

Chapter 2: Minor Pentatonic Shapes

You begin your study of pentatonic scales, you learn or review two positions of the minor pentatonic scale shape.

With these shapes you work on memory, picking exercises, soloing exercises, phrasing exercises and more.

Though it's a familiar scale to many players, take your time with this chapter.

Work one technical and one soloing exercise each day, and a bonus exercise if you're ready.

From there, when you can solo over the slow and medium backing tracks in all 3 keys, Dm-Am-Cm, you're ready to move to the next chapter in this course.

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 2 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 leave space between your lines when soloing.

Technical Details

1. Backing track 1 is Dm7.
2. Backing track 2 is Am7.
3. Backing track 3 is Cm7.
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 minor 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. Begin to introduce phrasing (use of space) between your lines.

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 Dm7 backing track with 6th string position.
2. Solo over slow Dm7 backing track with 5th string position.
3. Solo over slow Dm7 backing track with both positions.
4. Repeat for medium and fast Dm7 backing tracks.
5. Repeat for slow, medium, and fast Am7 and Cm7 tracks.
6. Make sure to leave space between your lines.
7. Count to 3 between lines if you have trouble with this.

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.

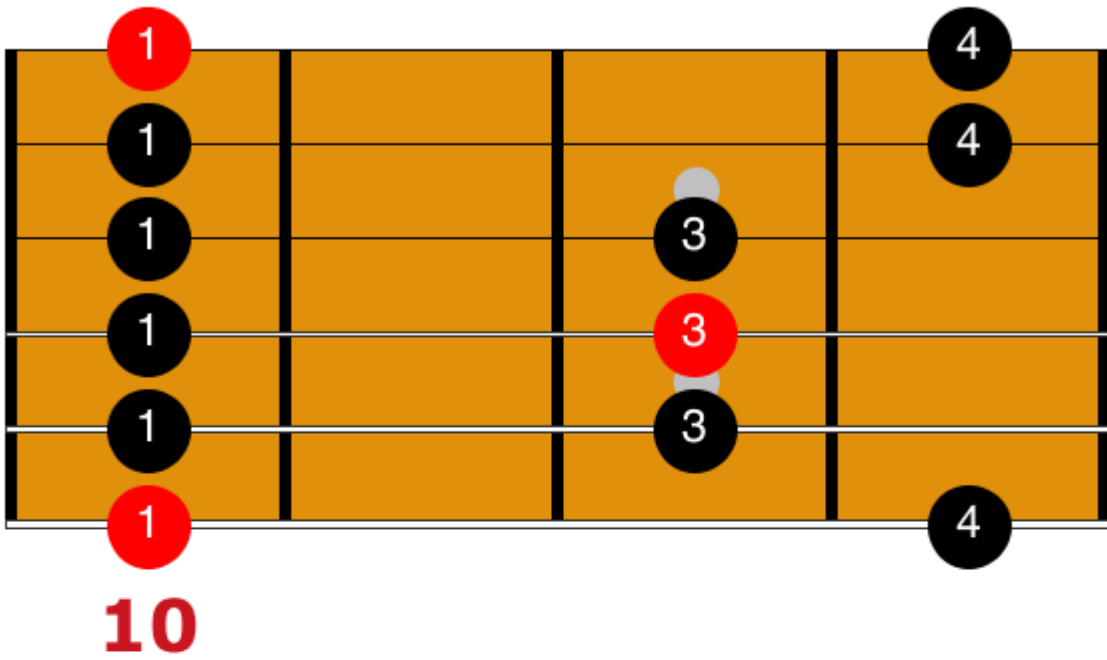
Minor Pentatonic Scale Fingerings

Here are the minor pentatonic scale fingerings from the root note D.

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.

Dm Pentatonic



Dm Pentatonic

