1-3-4 Fingering Jazz Scale Patterns

In this chapter, you explore patterns that fit the 1-3-4 fingering on any string.

To begin, here's the C major scale shape that's being used for the examples below.

To get the most out of these, or any, scale pattern in this course, memorize the finger numbers for this scale.

This is what I call the "phone number" method of scale memorization.

Instead of thinking about this as a shape, memorize it as a series of finger numbers, like a phone number.
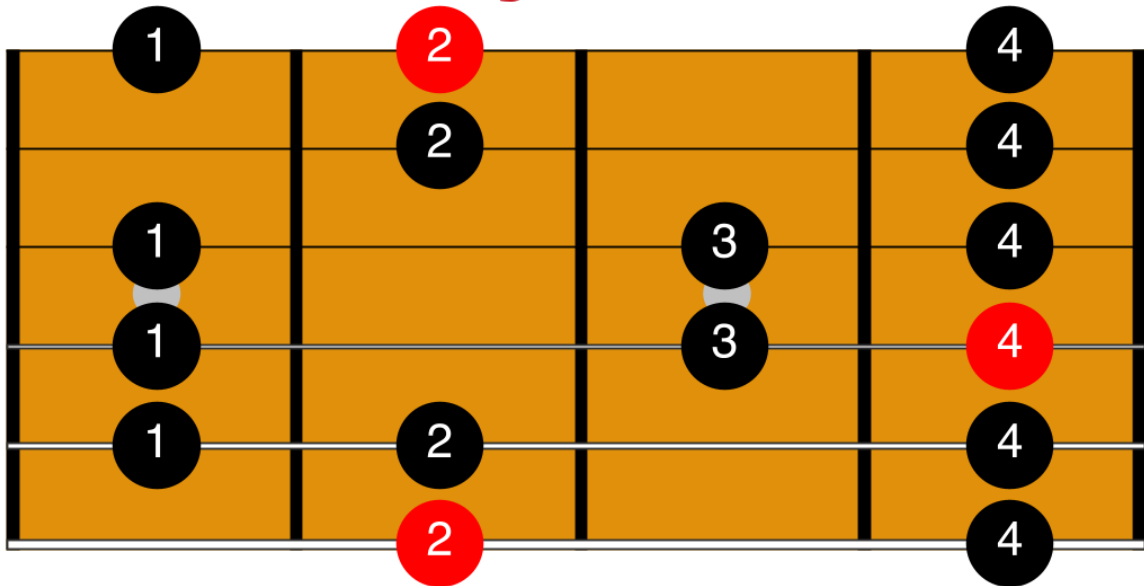
So, this scale's phone number would be:

24
124
134
134
24
124

I also like to this of this scale as a "134 sandwich," because you play 24-124, the bread, then you play 134 twice, the meat and veggies, and then repeat 24-124, the other piece of bread.

Whatever works for you to memorize this scale and the finger patterns on each string is all good, so go for it.

C Major Scale

7

Here's the first 1-3-4 pattern, the 4123 finger pattern.

This pattern is built by playing 4123 any time you see a 134 fingering in a scale.

Use my fingerings to begin, then adjust as needed to fit your hands and the current musical situation.

Memorize this pattern before going to the next line below.

Here's that same 1-3-4 pattern applied to the C major scale, with the plain scale up and the pattern added on the way down.

Memorize this pattern and how it fits into the C major scale, then start soloing with it over the backing tracks in C and different keys from there.

Don't wait to solo, as soon as this is memorized, solo over the tracks and learn by improvising over jazz chord progressions.

Here's the second 1-3-4 pattern, where you play 34321 fingers any time you see a 1-3-4 fingering in a scale.

This pattern comes from Pat Martino, and when using it in your solos, you bring a Martino vibe to your lines.

Use my fingerings to begin, then adjust as needed to fit your hands and the current musical situation.

Memorize this pattern before going to the next line below.

Here's that same 1-3-4 pattern applied to the C major scale, with the plain scale up and the pattern added on the way down.

Memorize this pattern and how it fits into the C major scale, then start soloing with it over the backing tracks in C and different keys from there.

Don't wait to solo, as soon as this is memorized, solo over the tracks and learn by improvising over jazz chord progressions.