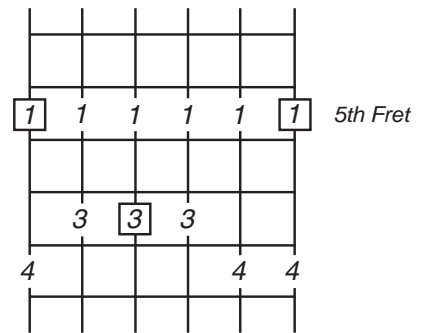


Minor Pentatonic Scale

This is the A minor pentatonic scale. We will be using this shape for everything in this book/DVD, so if you haven't done it before, get it under your fingertips now. It's called *A* minor pentatonic because it starts on an *A* note (6th string, 5th fret.) It will always be named after the root, which happens to be the lowest note in this shape. Notes in boxes indicate the root. In the diagram to the right, all boxed notes are *A*. If we slid it up or down to another fret, it would have a new root and a therefore new name.

A minor Pentatonic



(Numbers indicate fingers.)

1.1

Ascending Minor Pentatonic Scale

1.2

Descending Minor Pentatonic Scale

Hammer-Ons

A hammer-on moves from a lower note to a higher note on a given string.

2.1

Let's start by putting the first finger on the fifth fret of the fourth string (that is a G note). Play that note. While it's still ringing, we will briskly hammer the third finger onto the seventh fret. This will create the sound of an A note. Make sure to maintain good contact with the first finger until AFTER the third finger has landed on the string.

Musical notation for exercise 2.1. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing a G note on the fifth fret followed by an A note on the seventh fret, both connected by a slur. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The A string has a hammer-on (H) from the 5th fret to the 7th fret, indicated by a slur and the numbers 5 and 7.

2.2

Let's try it with a scale. Here's the minor pentatonic scale again. This time we will practice ascending the scale, hammering on the higher fret of each string. What's critical for developing mastery of the hammer-on is that you don't rush it. It's possible to go very fast with devices such as hammer-ons, but that is not worth much if your timing is out the window. For now, try to time it as though you're picking each note.

Musical notation for exercise 2.2. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing an ascending minor pentatonic scale: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. It shows hammer-ons (H) on the A, D, and G strings. The A string has a hammer-on from the 5th fret to the 8th fret. The D string has a hammer-on from the 5th fret to the 7th fret. The G string has a hammer-on from the 5th fret to the 8th fret. The scale ends with a wavy line indicating a vibrato or sustain.

2.3

A hammer-on doesn't have to be preceded by a fretted note. Let's try one from an open string. Pick the fourth string open, and we will hammer on the 2nd fret.

Musical notation for exercise 2.3. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing an open string (G) followed by a note on the second fret (A), both connected by a slur. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The A string has a hammer-on (H) from the 0th fret to the 2nd fret, indicated by a slur and the numbers 0 and 2.