Pentatonic Scale Patterns

To help you learn and add variety to your pentatonic shapes, here are four essential patterns to learn and add to your pent lines and solos.

Start by playing these examples, in the written and other keys, before adding them to Stella in the next chapter.

The first pattern uses a device I call "left-left right-right" over an Am pentatonic scale.

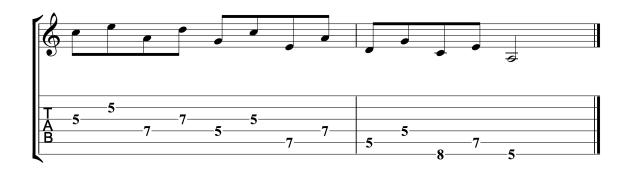
Here, think about a pentatonic scale as having two notes on each string, a "left" note and a "right" note.

Instead of playing the scale in order, left-right-left-right, you play two lefts then two rights.

The result is a modern jazz sounding pattern that you can find in the playing of many legendary jazzers, such as Coltrane and McCoy Tyner.

Start by working this pattern on your own, then use a metronome when ready before working it over Stella in the next chapter.

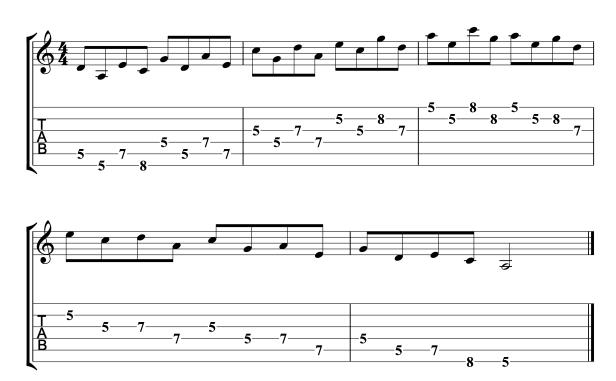




The next exercise reverses the previous pattern as you play down each two-note group.

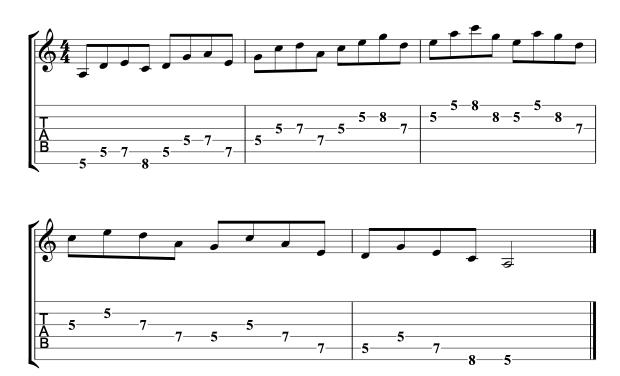
Work this with a metronome first, then improvise with it over one chord, in one scale, to begin.

From there, take this to other keys as you prepare to add this pattern to your solos over Stella.



The next variation alternates one side up and one side down as you play up and down this Am pentatonic scale.

Make sure to work this in a few keys and take it to each pent over Stella to get the most out of this pattern.



You now play one side down and the other up as you work your way up and down this Am pentatonic scale.



