys that include flats appear on the left. The key of C major, which doesn't include any sharps or flats, sits at the centre.

The circle of fifths is an arrangement of the 12 notes of the musical alphabet in a circle. Each note on the circle is a perfect fifth apart. At the top of the circle we begin on the note C. As you go clockwise around the circle, the notes move in perfect fifths.

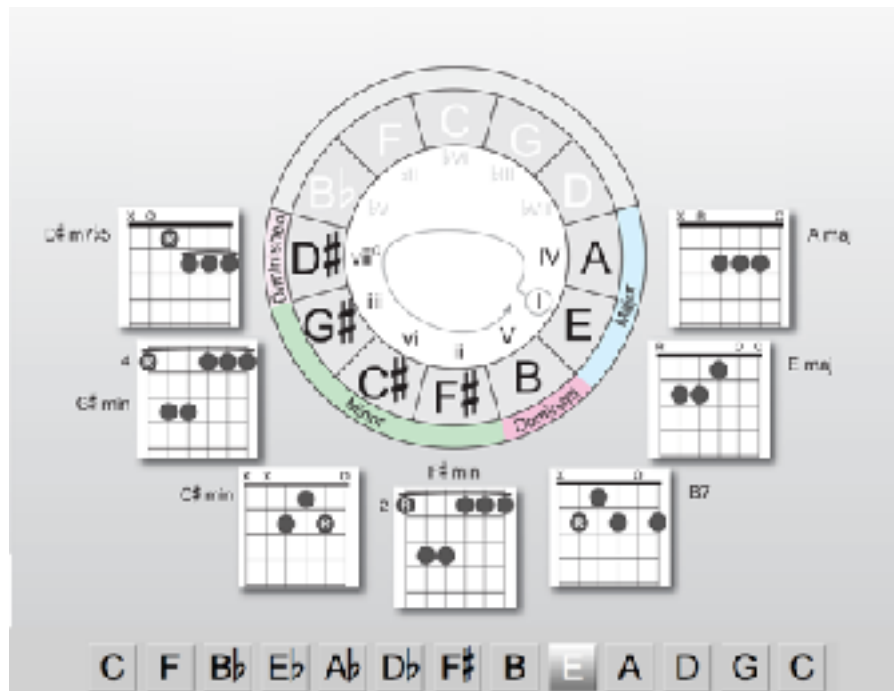


1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
I			IV	V	NM		

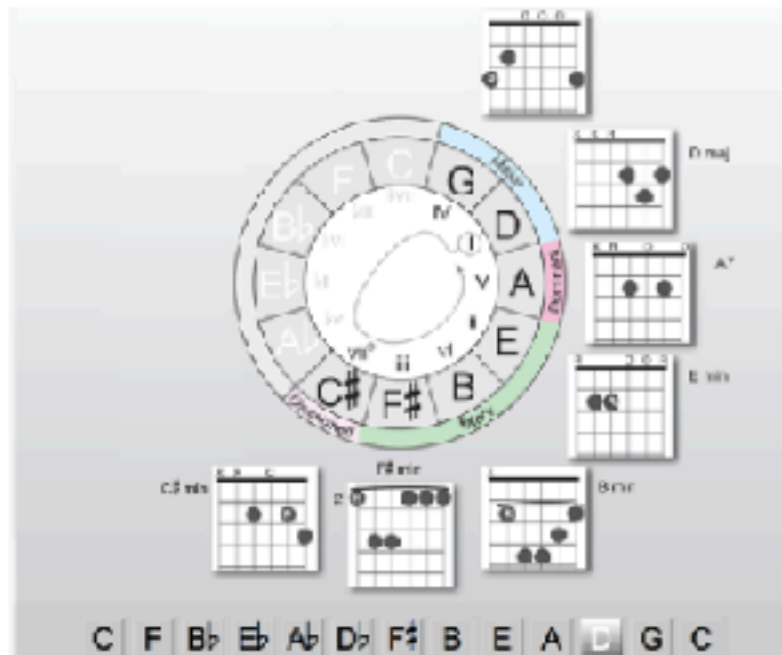


The Key of C Major

The Key of E Major



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D		The Key of D Major
I			IV	V	NM				



Just the basics here, but there is a whole load to learn within the circle of fifths.

Free online explanations:-

Based on guitar:-

https://www.google.com/search?q=cirle+of+fifths+explained&rlz=1C5CHFA_enLC731PH736&oq=cir&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j46i67i199i424i433i465i466i650j35i39j69i57j0i67i650j0i67i131i433i650j0i67i650j46i67i408i424i650j0i67i650j46i20i199i263i424i433i465i466i512.2726j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:f5832bec,vid:qF3mJzDulJ8

Based on piano:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvOzjIJw9LM>

[\(Back to start\)](#)

Step 5

Finding the Key (Tonal Centre) of a piece of music can be simple or complex to ascertain, depending on the complexity of the piece.

Step 5 How-to-find-the-key-of-a-song.mov

How to find and play in key on Guitar

It can be simple to find the key of a song or difficult, either way, use these two freely available methods to figure it.

Hayes Griffen method

This method uses basic music scale theory.

Definitive way to find the key:-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uild_jHq1xY

Brian Kelly method

This method uses the 1st position of the Pentatonic scale going up the neck.

When you get the Key, it uses the Circle of Fifths to work out the chord structure.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1a74c-9m6M>

[\(Back to start\)](#)

Step 6

You may want to change the key of a tune to suit your voice or just to vary your playing of the tune.

Step 6 Change-key-using-a-Capo.mov

To change key = Play the Dominant 7th of the 5 chord of the new key you want to go to.

Key G major

**Open tuning in key of G =====. Capo Fret
3rd and key of E**

**Open tuning in key of G =====. Capo Fret
5th and key of D**

Key D major

**Open tuning in key of D =====. Capo Fret
2nd and key of C**

Open tuning in key of D 5th and key of A =====. **Capo Fret**

Key A major

Open tuning in key of A 2nd and key of G =====. **Capo Fret**

Open tuning in key of A 5th and key of E =====. **Capo Fret**

Key C major

Open tuning in key of C 3rd and key of A =====. **Capo Fret**

Open tuning in key of C 5th and key of G =====. **Capo Fret**

Key F major

Open tuning in key of F =====. Capo Fret
1st and key of E

Open tuning in key of F =====. Capo Fret
6th and key of C

Key E major

Open tuning in key of E =====. Capo Fret
2nd and key of D

Open tuning in key of E =====. Capo Fret
4th and key of C

Key B major

Open tuning in key of B =====. Capo Fret
2nd and key of A

**Open tuning in key of B =====. Capo Fret
4th and key of G** [\(Back to start\)](#)

Step 7

Step 7-Pentatonic-positions-basic1.mov

Step 7-Pentatonic-positions-basic1.mov

Step 7-Pentatonic-positions-basicMajorKey.mov

Step 7-Pentatonic-positions-basicMinorKey.mov

The Pentatonic scale

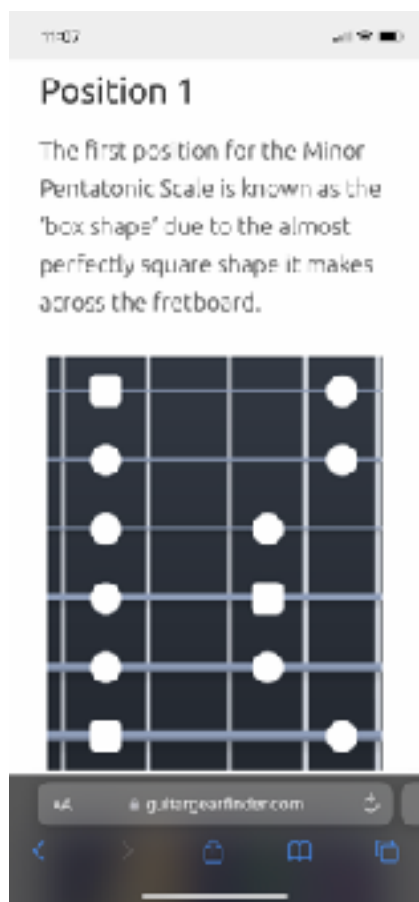
The pentatonic scale can be broken up into five small patterns, or scale shapes, that connect up and down the fretboard. Each position of the scale overlaps with the position above and below it on the fretboard. After the 5th position, the patterns just repeat, starting with the 1st position.

Position 1.

Minor

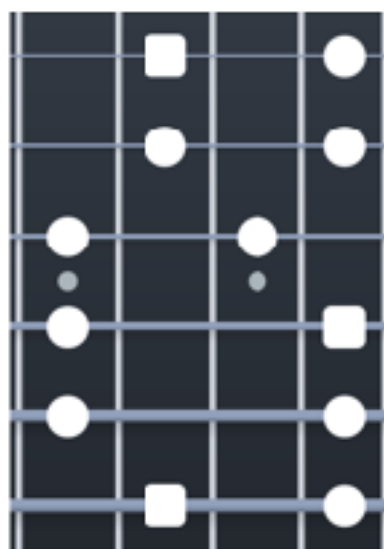
V

Major



The first position in the Major Pentatonic Scale uses the same shape as in the minor Pentatonic Scale.

In the below diagram, take note of the square shapes, which represent the root note of the scale.

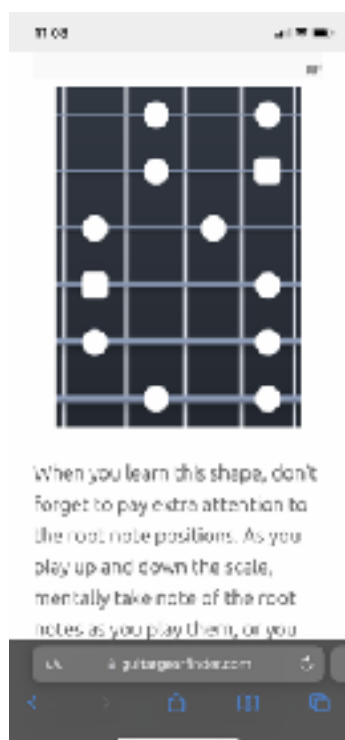


Position 2.

