

Beginning Riff and Solo Exercises

Quarter Note Riffs
Starting on the low E string

Major Pentatonic

Minor Pentatonic

Musical notation for the first exercise. The top staff shows a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The Major Pentatonic riff consists of four quarter notes: E2, F2, G2, A2. The Minor Pentatonic riff consists of four quarter notes: E2, G1, A1, B1. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 2, 4, 1, 4 for the Major Pentatonic and 1, 4, 1, 4 for the Minor Pentatonic.

(Finger Numbers NOT Fret Numbers)

Major Pentatonic

Minor Pentatonic

Musical notation for the second exercise. The top staff shows a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The Major Pentatonic riff consists of four quarter notes: E2, F2, G2, A2. The Minor Pentatonic riff consists of four quarter notes: E2, G1, A1, B1. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 2, 4, 1, 4 for the Major Pentatonic and 1, 4, 1, 3 for the Minor Pentatonic.

Major Pentatonic

Minor Pentatonic

Musical notation for the third exercise. The top staff shows a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The Major Pentatonic riff consists of four quarter notes: E2, F2, G2, A2. The Minor Pentatonic riff consists of four quarter notes: E2, G1, A1, B1. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 2, 4, 1, 4 for the Major Pentatonic and 1, 3, 1, 4 for the Minor Pentatonic.

Major Pentatonic

Minor Pentatonic

Musical notation for the fourth exercise. The top staff shows a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The Major Pentatonic riff consists of eight quarter notes: E2, F2, G2, A2, B1, A1, G1, F2. The Minor Pentatonic riff consists of eight quarter notes: E2, G1, A1, B1, A1, G1, F2, E2. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 2, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4 for the Major Pentatonic and 1, 4, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 4 for the Minor Pentatonic.

Quarter Note Riffs Starting on the high E string

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

TAB 4/4 4/4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

TAB 4/4 4/4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

TAB 4/4 4/4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

TAB 4/4 4/4

8th Note Riffs
Starting on the low E string

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

4/4 4/4

TAB 4/4 4/4

2 4 1 4 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

4/4 4/4

TAB 4/4 4/4

2 4 1 4 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 4 1 3

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

4/4 4/4

TAB 4/4 4/4

2 4 1 4 2 4 1 4 1 3 1 4 1 3 1 4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

4/4 4/4

TAB 4/4 4/4

2 4 1 4 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 3 1 4

8th Note Riffs Starting on the high E string

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

The first riff consists of two parts. The first part is the Major Pentatonic scale, written in 4/4 time. The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The tablature below shows the fretting: 2, 4, 2, 4, 2, 4, 2, 4. The second part is the Minor Pentatonic scale, also in 4/4 time. The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5. The tablature below shows the fretting: 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4.

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

The second riff consists of two parts. The first part is the Major Pentatonic scale, written in 4/4 time. The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The tablature below shows the fretting: 2, 4, 2, 3, 2, 4, 2, 3. The second part is the Minor Pentatonic scale, also in 4/4 time. The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5. The tablature below shows the fretting: 1, 4, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 3.

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

The third riff consists of two parts. The first part is the Major Pentatonic scale, written in 4/4 time. The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The tablature below shows the fretting: 2, 3, 2, 4, 2, 3, 2, 4. The second part is the Minor Pentatonic scale, also in 4/4 time. The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5. The tablature below shows the fretting: 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 3, 1, 4.

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

The fourth riff consists of two parts. The first part is the Major Pentatonic scale, written in 4/4 time. The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The tablature below shows the fretting: 2, 4, 2, 3, 1, 3, 2, 4. The second part is the Minor Pentatonic scale, also in 4/4 time. The notation shows a sequence of eighth notes: G4, Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5. The tablature below shows the fretting: 1, 4, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 4.

Other Riff Rhythms
Starting on the low E string

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

4/4 4/4

TAB TAB

2 4 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 1 3 1 4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

4/4 4/4

TAB TAB

2 4 1 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 1 3 1 4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

6/8 6/8

TAB TAB

2 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

6/8 6/8

TAB TAB

2 1 4 4 1 1 3 4

Other Riff Rhythms
Starting on the high E string

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

TAB 4/4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

TAB 4/4

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

TAB 6/8

Major Pentatonic Minor Pentatonic

TAB 6/8

Major and Minor Scales/Modes
Low Octave (starting on the low E string)
(numbers are scale degrees)

4 measures per chord

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



2 measures per chord

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



1 measure per chord

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Major and Minor Scales/Modes
High Octave (starting on the high E string)
(numbers are scale degrees)

4 measures per chord

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



2 measures per chord

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



1 measure per chord

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

