

Chapter 12: Dorian Pentatonic Scales

You continue to move beyond the minor pentatonic with the Dorian pentatonic scale. which has the interval pattern 1-b3-4-5-6.

Dorian pentatonic scales are used to solo over minor family chords such as m7th, m9th, m11th, etc.

Here, you learn how to play and apply the Dorian pentatonic to one chord at a time, as well as apply previously learned material to this new scale.

From there, you move on to applying this scale to chord progressions in future chapters.

Before you dive in, here's the checklist for this chapter. After you have completed any 3 of these items, you can proceed to the next chapter.

Chapter 12 Checklist

1. Play both pentatonic scale shapes from memory in 12 keys.
2. Can sing along to at least 6 of those keys.
3. Can solo over the slow backing tracks in 3 keys, both positions.
4. Can solo over the medium backing tracks in 3 keys, both positions.
5. Can solo over the fast backing tracks in 3 keys, both positions.
6. Can add in patterns and ornaments from previous chapters.
7. Can add in sidestepping and triplet rhythms.
8. Can move between the minor and Dorian pentatonics in your solos.

Note: Because both minor and Dorian pentatonics work over minor based chords, you can move between them in your solo to build interest.

Technical Details

1. Backing track 1 is Cm7.
2. Backing track 2 is Am7.
3. Backing track 3 is Em7.
4. Slow backing tracks are 60 bpm.
5. Medium backing tracks are 90 bpm.
6. Fast backing tracks are 120 bpm.

Musical Goals

1. Memorize the 2 positions of the Dorian pentatonic scale.
2. Develop coordination and picking control.
3. Improvise over a 1-chord vamp with these scales.
4. Combine scales to cover more fretboard in your solos.
5. Apply pattern and ornaments from previous chapters.
6. Apply sidestepping and triplets from previous chapters.

Technical Exercises

1. Play up and down, 6-1-6 strings, in all 12 keys.
2. Play down and up, 1-6-1 strings, in all 12 keys.
3. Pick each note once, twice, three times, and four times.
4. Start slow, use a metronome, and every 12 keys increase tempo.
5. Sing along for added benefit.
6. Name notes for added benefit (intermediate and above players).

Soloing Exercises

1. Solo over slow Cm7 backing track with 6th string position.
2. Solo over slow Cm7 backing track with 5th string position.
3. Solo over slow Cm7 backing track with both positions.
4. Add passing notes to your solos.
5. Add approach notes to your solos.
6. Add enclosures to your solos.
7. Add sidestepping to your solos.
8. Add triplet rhythms to your solos.
9. Move between C minor and C Dorian pentatonics in your solos.
10. Repeat for medium and fast Cm7 backing tracks.
11. Repeat for slow, medium, and fast Am7 and Em7 tracks.

Bonus Exercises

1. Start all lines on the 1st note in the scale shape you're using.
2. Start all lines on the 2nd note.
3. Start all lines on the 3rd note.
4. Start all lines on the 4th note.
5. Start all lines on the 5th note.
6. Work in upper and lower octaves.
7. Work with both shapes, all keys, and all backing tracks.

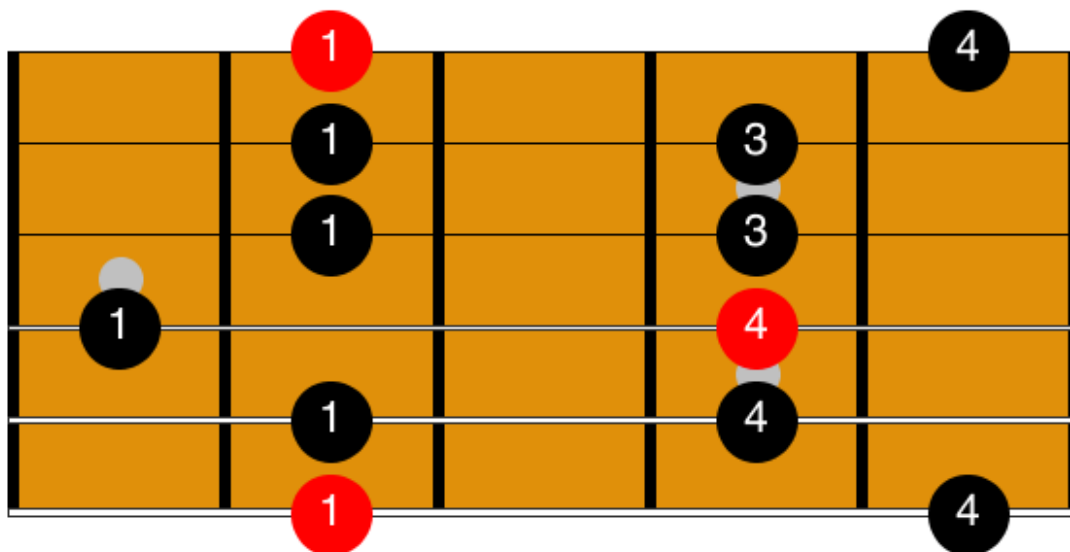
Dorian Pentatonic Scale Fingerings

Here are the Dorian pentatonic scale fingerings from the root note C.

Start by learning one shape at a time, memorizing it in one key, then take that shape to the other 11 keys from there.

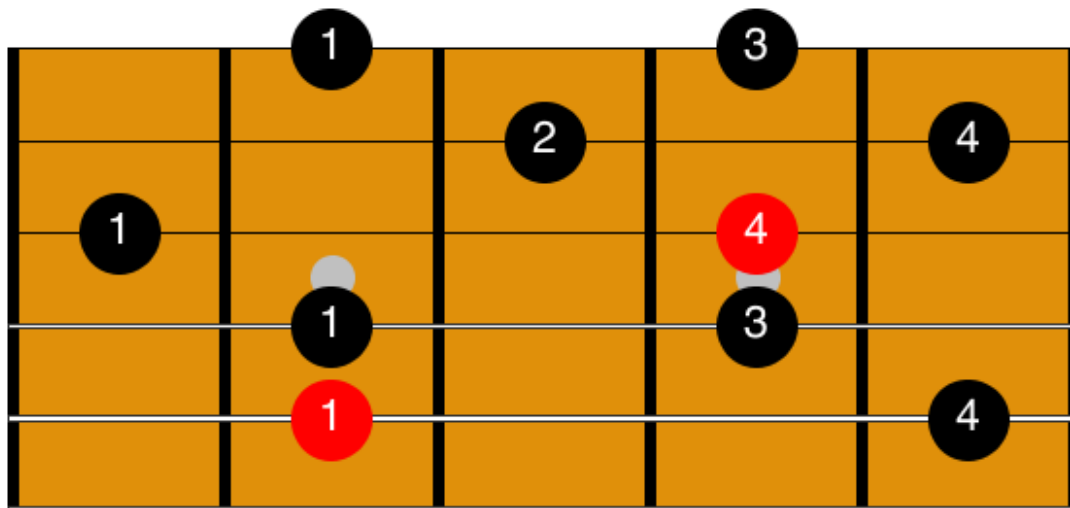
Repeat that process with the second shape, then dive into the exercises above, both technical and soloing.

D Dorian Pentatonic



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D Dorian Pentatonic



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