Minor

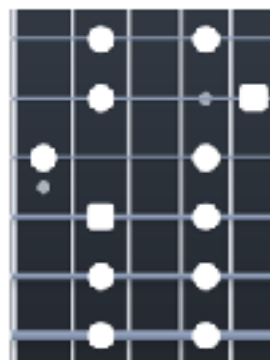
V

Major



Position 2

With this position, think about which finger positions make the most sense as you move up and down the notes.

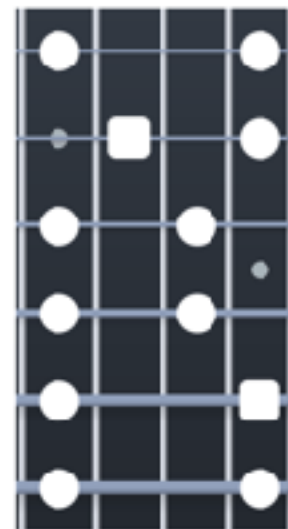
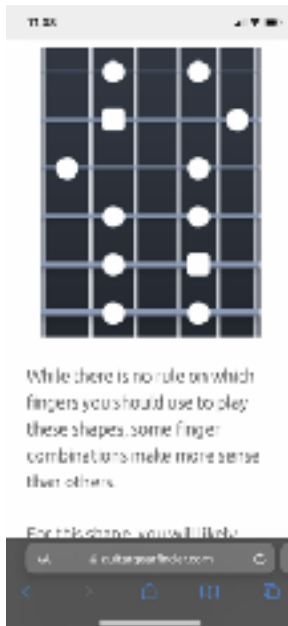


Position 3.

Minor

V

Major



Remember to pay extra attention to the root note positions as it's important to always know where they are.

Position 3

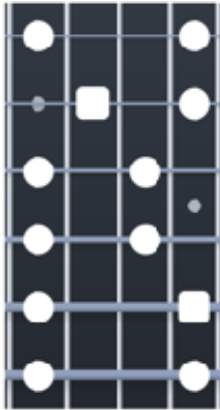
Position 3 of the Major Pentatonic Scale should feel very familiar if you have spent time memorizing the minor Pentatonic Scale. You should feel comfortable choosing which fingers to use as you move through the strings.

Position 4.

Minor

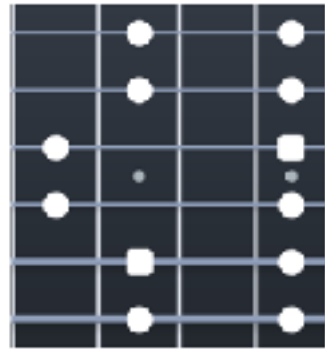
V

Major



Position 4

Try using your first and fourth fingers on the D and G strings, then use your second and fourth fingers on the other strings. See how that feels and think about if there are any other finger combinations that might feel better.



Remember to pay extra attention to the root note positions as it's important to always know where they are.

Position 5.

Minor

V

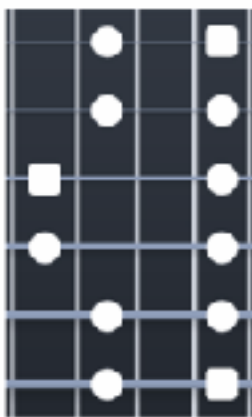
Major

11:09



Position 5

This is the last position to learn and it starts where position 4 ends. It also connects back up to position 1, so you can choose to learn this position last, or any time after you learn position 1.



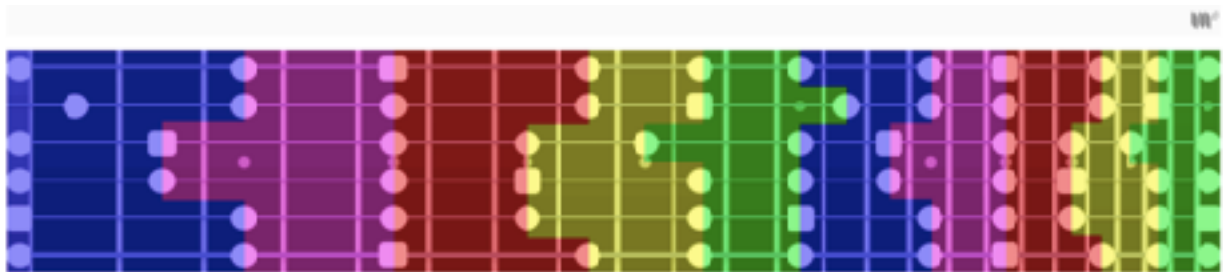
The final position of the Major Pentatonic Scale should look very familiar to you if you have started learning the minor Pentatonic Scale. It's the same shape as the first position in the minor Pentatonic Scale.



Learn more about this position

by guitarnerderson

A **Minor** starting on fret 5

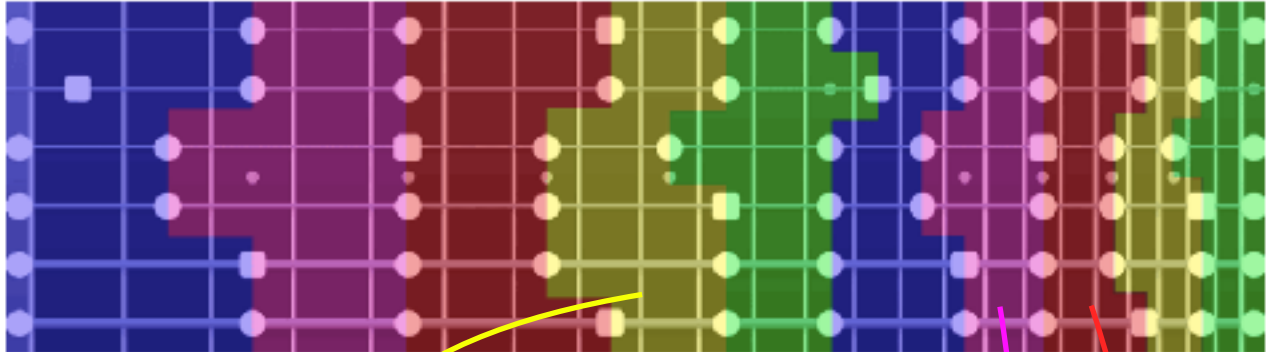


Here are the color codes for the five positions:

- Position 1: Red
- Position 2: Yellow
- Position 3: Green
- Position 4: Blue
- Position 5: Pink

All Positions

Here are the five positions of the Major Pentatonic scale on a fretboard diagram:



Here are the color codes for the five positions:

- Position 1: Yellow
- Position 2: Green
- Position 3: Blue
- Position 4: Pink
- Position 5: Red

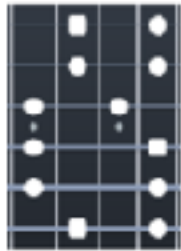
C Major starting on fret 8.

Minor

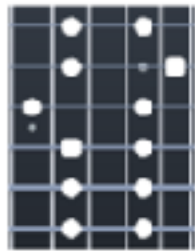
Minor **1**



2



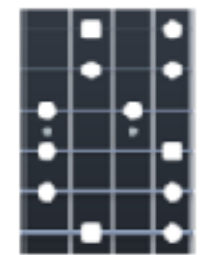
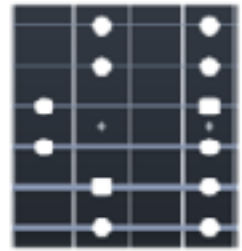
3



4



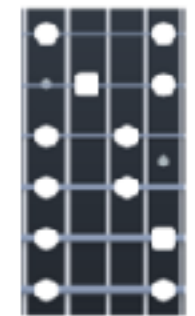
5



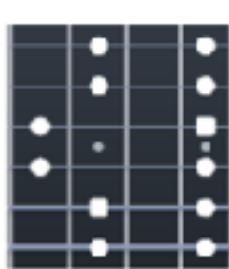
Major **2**



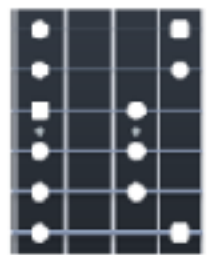
3



4

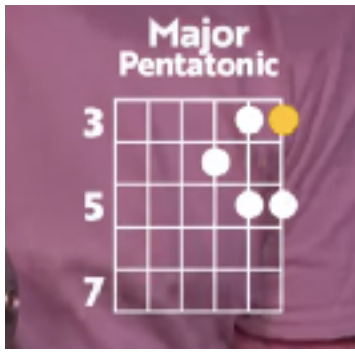


5

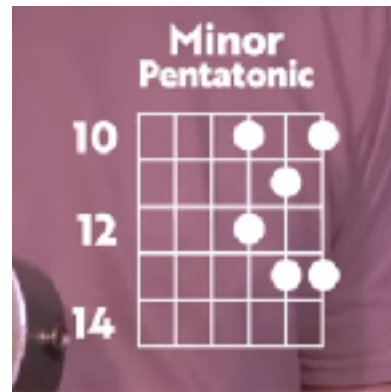
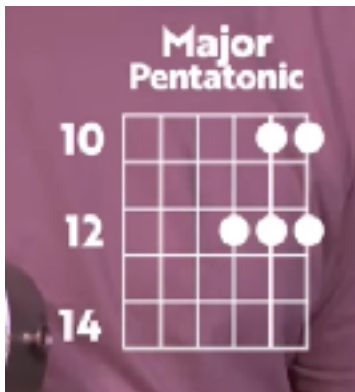
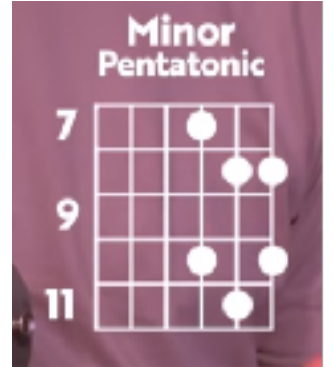
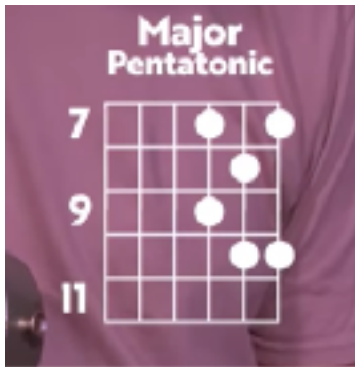
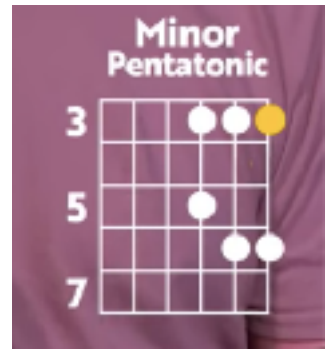


