

Guitar Notes

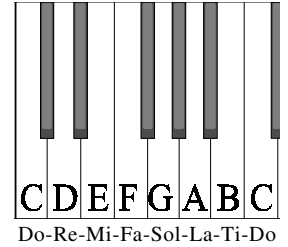
Scale Patterns

Of all the scales, the major scale is by far the most important one to become familiar with. It could be described as the white keys on the piano (starting with the note "c") consisting of a series of whole and half steps -- on guitar each half step being the distance from one fret to the next. A whole step being a distance of two frets.

As steps: starting from "c" then whole, whole, half, whole, whole, whole, half step

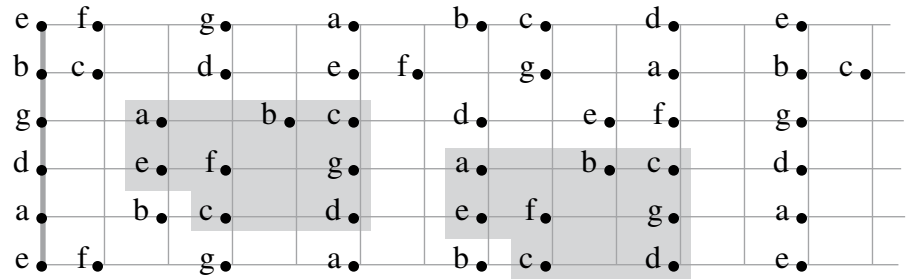
As notes: c, d, e, f, g, a, b, c

Also know as: do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do

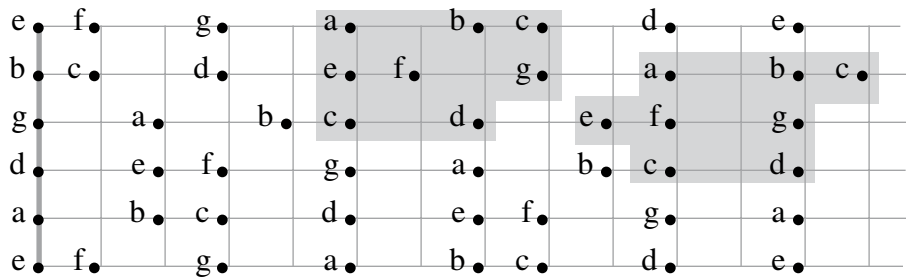


Three String Patterns

For the major scale there are patterns that use three strings with all the notes being within three frets of each other. The ones shown here are for the key of C, starting on the "c" note. These same patterns can be used for all keys -- all that is needed is to find the beginning note and start from there.



Key of C major scale. The pattern on the left starts with "c" on the third fret of the A string. The one on the right starts with "c" on the E string. The pattern is the same for both.



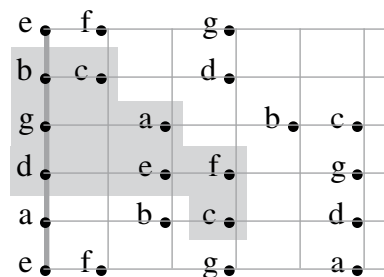
These two patterns are also of the C major scale, but are a bit different since they use the B and the upper E strings. The one on the left starts with "c" on the G string. The one on the right starts with "c" on the D string.

With Open Strings and Chords

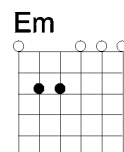
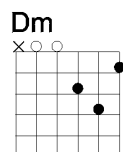
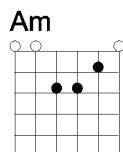
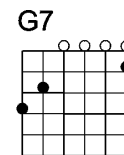
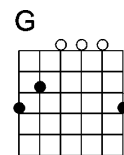
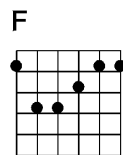
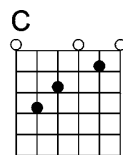
There are other scale patterns that can be helpful; such as those that are located near the nut using open string notes (the full length of the string). Since open string notes are limited to the e, a, d, g, and b notes, the pattern is not the same for all keys (i.e. the key of E would not include the notes d and g natural).

The advantage of these patterns is that individual notes (i.e. notes from the melody) can be played along with the chords for a song.

Note that in addition to the scale pattern shown here for the C major scale, additional notes from the key of C is also being shown for the other strings. It is helpful to recognize that all the basic chords for the key of C uses these same notes.



The scale pattern for key of C using open strings starting note "c" (third fret of the A string).



Basic chords for the key of C, using notes from the C major scale.