

## 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.



**Audio Example 13**

The first variation of the Am pentatonic scale is shown in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains three measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on C5. The second measure has a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, and a quarter note on G5. The third measure has a quarter note on A5, a quarter note on B5, a quarter note on C6, and a quarter note on B5. The bass clef staff shows the fretting for the first two measures. Measure 1: 5-5-7-8 on the first string, 5-7 on the second string. Measure 2: 5-7-7 on the first string, 5-7-7 on the second string.

The second variation of the Am pentatonic scale is shown in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains two measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on C5. The second measure has a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, and a quarter note on G5. The bass clef staff shows the fretting for both measures. Measure 1: 5-5-7-7 on the first string, 5-7-7 on the second string. Measure 2: 5-5-7-7 on the first string, 5-7-7 on the second string.

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.

### Audio Example 14

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar TAB staff. The treble staff is in 4/4 time and contains three measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on C5. The second measure has a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, and a quarter note on G5. The third measure has a quarter note on A5, a quarter note on B5, a quarter note on C6, and a quarter note on B5. The guitar TAB staff has three measures corresponding to the treble staff. The first measure contains the sequence 5 5 7 8 5 5 7 7. The second measure contains 5 5 7 7 5 5 8 7. The third measure contains 5 5 8 8 5 5 8 7.

The second system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar TAB staff. The treble staff is in 4/4 time and contains two measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, and a quarter note on G5. The second measure has a quarter note on A5, a quarter note on B5, a quarter note on C6, and a quarter note on B5. The guitar TAB staff has two measures corresponding to the treble staff. The first measure contains the sequence 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7. The second measure contains 5 5 7 8 5.

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

Audio Example 15

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes. The tablature staff is divided into three measures. The first measure contains the sequence 5 5 8 7 5 7. The second measure contains 5 5 7 7 5 7 8. The third measure contains 5 5 8 8 5 5 7 8.

The second system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes. The tablature staff is divided into two measures. The first measure contains the sequence 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 7. The second measure contains 5 5 8 7 5.