1

Major



In G Major

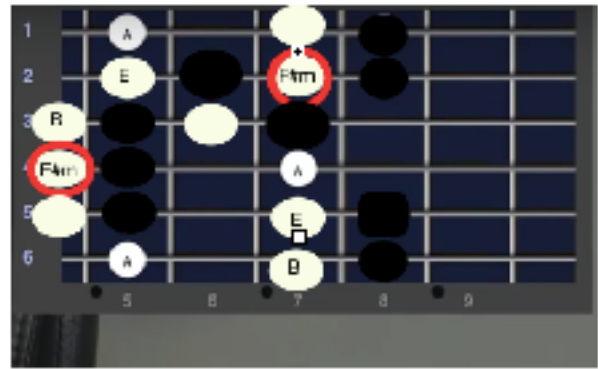
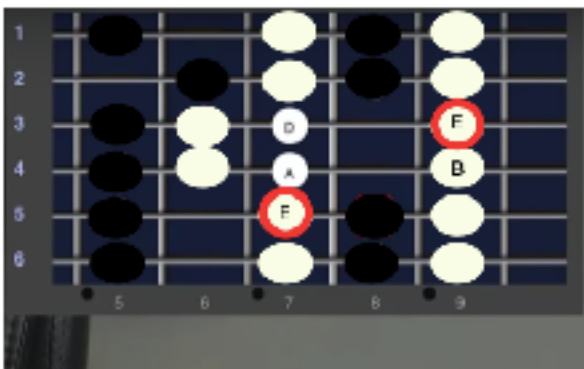
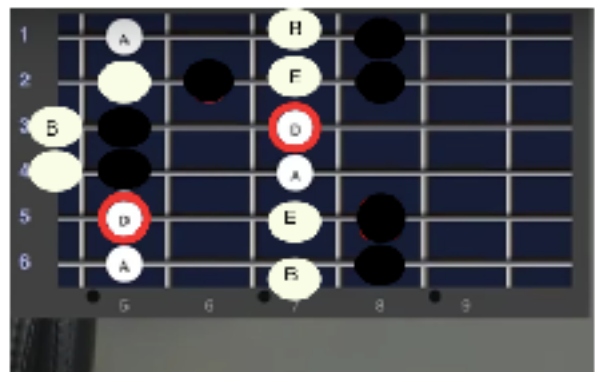
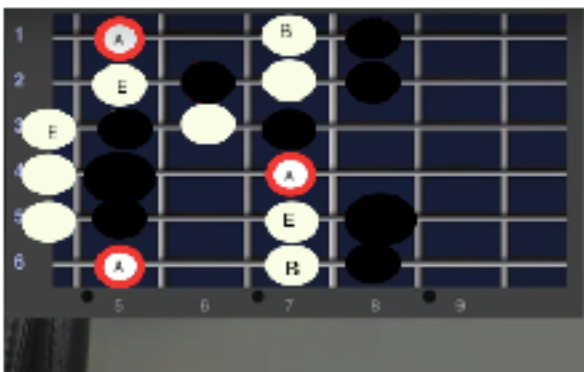


[\(Back to start\)](#)

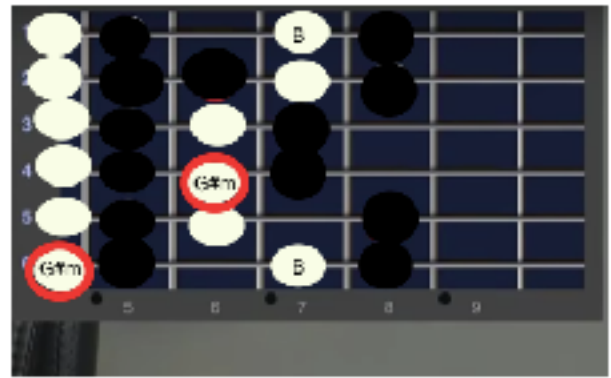
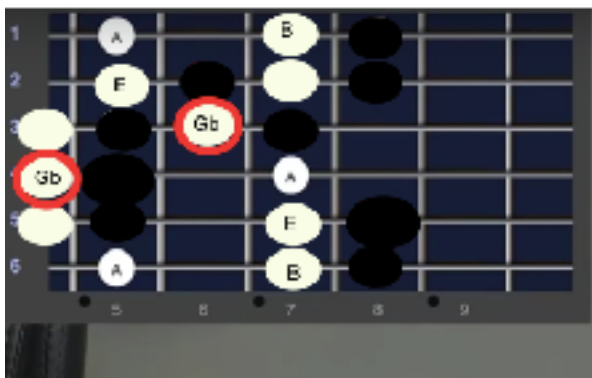
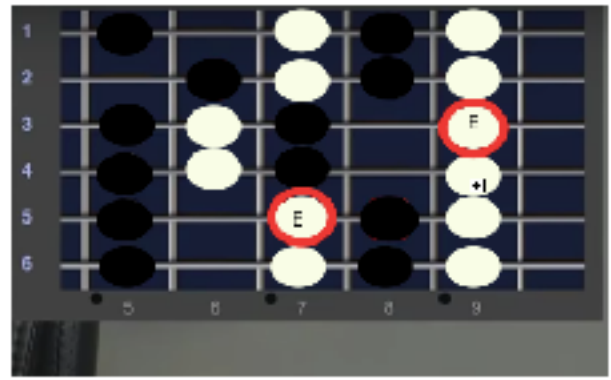
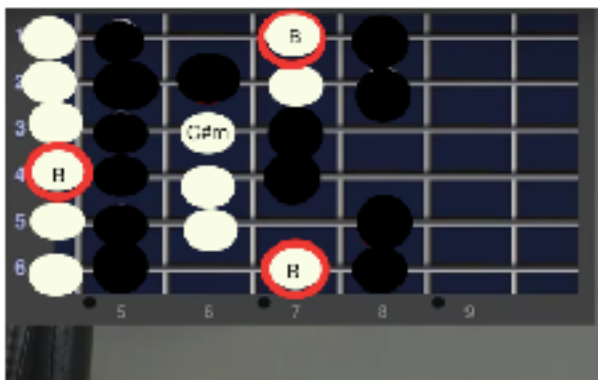
Step 8

The next step in your guitar learning journey could be to learn how to use the various Pentatonic patterns for the standard chords sequences, across a tight four fret only area of the fretboard.

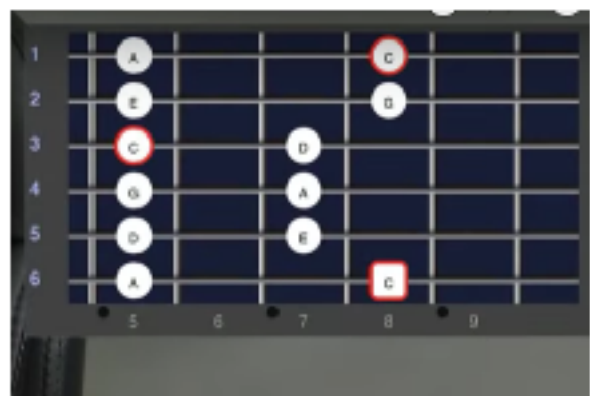
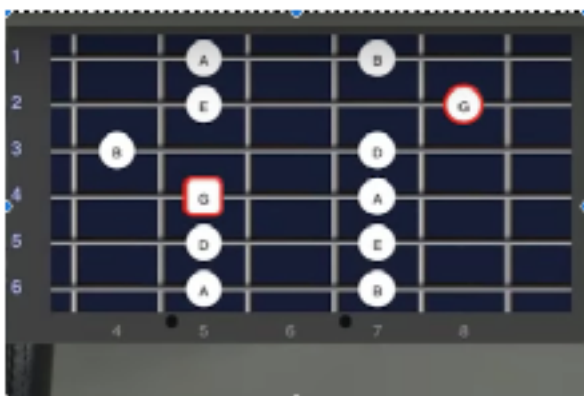
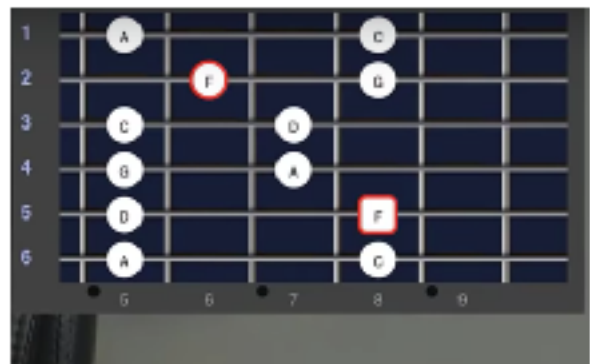
ADEF#m__1456_between-frets-4_to_7



