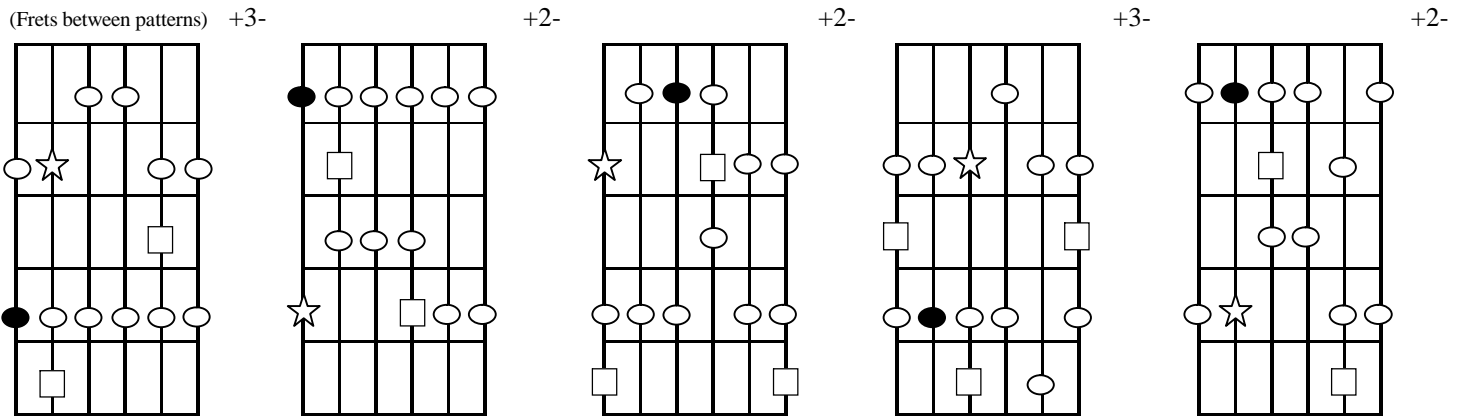


Blues and Country Scales



● = The **Blues root note**: A blues scale is the same as a minor pentatonic scale except for the addition of the blue note. (See the explanation of the blue note below.) The Blues scale is great for improvising over the traditional bluesy 17, 47, and 57 chords based on a major scale. As an example these chords based in the key of A major would be A7, D7, and E7. Blues songs based in minor keys is less common but the Blues scale sounds great improvised over the 1m, 4m, and 57 chords based on the minor scale. In the key of Am, the chords would be Am, Dm, and E7. Whether the Blues song is based in major or minor, just use each scale's Blues root note to match the root note of the first chord of the song to find the scales position on the fret board.

☆ = The **Country root note**: A country scale is the same as a major pentatonic scale except for the addition of the country note. (See the explanation of the country note below.) Traditionally, most Country song chords are based on major keys. For example, in the key of C major the primary chords would be 1=C, 4=F, and 57=G7. Secondary/relative minor chords are great to mix in the chord progression of a song also, and in the key of C major these extra chords are 6m=Am, 2m=Dm, and 37=E7. To position a scale pattern properly on the fretboard just make sure that the Country root note matches the root note of the first chord in the song, (assuming the first chord in the songs is a major chord).

□ = The **blue note/country note**: Although the **blue/country** note occupies the same position and fingering within the above scale diagrams, its name and function is different depending on whether the Blues root note or Country root note is used for a song. If a song uses the Blues root note to locate scale position, then the blue note functions as a sharp four note/(#4) relative to the Blues root note. If a song uses the Country root note to locate scale position, then the country note functions as a flat third/ (b3) relative to the Country root note.

(examples and commentary)

In the context of **Blues music** the blue note is a raised or sharp four note, or (#4). The #4 note bridges the gap between the 4 and 5 notes producing a great blues signature note. For example the blue note is D# when playing Blues songs based on the "A" Blues scale root note.

In the context of **Country music** the country note is a flat third note, or (b3). The b3 note in itself is a blues signature note that sounds great with a lot of country music. The b3 bridges the gap between the major second and major third notes of the scale. For example the country note is Eb, (the minor third), when playing Country songs based on the "C" Country scale root note.

Notice that when playing the above scale patterns in "A" Blues and "C" Country, that they are relative scales. This means they are the exact notes and the patterns are in the same frets in this example. By having two different root notes, (a blues root note and a country root note), there are two **modes** or two different applications for these scale patterns. The #4 note in "A" Blues is D#. The b3 note in "C" Country is Eb. The D# and Eb are enharmonic, which means that there are two different names for the same pitch. Even though this is the same note in each scale, its effect is different relative to its root note.

Keep in mind that in traditional Blues, the Blues scale is a **minor** pentatonic based scale, (with a #4 note adding in), played over the top of major scale based 17, 47, and 57 chord progressions. In traditional Country music, the Country scale is a **major** pentatonic based scale, (with a b3 note added in), played over the top of major scale based chord progressions. With music being art and with the blending of styles, sometimes these traditional tendencies can be mixed or even reversed. Often there is a blurred line as to what style a song is in because of a fusion of music styles. A lot of what defines a style is rhythm, lyrics, and instrumentation. Have fun improvising, composing, playing, and analyzing Blues/Country music.