

Happy Together - The Turtles

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

T 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 3 1 0 2

A 2 2

B

I - ma - gine me and you I do I think a - bout you

It's hard to find examples in popular music that show these rules over a single chord because phrases usually span more than one chord. They also tend to follow the more nuanced guidelines that we'll get into as we move along. I'm sure there are more examples from popular music, but the only other examples I could find come from nursery rhymes.

Frère Jacques - French Nursery Rhyme

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

T 1 3 0 1 1 3 0 1 0 1 3 0 1 3

A

B

Fré - re Ja - cques Fré - re Ja - cques Dor - mez - Dor - mez -

Mary Had a Little Lamb - Nursery Rhyme

The musical staff shows the melody for 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' with chord tones highlighted in blue. The notes are: Ma-ry had a lit-tle lamb. The chord tones are: Ma-ry (D, F, A), had (D, F, A), a (D, F, A), lit-tle (D, F, A), lamb (D, F, A). The intervals between notes are: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +. The time signature is 0 3 1 3 0 0 0.

If you want to write melodies that REALLY emphasize the chord progression, these are very strong rules. In fact, if a song strictly following these rules, you can often “hear” the accompanying chord progression just by listening to the melody.

Nursery rhymes tend to follow these rules, which makes sense because they are usually sung without accompaniment!

Now that you’ve seen some examples, lets look at the rules in a more visual way.

MELODY MAKING RULES

1. Always start on a chord tone (triad chord tone)

The left staff shows a melody starting on D (root) and moving in steps: D → E → F → G → A → G → F → E → D. Red arrows and 'NO' labels indicate this is incorrect. The right staff shows a melody starting on G (fifth) and moving in steps: G → F → E → D → C → D → E → F → G → F → E → D. Green arrows and 'YES' labels indicate this is correct.

2. If moving in skips, only skip from a chord tone to a chord tone

3. If moving in steps, move through the scale until you reach another chord tone

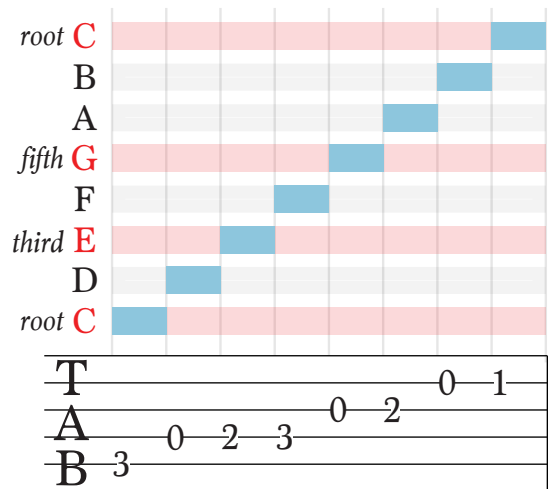
Melody Making

LESSON 3

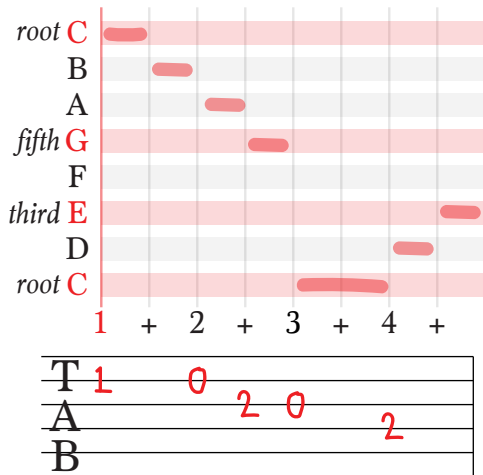
HOMEWORK - Write a phrase over a chord

Your phrases must follow the following rules

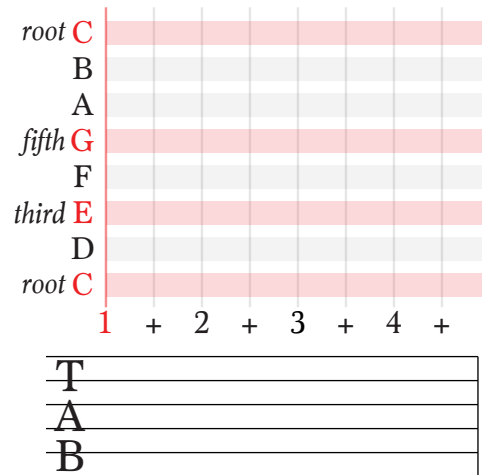
1. Always start on a chord tone - in this case only start on C, E, or G (in red)
2. If jumping, only jump to and from C, E, and G.
3. If walking, only walk from a chord tone to a chord tone (C, E, and G)
4. Keep your phrases within an octave
5. Only use notes from a C major scale



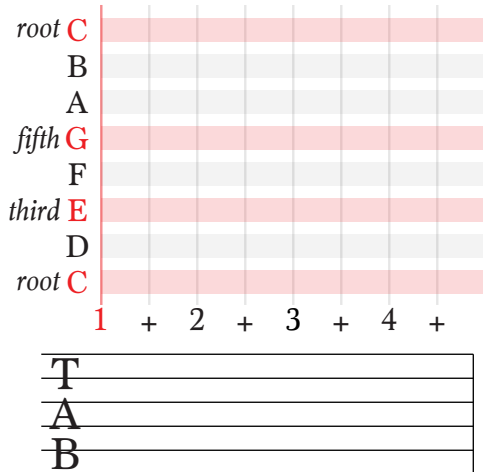
EXAMPLE



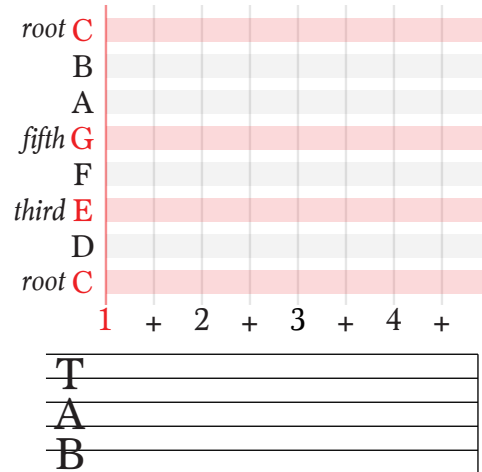
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2



3



NEW CHORD!

