

One Scale To Jam Them All



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Key: All

Tempo: Any

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ehtXuK9dY8>

Today we are going to look at how to use the pentatonic scale, just the one shape we have learned, and move it around, that way you can improvise and solo over any chord progression in any key, total improvisational freedom.

First let's look at the A minor pentatonic scale in Shape 1 (there are 5 shapes, to learn all five shapes try this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBURg0RYij4>

Root note, or the tonic, is highlighted in Red, in this case it is an A note, because we are in A minor pentatonic.

```
A|-----0-3--|
E|----0-3-----|
C|0-2-----|
G|-----|
```

That means that by knowing our tonic, A note, we can construct the A minor pentatonic what will sound good over chord progressions from the key of A minor, which are.

Am C Dm Em F G

Any combinations of those chords will sound great creating melody and improvising with that pentatonic scale. There is also a concept called relative major and minor, which means the notes for the C major pentatonic are the same as A minor, (need more help with relative majors and minors? Check here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DOvU2-TTTA>) let's find the major tonic.

```
A|-----0-3--|
E|----0-3-----|
C|0-2-----|
G|-----|
```

This will work with the chords in the key of C major, which are

C Dm Em F G Am

Notice the chords are the same, but by rearranging their order their function in the key changes. The C major scale will sound great over those chords in any order.

So, know that we know how to find the major and minor tonic let's look at how we can transpose the shapes to help us jam in any key.

D minor. First we have to find the D note on the A string, and then we can construct the scale.

```
A|-----5-8--|
E|----5-8-----|
C|5-7-----|
G|-----|
```

Notice how once we found the D note we simply played the same shape, everything on the 5 string, skipping one fret on the C string and two frets on the E and A string, that is how the shape is move completely. So this shape will work great for a song in D minor.

Dm F Gm Am Bb C

Let's do a major scale, let's say you are playing in Eb major, let's take a look at how to make the pentatonic scale you need to improvise. It starts by finding the tonic, or root note, on the C string.

```
A|-----3-6--|
E|----3-6-----|
C|3-5-----|
G|-----|
```

Note it is the same shape, and it will sound great over all chords in the key of Eb.

Eb Fm Gm Ab Bb Cm

So, that is how you transpose the scale around to use just one scale to jam to literally any song ever written, because they all have keys! If you can't identify the key of a song based on the chords, you can simply google the key of the song as well and that information is available, happy shredding!