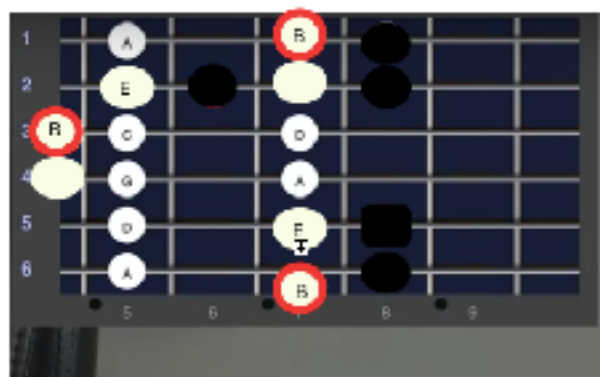
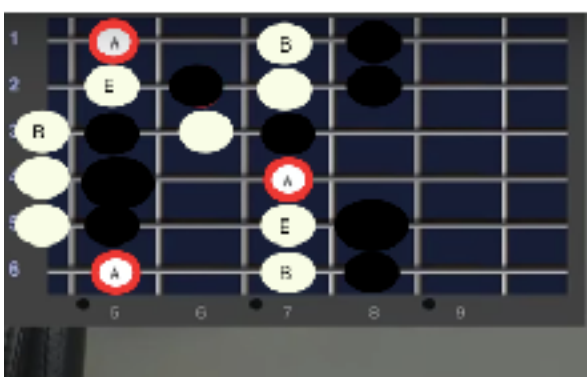
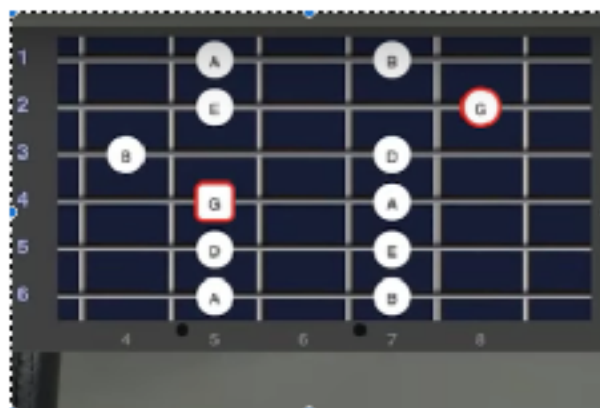
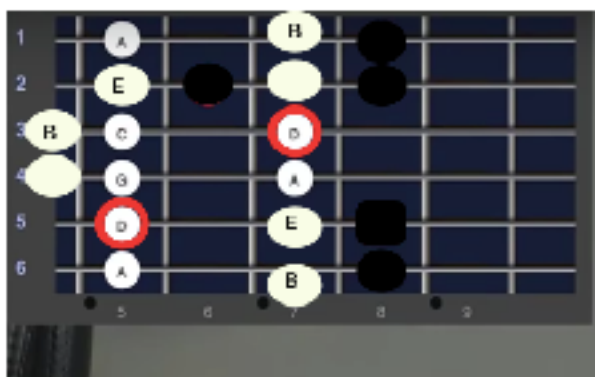
BEGbG#m__1456_between-frets-4_to_9



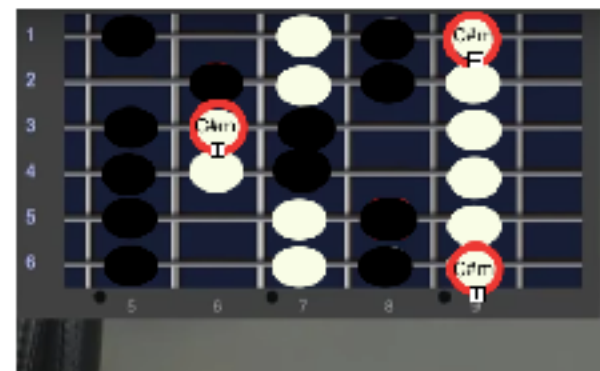
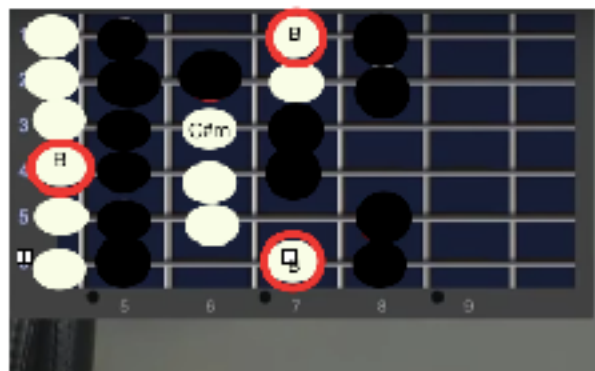
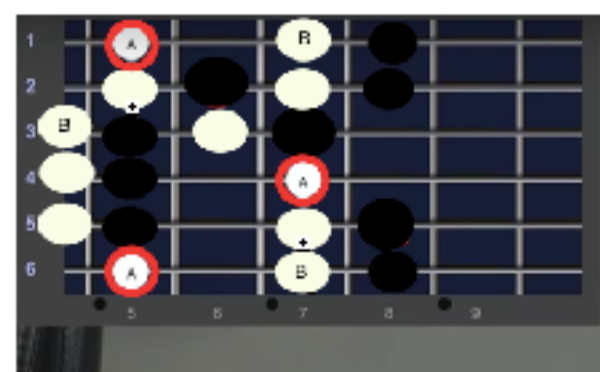
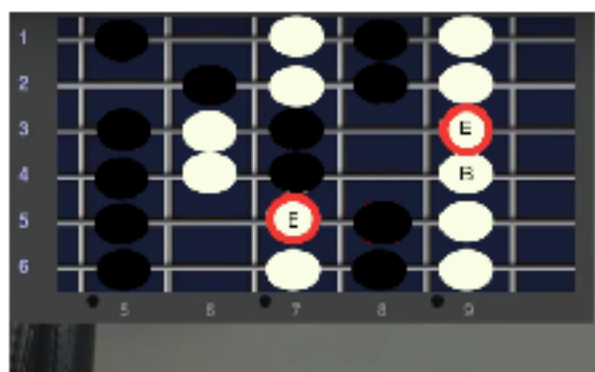
CFGAm__1456_between-frets-4_to_8



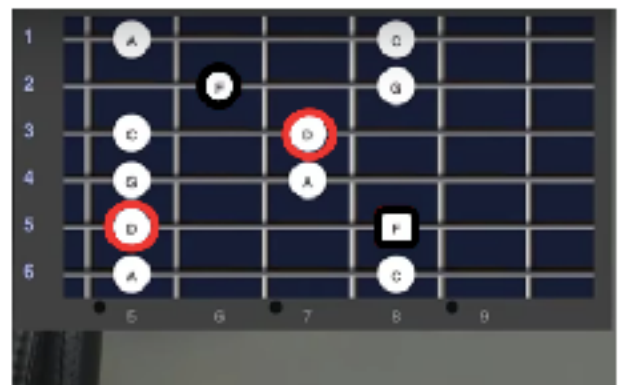
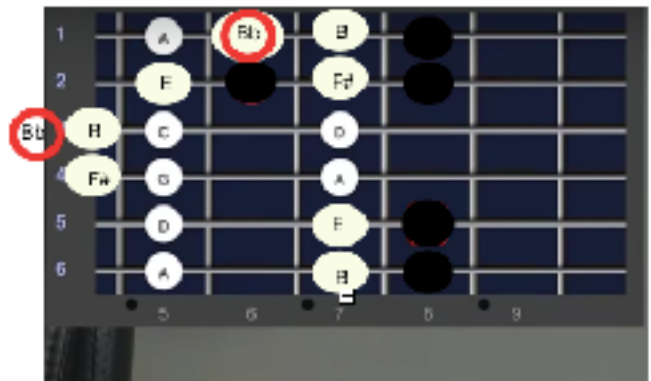
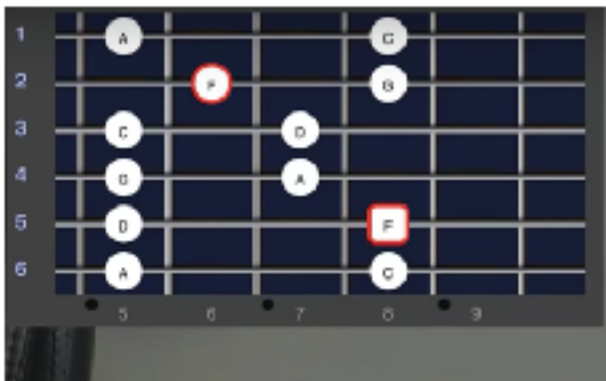
DGABm__1456_between-frets-4_to_8



EABC#m__1456_between-frets-4_to_9

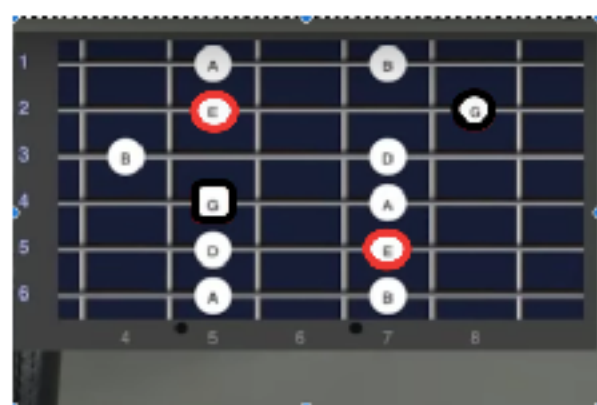
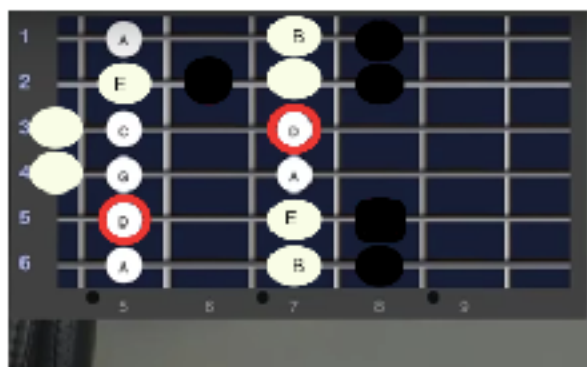
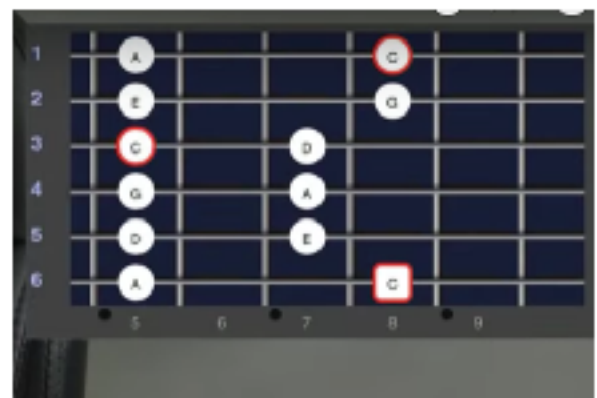
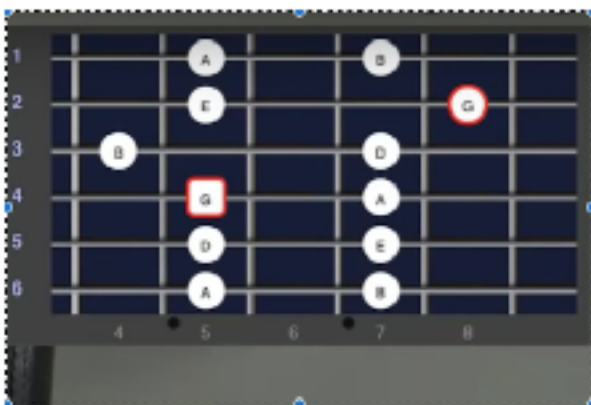


FBbCDm__1456_between-frets-4_to_8



GCDEm__1456_between-frets-4_to_9

[\(Back to start\)](#)



Step 9

The next step in your guitar learning journey could be to learn how to use Modes.

