

Pentatonic Scales for Jazz

The Pentatonic scale is a 5 note scale.

We will take a look at the Major Pentatonic Scale and the Relative Minor Pentatonic scale.

The notes of the C Major Pentatonic Scale are : C D E G A

The notes of the A Minor Pentatonic Scale are: A C D E G

Notice that both scales have the same notes.

The Pentatonic Scale Exercise can be applied both the Major and Minor Pentatonic Scale.

The Minor Pentatonic Scale is commonly used in Blues and songs with a Bluesy feel.

The following songs are examples of melodies built on the Minor Pentatonic Scale:

Sonny's Blues by Sonny Rollins

Bag's Groove by Milt Jackson,

Sugar by Stanley Turrentine

Major & Minor Pentatonic Scales

C Major Pentatonic Scale A Minor Pentatonic Scale G Major Pentatonic Scale E Minor Pentatonic Scale



D Major Pentatonic Scale B Minor Pentatonic Scale A Major Pentatonic Scale F# Minor Pentatonic Scale



E Major Pentatonic Scale C# Minor Pentatonic Scale B Major Pentatonic Scale G# Minor Pentatonic Scale



F Major Pentatonic Scale D Minor Pentatonic Scale Bb Major Pentatonic Scale G Minor Pentatonic Scale



Eb Major Pentatonic Scale C Minor Pentatonic Scale Ab Major Pentatonic Scale F Minor Pentatonic Scale



Db Major Pentatonic Scale Bb Minor Pentatonic Scale Gb Major Pentatonic Scale Eb Minor Pentatonic Scale



Pentatonic Scale Exercise

C Major/A Minor

Two staves of musical notation for the C Major/A Minor pentatonic scale exercise. The first staff shows the ascending scale: C2, D2, E2, F2, G2, A2, B2, C3. The second staff shows the descending scale: C3, B2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4.

G Major/E Minor

Two staves of musical notation for the G Major/E Minor pentatonic scale exercise. The first staff shows the ascending scale: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. The second staff shows the descending scale: G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4.

D Major/B Minor

Two staves of musical notation for the D Major/B Minor pentatonic scale exercise. The first staff shows the ascending scale: D2, E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C#3, D3. The second staff shows the descending scale: D3, C#3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4.

A Major/F# Minor

Two staves of musical notation for the A Major/F# Minor pentatonic scale exercise. The first staff shows the ascending scale: A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3, F#3, G#3, A3. The second staff shows the descending scale: A3, G#3, F#3, E3, D3, C#3, B2, A2. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, and G#) and the time signature is 4/4.

F Major/D Minor

Two staves of bass clef musical notation for F Major/D Minor. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb), indicating a 12-measure phrase. The second staff continues the melody and accompaniment for the next 12 measures, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Bb Major/G Minor

Two staves of bass clef musical notation for Bb Major/G Minor. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb), indicating a 12-measure phrase. The second staff continues the melody and accompaniment for the next 12 measures, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Eb Major/C Minor

Two staves of bass clef musical notation for Eb Major/C Minor. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab), indicating a 12-measure phrase. The second staff continues the melody and accompaniment for the next 12 measures, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Ab Major/F Minor

Two staves of bass clef musical notation for Ab Major/F Minor. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of four flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db), indicating a 12-measure phrase. The second staff continues the melody and accompaniment for the next 12 measures, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.