



Hello friends,

And welcome to another *Lick of the Week*. In today's lesson, I'll be showing you how to play some of my favorite minor techniques. We'll learn how to perform the natural minor scale, a minor 1, 3, 4, 2 progression, and a melodic Spanish lick that's guaranteed to turn some heads. Let's get started!

1) The Natural Minor Scale, Key of A

The natural minor scale, from which our minor pentatonic is derived, is a powerful scale for playing over typical minor progressions. It's important to know that this scale is "relative" to the C major scale, meaning it has all of the same notes. Let's learn this pattern in its common position.

Octave 1							Octave 2							Intervals: 1, 2, b3, 4, 5, b6, b7
E		-----		-----	5-7-8-		-----	5-7-8-						
B		-----		-----			-----	5-6-8-						
G		-----		-----			-----	4-5-7-						
D		-----		-----	5-7-		-----							
A		-----		-----	5-7-8-		-----							
E		-----		-----			-----							
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A					
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B				

2) The Minor 1, 3, 4, 2 Progression

The natural minor scale in the key of Am converted to its "chordal form" is Am, Bdim, C, Dm, Em, F, G, Am. These ingredients can be used to create one of my favorite minor chord progressions, with a subtle variation to the 3 chord, Cmaj.

<p>Amin</p>	<p>C6</p>	<p>Dmin</p>	<p>Bø</p>
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3) Lick of the Week

This melodic "open string" lick utilizes hybrid/sweep picking. I've used it in opening sequences for minor tunes like "A Day in the Life of a Full" and it has improved my picking accuracy.

E		--0-0-0-0-		--0-0-0-0-		--0-0--0-0-		--0-0-0---		-----		-----7---
B		-5-5-5-5--		-5-5-5-5--		-6-5--5---		-----0-		--0-0-----		-----5---
G		-----		-----		-----7-5--		-4-2-0---		-----0-0-		--0---5---
D		-----		-----		-----3---		-2-0-0---		-----4-5--		-----5---
A		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-7\---0---
E		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----4---



4) Bonus Licks for Premium Patrons (Extended Cut)

Your first bonus lick utilizes what I call the "staircase position" inside the A natural minor/Cmajor scale pattern. Remember, these two scales contain the same exact notes, the difference is in which note is being treated as the root.

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      [Sweep]  [slur]                [slide]
E | -----7--10p9p8p7----- |
B | -----8-----8----- |
G | ---9-----9-----7/5- |
D | -10-----10-9-7-5-7--/9--- |
A | ----- |
E | ----- |
```

Your second bonus lick mixes two positions of the A natural minor scale, and is a perfect example of how you can navigate through these scales using arpeggios and less predictable note patterns. Often times, this approach is preferable to simply "running the scale."

```
E | -----8/7--7/5----5-- |
B | --.-.-10-10---8---8-5-5-- |
G | --9-9---9-----9---7--5-- |
D | -----7-- |
A | ----- |
E | ----- |
```