There are free online resources that explain Modes much better than I ever could:-

<https://www.guitar-chords.org.uk/modes/modes.html>

Active Melody's

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

[v=aHzmIWB0P00&t=14s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHzmIWB0P00&t=14s)

Music Theory 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYN_k67Oafc

<https://lifein12keys.com/guitar-modes-guide-to-modal-shapes/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT4p_BzfToU

Lots of free resource learning material.....

- 1. Ionian (Major)**
- 2. Dorian (minor)**
- 3. Phrygian (minor)**
- 4. Lydian (Major)**
- 5. Mixolydian (Major)**
- 6. Aeolian (minor)**

The first mode you will learn out of the Key of C Major will be the C Ionian mode. Each mode in the key of C has a different name. The names are from the ancient Greek language. The Ionian mode is a medieval church mode corresponding to the modern major diatonic scale, or the first mode of the major key. The first mode in the major key is always the Ionian mode. This means if you are in the key of G major, G would be the Ionian mode.

We will learn the C major Ionian mode position starting at the C note, Low E string 8th Fret. This is the same position as the C major pentatonic scale starting at the VIII position 8th fret or C note. The only difference is the two extra notes added. These two notes are the F and B.

Once again the notes and chords in the key of C major are illustrated below. Each chord or note in the major key can be illustrated by a guitar mode. There are 7 guitar modes in every major key. There are 3 major modes, 3 minor modes and a diminished mode in every major key.

Look at the image below. All of the notes on the fretboard have been included, but only the notes of the C major scale or key of C major have been placed in circles. If you study this illustration, you should be able to pick out each mode in the key of C major.

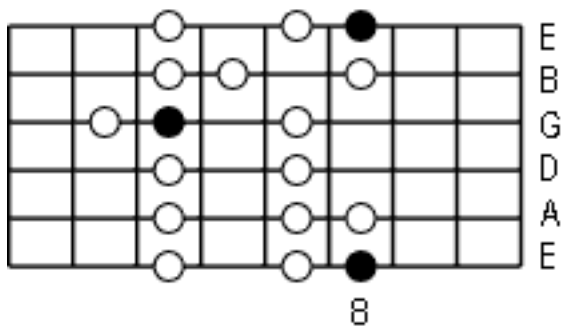
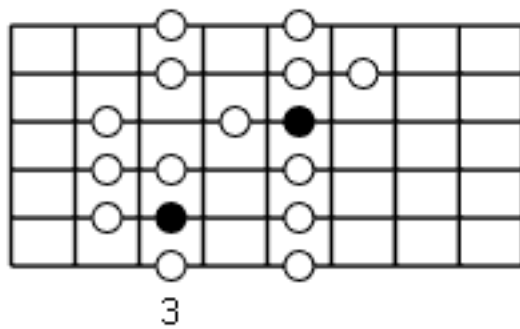
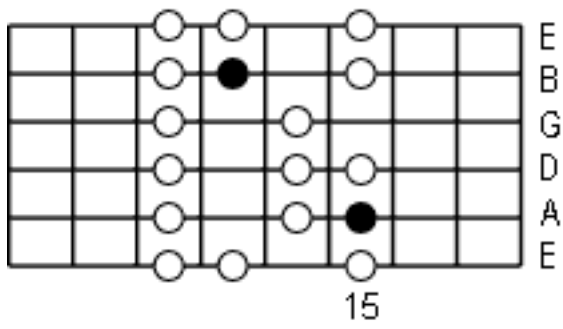
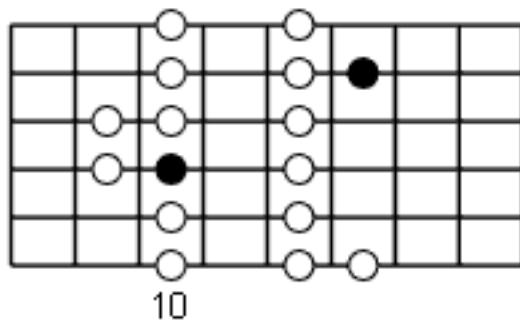
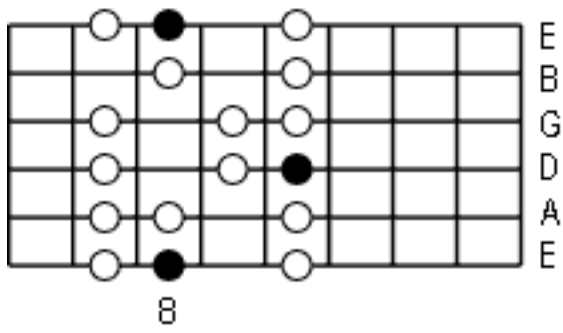
There are many ways to play each guitar mode, but we are going to learn to play the C major scale or Ionian mode starting at the 8th fret position.

C Ionian Mode

- The Ionian Mode is the first mode of the major scale. They are essentially the same scale.
- C Ionian Scale Notes: **C D E F G A B**
- Ionian Scale Formula: **1 2 3 4 5 6 7**
- Ionian Scale Intervals: **W W H W W W H**

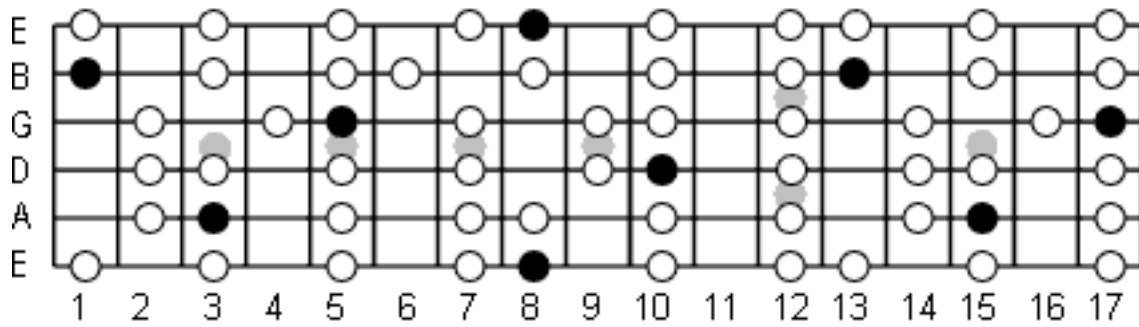
Guitar Scale Diagrams: C Ionian Mode

C Ionian Positions



C Ionian Mode

C Ionian Notes: Full Fretboard



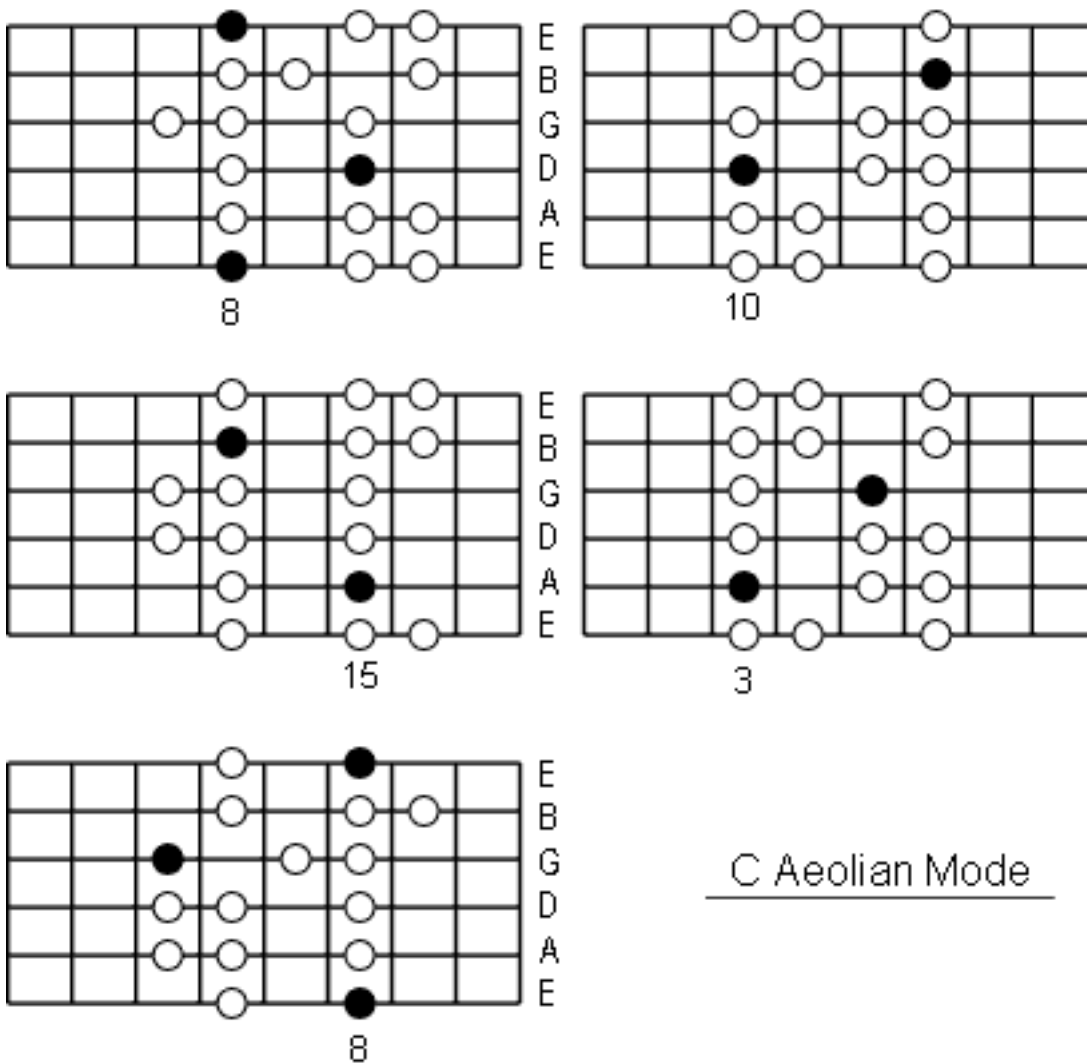
Minor key chord progression use the AEOLIAN Mode (6th)

