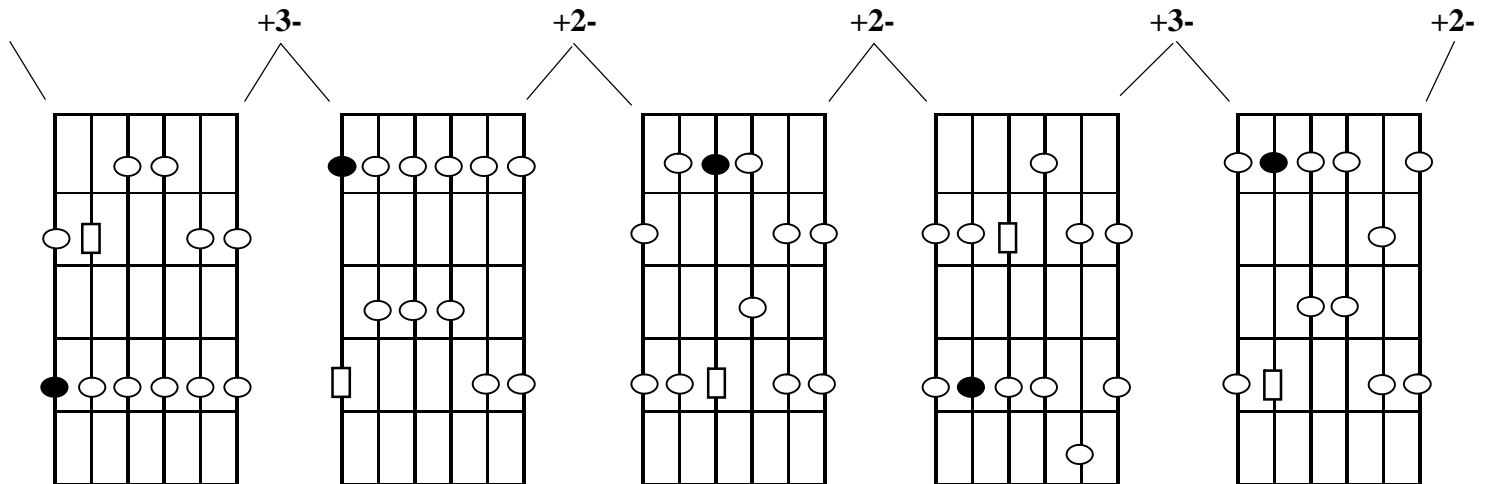


Minor and Major Pentatonic Scales



● = **minor root note**

□ = **major root note** (Note: The major root note is always the next higher note after the minor root note.)

How to find Minor and Major Root Notes

Each scale pattern has a minor and a major root note. When playing the 1st pattern in the 2nd fret position the 4th finger is playing an “A” on the 6th string, 5th fret. Since this is the minor root note of this pattern it is in the key of A minor. In the exact same position the 2nd finger is playing the “C” on the 5th string, 3rd fret. Since this is the major root note of this pattern it is also considered to be in the key of C major. C major and A minor are relative scales, or in other words they share the same notes and key signature, (no sharps or flats in this example). For finding any other minor or major root note always make sure to use the correct root note for the situation that you are improvising in, (see the Style Chart below), and make sure to use the appropriate finger to find the root note.

How to use the +/- numbers between the scale patterns: (Counts how many frets are between patterns).

The +/- numbers allow you to move from one scale pattern to the next pattern and maintain the same original key in the new position. If you are using a scale pattern and want to improvise on the next scale to the right use the plus number to let you know how many frets to move up on the fret board. Use the minus numbers when improvising on the next pattern to the left. If you are improvising on the fifth pattern, (the furthest pattern to the right), and you would like to improvise higher on the neck move two frets higher and use the very first scale pattern, (the furthest pattern to the left).

The Style Chart

Listed below are three ways that pentatonic scales can be played over chord progressions for different styles. The examples below are given in “A” but also work for any alphabetically matching scenarios.

Rhythm Key	Lead Key	Style and Effect
Key of A = A, D, E7, F#m, Bm, & C#7	Use A major root notes	Country, Folk, Country Rock, Pop, and Bluegrass. Gives a strong, happy, and bright effect.
Key of Am = Am, Dm, E7, C, F, & G7	Use A minor root notes	Good for all styles of music. Gives a sad, emotional, or romantic effect.
Key of A = A, D, & E7 or = A7, D7, & E7	Use A minor root notes	Good for Blues, Rock, and Country. Gives a blues type effect.