

Minor Pentatonic – Shape 4

Master the Scale Series



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Key of tutorial: Em

Video Tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZat7Cb_xg

IMPORTANT NOTE: All these exercises will be even more beneficial if you play them with a metronome. A large part of sloppy soloing is a lack of timing.

Shape 4 Pentatonic

E Minor Pentatonic - Shape 4

The musical notation shows the E Minor Pentatonic Scale in Shape 4. It consists of two lines of music. The top line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are E4, G4, A4, B4, and D5. The bottom line is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings labeled T (Treble), A, and B (Bass). The fret numbers are 2, 4, 2, 4 for the first two measures, and 3, 5, 2, 5 for the next two measures.

- IN the video use a low G so you can hear all the shape in order, even if you are playing with a high G it is a good idea to practice all the strings, including the G string

Exercise 1 – Hammer on Pull Off Exercise

Hammer on Pull Off Exercise

The musical notation shows a hammer on pull off exercise. It consists of two lines of music. The top line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are E4, G4, A4, B4, and D5. The bottom line is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings labeled T (Treble), A, and B (Bass). The fret numbers are 2, 4, 2, 4 for the first two measures, 3, 5, 2, 5 for the next two measures, and 5, 2, 5, 3 for the next two measures, and 4, 2, 4, 2 for the final two measures. The exercise is marked with "H" for hammer on and "P" for pull off.

Exercise 2 – Skip a Note

Skip a Note

The musical notation shows a skip a note exercise. It consists of two lines of music. The top line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are E4, G4, A4, B4, and D5. The bottom line is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings labeled T (Treble), A, and B (Bass). The fret numbers are 2, 2, 4, 4 for the first two measures, 2, 3, 4, 5 for the next two measures, and 3, 2, 5, 5 for the final two measures.

Exercise 3 - Skip a string

Skip a String

Exercise 4 - Triplets

Triplets

- Again, this one is much more beneficial with a metronome, start around 70 and both increase and decrease the speed as playing slower also presents its own set of challenges

Exercise 5 - Leap up, run down

Leap Up and Run Down

- Similar to play a note skip a note, but this skips two notes then works back down

Exercise 6 - Mixing straight and swing time

Mixing Straight and Swing

- One of the most important dimensions of soloing is timing, and not just mixing up quarters, eighths and sixteenths, but also mixing in swing time, swing time being another way of saying triplet based soloing.

Exercise 7 - Outside in

Outside In

18 19

Exercise 8 - Inside Out

Inside Out

20 21

Exercise 9 - Using 16ths

16ths

22 23

- Make sure you grab the metronome for this one too!
- All these ideas will sound better when you resolve on the E note, the 4th fret of the C string.
- This also helps to internalize the root note of the shape which will help with both transposition and resolution.