C Aeolian Mode

- C Aeolian is the sixth mode of the Eb major scale
- C Aeolian Scale Notes: **C D Eb F G Ab Bb**
- Aeolian Scale Formula: **1 2 b3 4 5 b6 b7**
- Aeolian Scale Intervals: **W H W W H W W**

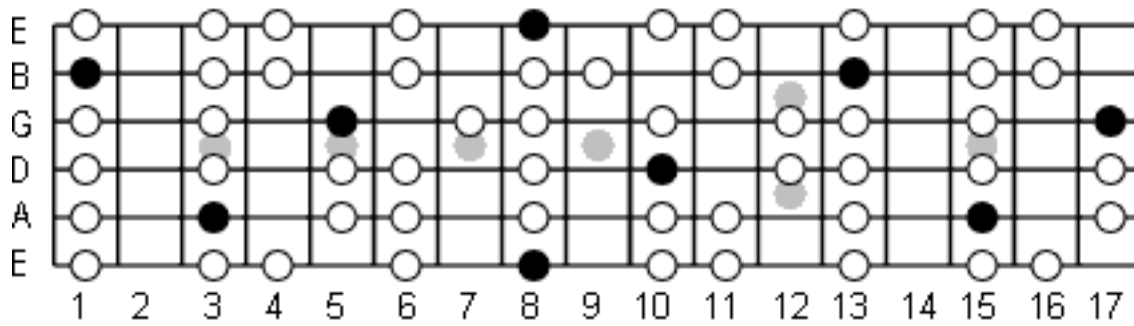
Guitar Scale Diagrams: C Aeolian Mode

C Aeolian Positions



C Aeolian Mode

C Aeolian Notes: Full Fretboard

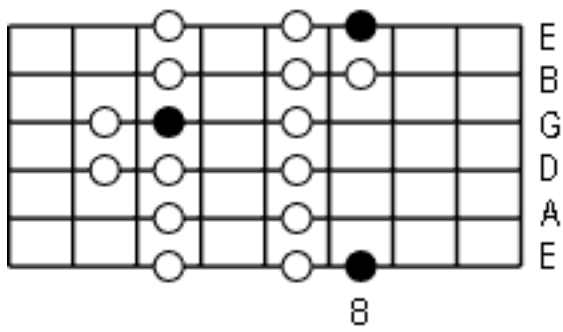
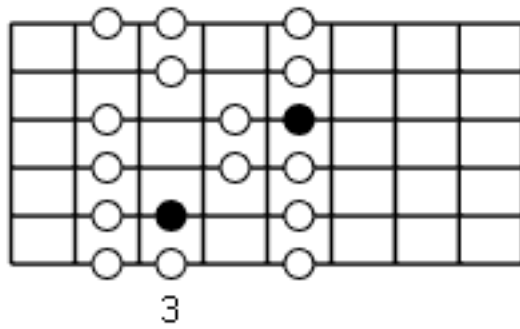
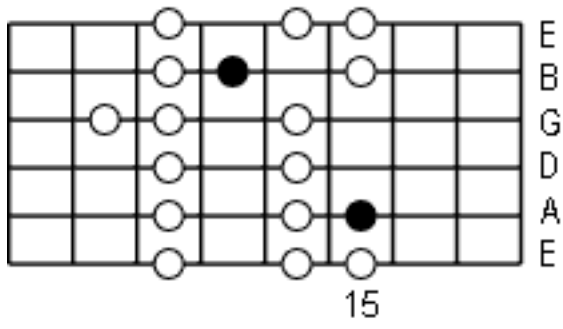
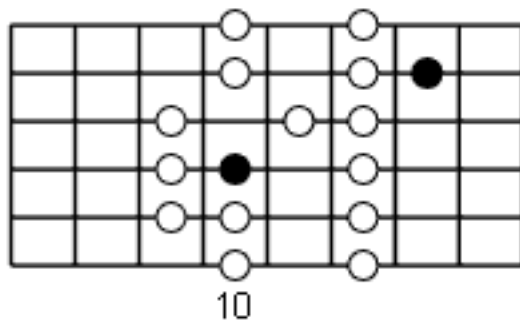
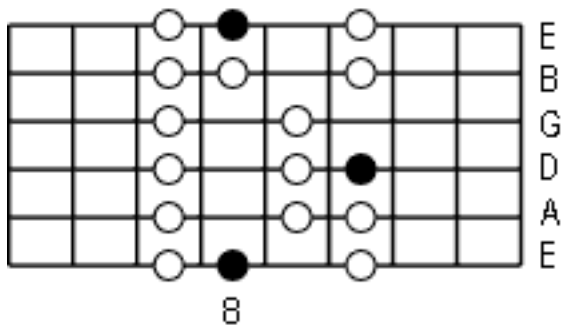


C Lydian Mode

- C Lydian is the fourth mode of the G major scale
- C Lydian Scale Notes: **C D E F# G A B**
- Lydian Scale Formula: **1 2 3 #4 5 6 7**
- Lydian Scale Intervals: **W W W H W W H**

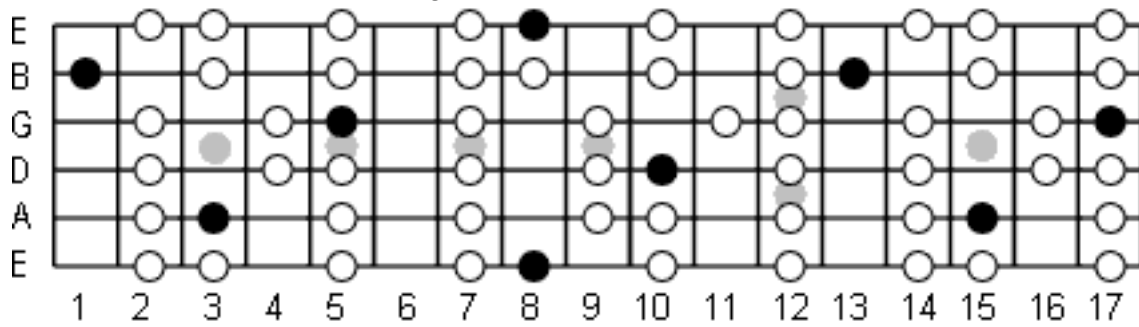
Guitar Scale Diagrams: C Lydian Mode

C Lydian Positions



C Lydian Mode

C Lydian Notes: Full Fretboard

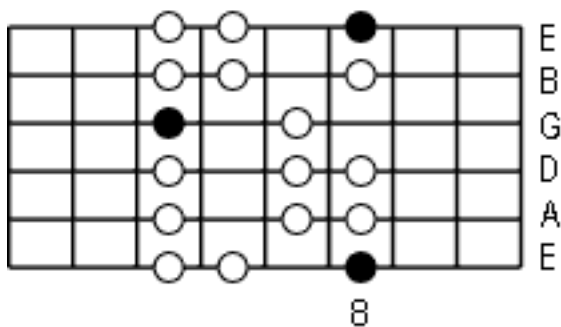
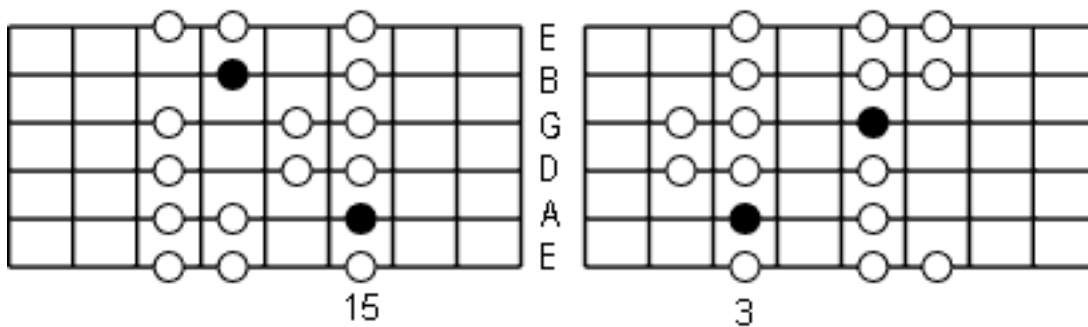
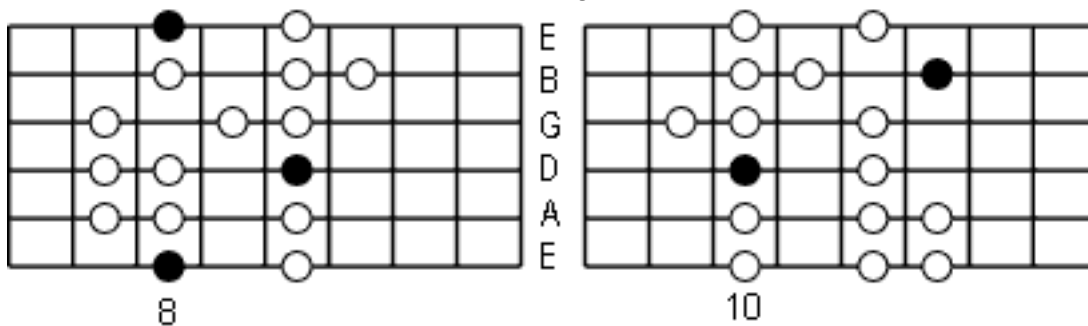


C Mixolydian Mode

- C Mixolydian is the fifth mode of the F major scale
- C Mixolydian Scale Notes: **C D E F G A Bb**
- Mixolydian Scale Formula: **1 2 3 4 5 6 b7**
- Mixolydian Scale Intervals: **W W H W W H W**

