

A Minor Pentatonic

The Minor Pentatonic scale is widely used in all musical genres; blues, folk, bluegrass, country, rock, metal, jazz.... As the name suggests, pentatonic scales have 5 notes. Penta = 5 and Tonic = note. 5-note scale. The typical scale will have 7 notes. Pentatonic scales are subsets of the major and minor scales.

Like all scales on the guitar, once you learn the patterns you can move them around to different starting places on the neck and play the scale in different keys. Also pay attention to how you can move between one position and the next.

Why 5 positions that all have different shapes? The positions are merely a result of starting the scale on one of the notes of the scale. The 1st shape starts on the root, the second shape starts on the second note, etc. There are only 5 notes; A – C – D – E – G. The notes are always in the same order in each of the shapes, just starting from different notes. Notice that all these notes are also part of the C major.

Memorize these patterns and memorize the notes.

A Minor Pentatonic: 5 positions / shapes

$\text{♩} = 100$

el. bs.

Shape 1

Shape 2

Shape 3

Shape 4

Shape 5