

The Minor Pentatonic Scale Formula

W.5 - W - W - W.5 - W

KEY

W = Whole = 2 Frets

W.5 = Whole and a half = 3 Frets

Homework

Work out the minor pentatonic scale in the key of G. Start at the 3rd fret of the thickest E string.

Write out the notes of the scale using the formula above.

Then work out where to play those notes in 2 octaves between frets 3 and 6 on all the strings.

Major + Minor Chord Construction

To learn chord construction you must understand the names of the movements between each step of the major scale.

Major Scale Formula Recap:

Root - W - W - H - W - W - W - H

KEY

W = Whole = 2 frets

H = Half = 1 fret

Names Of The Major Scale Movements:

	W	-	W	-	H	-	W	-	W	-	W	-	H
Root	Major 2 nd		Major 3 rd		Major 4 th		Perfect 5 th		Major 6 th		Major 7 th		Octave

Another way of communicating the movements is by assigning numbers to each one.

Numbers On The Movements Of The Major Scale:

Root	-	W	-	W	-	H	-	W	-	W	-	W	-	H
1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8

Whichever system you use (numbers or the movement names) it all communicates the same thing. It's just a way of identifying where you are from the root in any key.

Major Chord Construction

Root	-	Major 3 rd	-	Perfect 5 th
1		3		5

Example:

In the key of C the root is C. The major third is 2 wholes away from the C so that makes an E and the perfect fifth is 3 wholes and a half up from the C which makes a G.

A C major chord is made up of 3 notes. C – E – G. Just 3 notes! This is why it's called a C major triad. (triad means 3 notes)

Homework:

Write out 2 more major chords. In the keys of D and F sharp. First write out the notes in the D and F sharp major scale. Next identify what notes are the Root – Major 3rd and Fifth in both of those scales. This will give you the major chord triads.

Now you know the notes that make up the chords find a place to play those 2 chords with your fret knowledge. Do NOT use your go to knowledge of how to put down a D chord. Find a difference position.

Minor Chord Construction

Root	-	Minor 3 rd	-	Perfect 5 th
1		3		5

As you can see the minor chord has the same 2 intervals as the major (Root and Perfect 5th), but it also has a Minor 3rd.

How do you find the “minor third”?

It's very easy. All you do is figure out the normal major 3rd and then drop that interval down by one fret (half).

Example:

In the key of C the root is C. The major third is 2 wholes away from the C so that makes an E. All we do then is drop that E down by one fret (half) so it becomes a D sharp.

A C minor chord is made up of 3 notes. C – D sharp

Homework:

Write out 2 more minor chords. In the keys of D and F sharp. First write out the notes in the D and F sharp major scale. Next identify what notes are the Root – Minor 3rd and Fifth in both of those scales. This will give you the minor chord triads.

Now you know the notes that make up the chords find a place to play those 2 chords with your fret knowledge. DO NOT use your go to knowledge of how to put down a D minor chord. Find a difference position.