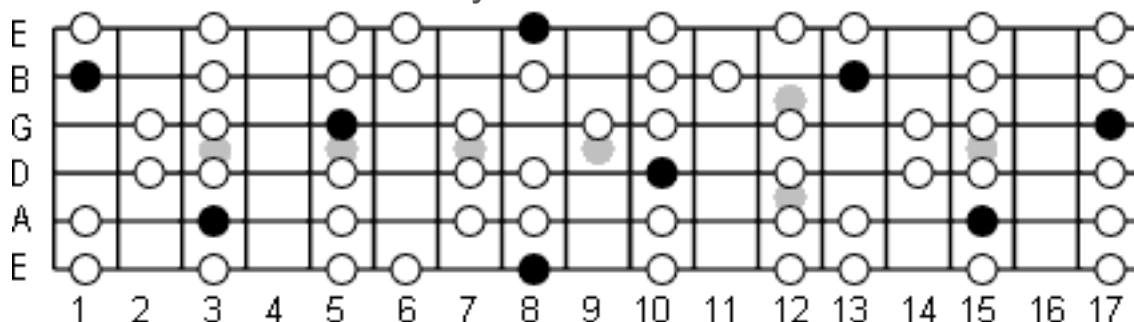
Guitar Scale Diagrams: C Mixolydian Mode

C Mixolydian Positions



C Mixolydian Mode

C Mixolydian Notes: Full Fretboard

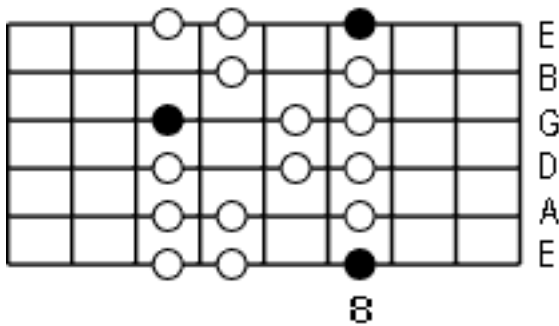
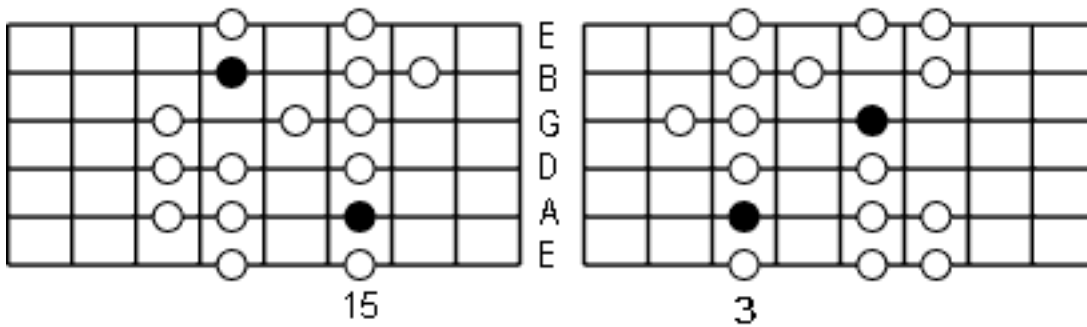
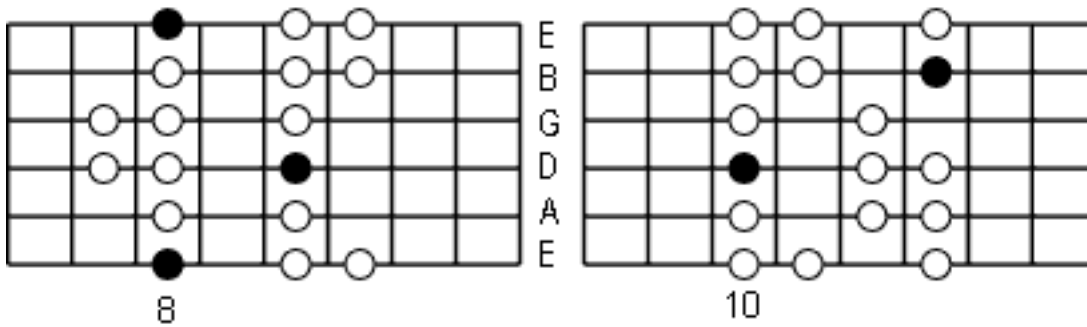


C Dorian Mode

- C Dorian is the second mode of the Bb major scale
- C Dorian Scale Notes: **C D Eb F G A Bb**
- Dorian Scale Formula: **1 2 b3 4 5 6 b7**
- Dorian Scale Intervals: **W H W W W H W**

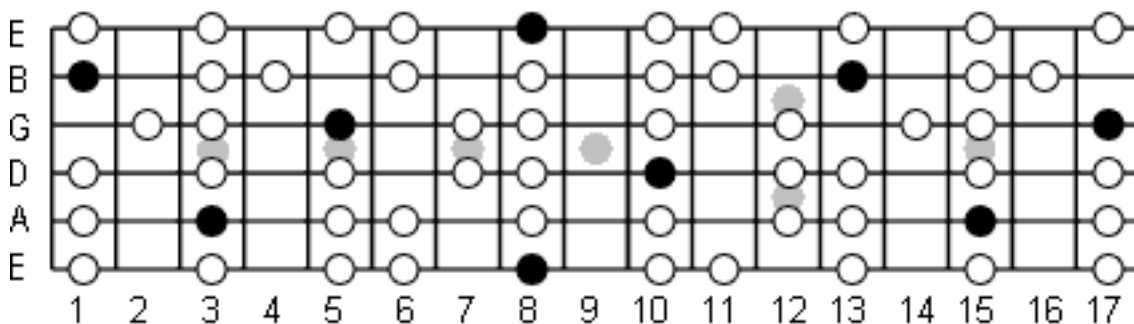
Guitar Scale Diagrams: C Dorian Mode

C Dorian Positions



C Dorian Mode

C Dorian Notes: Full Fretboard

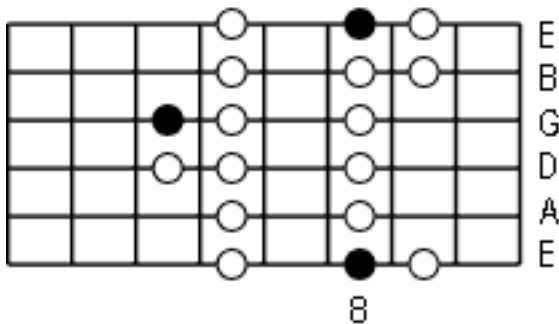
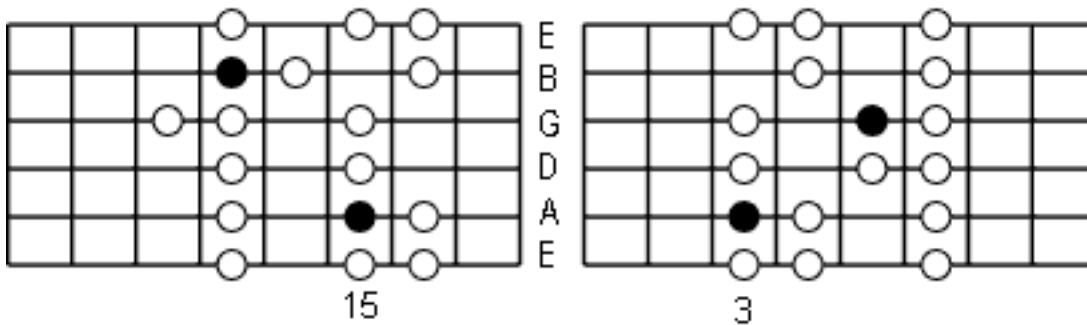
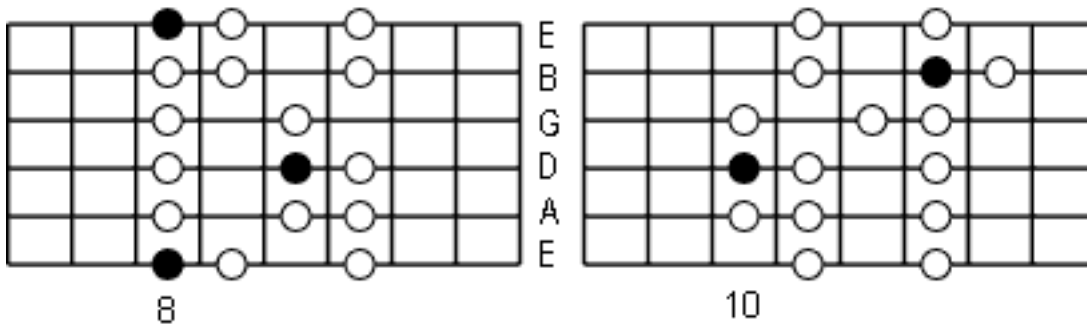


C Phrygian Mode

- C Phrygian is the third mode of the Ab major scale
- C Phrygian Scale Notes: **C Db Eb F G Ab Bb**
- Phrygian Scale Formula: **1 b2 b3 4 5 b6 b7**
- Phrygian Scale Intervals: **H W W W H W W**

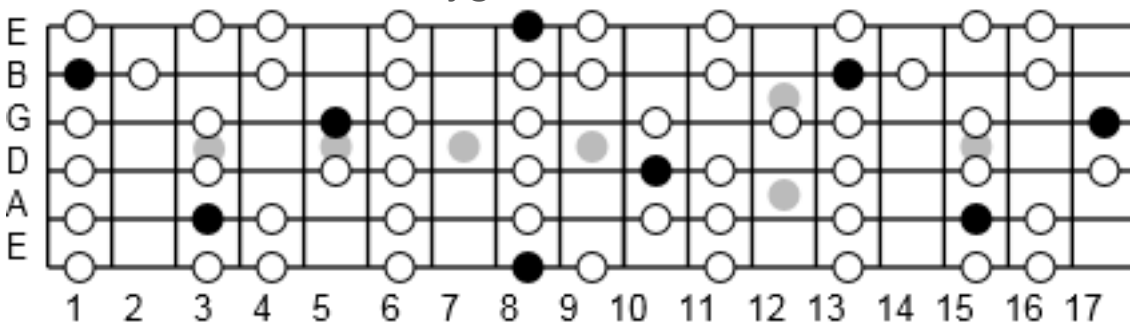
Guitar Scale Diagrams: C Phrygian Mode

C Phrygian Positions



C Phrygian Mode

C Phrygian Notes: Full Fretboard



Step 10

If you want to improve from a beginner guitarist, you need to learn these 14 guitar skills.

[\(Back to start\)](#)

(This article is taken from <https://www.learn guitarmalta.com>

It is representative of many similar articles available on the web about the skills needed to improve your guitar skills.