Let's try the same thing with a new chord!

To the right is an A Minor scale over and an A Minor chord

Follow all the same rules from the previous page, but use an A minor scale over an A minor chord (A, C, & E)

Diagram showing the A minor scale and an A minor chord on a guitar fretboard. The scale is shown in red and blue blocks across strings A through A. The chord is shown in blue blocks on strings B, C, and D. Below the fretboard is a tablature for the A minor scale: T, A (0 2 3), B (0 2 3).

EXAMPLE

Diagram showing the A minor scale and an A minor chord on a guitar fretboard. The scale is shown in red blocks across strings A through A. The chord is shown in red blocks on strings B, C, and D. Below the fretboard is a tablature for the A minor scale: T, A (2), B (3 0 2 0).

1

Diagram showing the A minor scale and an A minor chord on a guitar fretboard. The scale is shown in red blocks across strings A through A. The chord is shown in red blocks on strings B, C, and D. Below the fretboard is a tablature for the A minor scale: T, A, B.

2

Diagram showing the A minor scale and an A minor chord on a guitar fretboard. The scale is shown in red blocks across strings A through A. The chord is shown in red blocks on strings B, C, and D. Below the fretboard is a tablature for the A minor scale: T, A, B.

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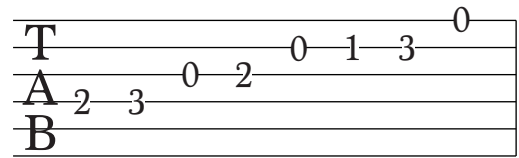
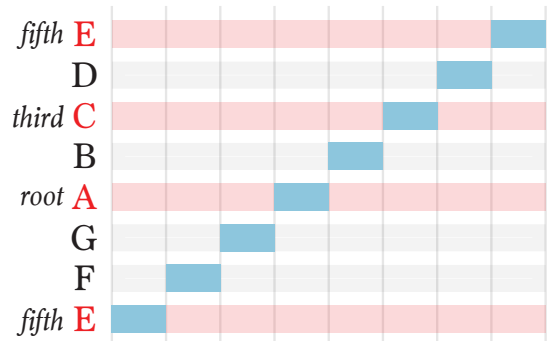
Diagram showing the A minor scale and an A minor chord on a guitar fretboard. The scale is shown in red blocks across strings A through A. The chord is shown in red blocks on strings B, C, and D. Below the fretboard is a tablature for the A minor scale: T, A, B.

NEW SITUATION!

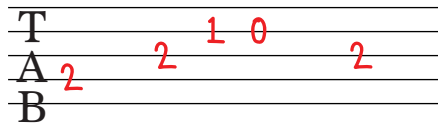
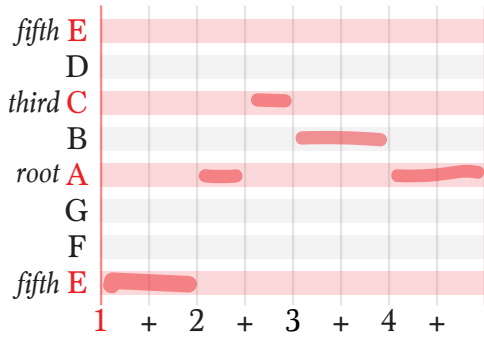
Let's shift the range of the phrase while still using the same A minor scale and chord.

To the right we're still only playing the notes from an A Minor scale, but we've adjusted the range to start and end on the fifth note of the scale.

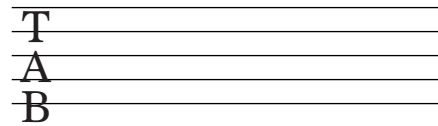
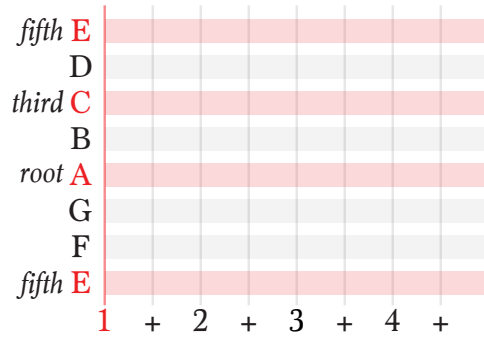
Follow all the same rules and post your favorite phrases to the community forum!



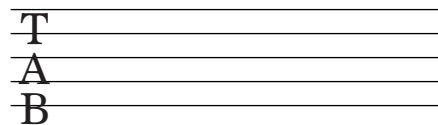
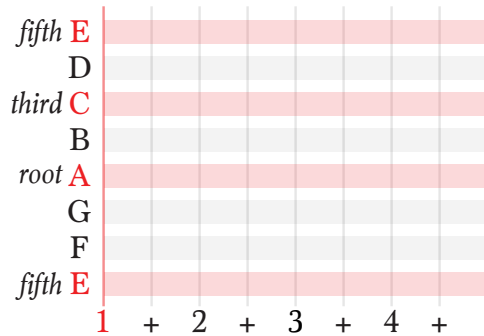
EXAMPLE



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