It is the content of the article rather than the hyperlink back and forth selling opportunities that we would like you to absorb. So, with this in mind, we have removed the hyperlinking from all of the underlined text that follow from here. If you still want the selling experience, follow the link above for the unaltered hyperlinking version)

Despite all of the web hard sell advertising, and no matter what you might pay to whomever online, there is no magical easy way to learn any musical instrument, other than your own learning and lots of practice.

The estimated time to learn an instrument to any degree of proficiency is between 2 - 50 years (anyone who tells you differently, is trying to sell you something !)

Can you (quite) [easily transition from a C to a D chord](#) but don't know [what guitar scales are](#), let alone how to use them? Do you know a few chords and songs but don't know what guitar skills you need to acquire to reach the next level?

Welcome to an exciting stage in [learning lead guitar](#).

Now that you've got the basics under your hand, you can start discovering what you can actually do on your instrument.

The following guitar skills should be developed earlier on in your lead guitar learning curve, though you may actually master some of them when you're at a more advanced level of playing. (Some of these guitar skills, like improvisation and phrasing, are easy to start developing, but will take time to master)

1. Understand rhythmic notation

Do you think that stuff about crotchets dividing into quavers, dividing further into semiquavers with ties and dots and all that mumbo jumbo of things is useless? Think again.

Not only is understanding rhythmic notation easy if you do it step by step, but it is also very useful for various reasons.

First of all, it will make it possible to read rhythmic notation, which, together with guitar tab will make it possible for you to learn songs, lessons, and exercises, (as we'll see in skill 3).

Secondly, it will organise the different subdivisions of the beat in your mind, which will help a lot with the next, very important skill.

2. Playing on time

While you were learning your first guitar chords, and changing from one to another, you weren't bothering about timing at all.

Your goal was to get your fingers to obey and go to the right place.

Now you should start to take playing on time into consideration. If you've gained Skill 1 and understood the subdivision of the beat, you now have to apply what you've learned by practicing with a metronome.

If you don't dig this right, nothing else will sound right. Playing on time is a must and a guitar skill that should be developed early on.

Hint: If you're practicing your timing, give your fretting hand as little as possible to do. If for instance, you're practicing strumming on time, don't change any chords with your left hand. Your mind should be focused completely on the rhythm. [The rhythm guitar exercises in this lesson](#) are examples of how you can practice and focus on keeping a steady rhythm with your right hand.

3. Read guitar tabs fluently

For years, guitar teachers have dwelled on whether guitar players should learn to read standard music notation or [guitar tabs](#).

The battle still rages on with the music notation purists yelling "you're not real musicians if you can't read music" with the rock rebels replying "we can still play great"

And the pacifists claiming we could find a compromise in combining them.

Ok, the war may not be as fierce as I'm making it to be, but I've encountered quite a few people who have strong opinions on one way or the other.

What I will suggest to you is the way of the pacifist.

Not only because I hate violence, but also because I believe it's the best way to [improve your guitar playing skills](#).

Aside from the musical puritanism, being able to read guitar tabs but not standard notation, has one major problem: What about the rhythm?

You can exactly locate which note you need on the fretboard using guitar tabs, but for how long are you going to hold that note before you go to the next?

Some guitar tabs come with their own version of rhythmic notation, which makes it easy to understand for how long you should hold the note.

But even to be able to understand these, you still have to know the basics of rhythm (Skill 1).

Let's recap then, following this way, you will get **what** notes you're going to play from the [guitar tabs](#) but you get **for how long** you hold each note using [standard music notation](#) as in this example:

The image displays a musical example with two staves. The top staff is in standard notation, featuring a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is a guitar tab for the treble clef, with strings labeled T, A, and B. The tab includes fret numbers (7, 9, 5, 7, 9, 7, 7, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5) and rhythmic markings (vertical lines and wavy lines) above the notes to indicate timing. A dynamic marking 'mf' is present in the first measure of the standard notation.

If you had to play a piece of music like this, the guitar tabs will tell you exactly on what frets you should put your fingers. The standard notation above them will tell you the rhythm.

You should have noticed there is other stuff going on apart from notes and numbers in this piece of music; lines between notes, curves over notes, and a serpent looking thing above some notes.

Those are the signs of phrasing techniques (slides, legato, and vibrato in the above example). Phrasing tells you **how** you play the notes and we'll deal with this very important skill separately later on.

4. Memorise the notes on the guitar fretboard.

I realised a bit too late how important this one is. It would have made life easier if I started working on it earlier.

You need to start [memorising where each note is on the fretboard](#) and arrive at the point where if I asked you to find all the C notes on the fretboard you would do so with ease.

You may not fully understand the value of this right now, but as you read what other guitar skills you'll have to start learning, you will realise how much it will come useful.

5. Barre chords

Barre chords are a hard nut, I know.

But one you can overcome with the right amount of practice, and by using the correct positions, preferably under the guidance of a good guitar teacher.

They're also something you cannot do without.

On a positive note, barre chords make life easier, because unlike your open CAGED chords, the pattern for each chord remains the same. All you have to do is to move your hand up and down the fretboard and barre a different fret to get the same kind of chord (ex. major to major, minor to minor, etc)

For instance, if I want to play say, G major starting on the low E string, I will find that note, barre the whole fret, and play the pattern of (open) E major.

If I want an A major, I'll play the same whole thing 2 frets higher, so on and so forth.

6. Music theory

[Read this article if you want to know what music theory is not.](#)

Think of music theory as a guide, especially if you want to create your own music, a goal you should start considering at this stage.

The coming two guitar skills are closely related to the study of music theory. You *can* learn them without knowing the theory, but it would be more like following patterns and not knowing what you're doing.

[This lesson](#) will show you how to apply music theory to the guitar.

7. Guitar Scales

There are so many notes on the fretboard, how am I going to know which ones I'm going to use for my solos?

Scales come to the rescue.

Think of scales as paths on the fretboard. A set of notes to choose from, which, assuming you're using the right scale, (and that's where music theory becomes relevant) will not sound out of tune if you play after each other, in any order.

Follow this guide on [how to learn and use guitar scales.](#)

Also practice these [guitar scale exercises](#) to internalise scales better and use them as a tool to create music.

8. Arpeggios

You're playing a solo and following a path (the scale).

Now imagine if, placed in a logical way, on this path, there were benches, where you can sit for a while before continuing your journey.

Though you can hold any note for any amount of time and there aren't any strict music theory rules that cannot be disobeyed, in general, you would want to use the notes of the arpeggio as the benches.

Arpeggios indicate what notes you should linger on, emphasise, and apply phrasing techniques like vibrato.

[Learn arpeggios](#), their role in music, and, eventually, how you can use them in your riffs, licks, and solos.

9. Guitar chord progressions

You've probably played the transition from the chord G to the chord C many times by now.

What you probably don't know is that you're playing a V – I [chord progression](#) in the [key](#) of C.

While it is music theory that will explain how all this works, a chord progression simply means two or more chords played after each other.

Some chord progressions simply sound better, and thus, are more common in popular music.

Probably the most common progression in Pop and Rock music is the I – IV – V progression. To get its sound, play the chords C, F, and G after each other.

Learn some common guitar chord progressions, and at this point, you can even start experimenting with [writing your first songs](#).

10. Improvising

Improvising means making music up on the spot.

I used to think, how is that possible?

Well, it's not an easy guitar skill to master. Actually starting to do it is not hard though if you [follow these steps as well as learn some music theory](#).

11. Guitar phrasing techniques

Phrasing techniques used right, are what will make your friends realise you can really play guitar.

If you followed the steps in the link on improvisation in the skill above, you have realised you actually need to know only two scales to start improvising in any major or minor key.

And that the quality of your solos is not directly proportional to how many scales you can play, or in how many positions.

What makes a solo or a lick stand out is the phrasing – **how** you play the notes. This [lesson on phrasing](#) will show you the nuts and bolts of this underrated, but crucial aspect of guitar playing.

It's what gets you thinking in terms of melodic phrases, and thus, makes it possible to actually create them.

12. Power chord guitar riffs

You're probably learning other musicians' guitar riffs by now, but power chords actually make it possible to [create your own riffs](#).

The [power chord](#) not only sounds great, especially with a distortion applied but is simple and easy to use.

Start writing your first power chord riffs now!

13. Training your ear

In the section on guitar scales, I told you that you can use them as a path (and arpeggios as benches).

Music theory shows you what path you should use.

And technique makes it actually possible for you to walk that path.

Think of ear training like having a torch to see through that path. Except that your journey is not made of visions but sounds.

Like a torch that helps you see what you're going to encounter next in your path, a trained ear will know how a note is going to sound before you actually play it.

If you're playing the notes of a particular scale, you will be able to choose beforehand whether you play the second, third, fourth (etc.) degree of the scale because you already know how they're going to sound.

Now, every time you're practicing guitar, you're actually training your ear – as long as the guitar is in tune, of course.

However, it's good to start learning ear training, especially the study of relative pitch, separately. Learning the sounds of intervals, scales, and [triads](#) will make anything you do in music easier and more pleasurable.

14. Playing with others

Once you have got a basic understanding of most or all of the guitar skills mentioned above, start finding fellow musicians to play with.

It's not only fun but also a great learning experience which will further improve your other guitar skills.

That said, this should not replace the [time you spend practicing on your own](#).

Develop your skills by yourself, then try them out with your friends.

Conclusion

The number of guitar skills mentioned here may seem overwhelming.

However, you need to keep in mind this is a [long-term process](#).

While skills 1 – 3 should be mastered as soon as possible, [the other skills will just grow with you every time you practice](#).

I suggest that you work on these guitar skills simultaneously since what you will gain in one will automatically rub over the others.

For instance, the more scales, arpeggios, and phrasing techniques you know, the better you can improvise. On the other hand, when you're improvising, you're reinforcing and using in practice those skills.

The more skills you have, the better you can play other people's music, and the sooner you can create your own.

Other skills that will improve your guitar understanding and playing (In no particular order);-

The Three Notes per String System (3NPS)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_I4dW-nJ9E

The CAGED system

RIFFS

Major Triads

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xciOTrhTrU>

Minor Triads

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ff1zJYhqz8>

The natural **Major** and **Major scales**

[\(Back to start\)](#)