

Major Pentatonic Scales

The major pentatonic scale is one of the most popular and commonly used scales in modern music.

You can use it in many musical situations when soloing, and it's a scale that countless guitarists use to create song riffs and licks.

Have fun as you learn how to build, practice, solo, and play with this essential guitar scale.

How to Build a Major Pentatonic Scale

Here's a quick list of how to build and think about the major pentatonic scale on guitar.

- Intervals – R-2-3-5-6
- Think of it as a major triad with added 6.
- A Major Pent = A B C# E F#
- Close relative of the major blues scale; add a b3 to make major blues.

How to Learn Major Pentatonic Scales

As you learn the shapes below, here are practice tips you can use to internalize, memorize, and be able to improvise with every scale shape.

- Learn 1 shape at a time, play from memory.
- Play in different keys.
- Play with a metronome in different tempos.
- Use different rhythms and accents.
- Sing along, say the intervals, and/or say the notes as you play.
- Start on any note in the scale, play up, down, and back to that note.
- Solo with the scale over a backing track or with a metronome.

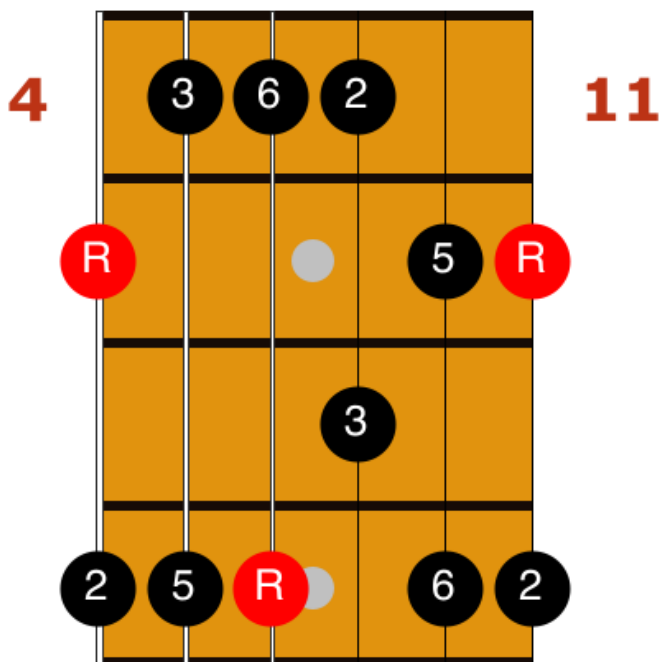
How to Solo with Major Pentatonic Scales

Here are chords, keys, and progressions where the major pentatonic scale makes for a great soloing choice.

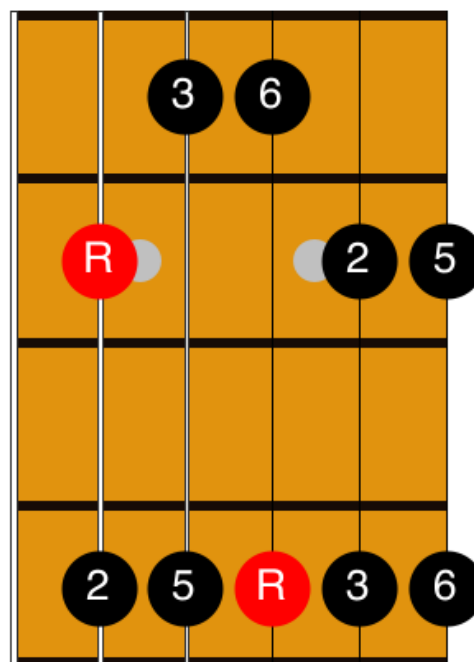
- Over major key chord progressions.
- Over major family chords, such as major, 6, maj9, and maj6/9 chords.
- Over dominant family chords such as 7th, 9th, and 13th chords.

Alright, now that you know how to build, learn, and solo with these major pentatonic scales, time to have fun getting these shapes onto the fretboard!

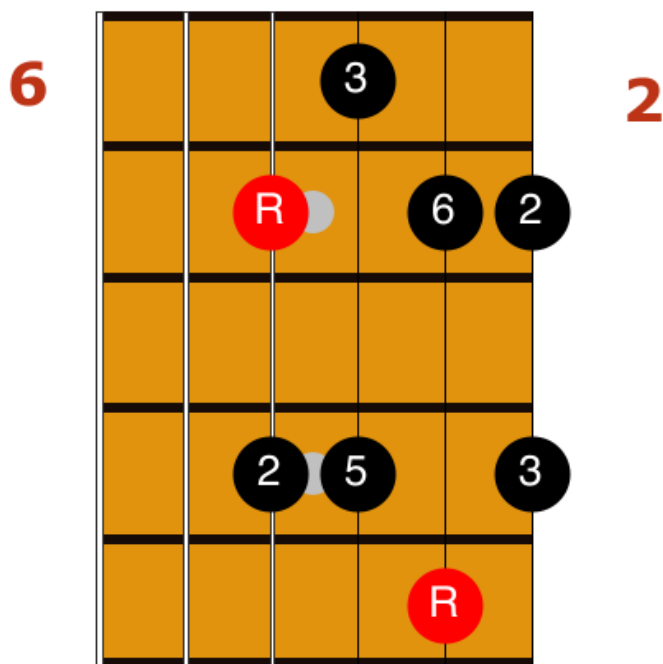
A Maj Pent



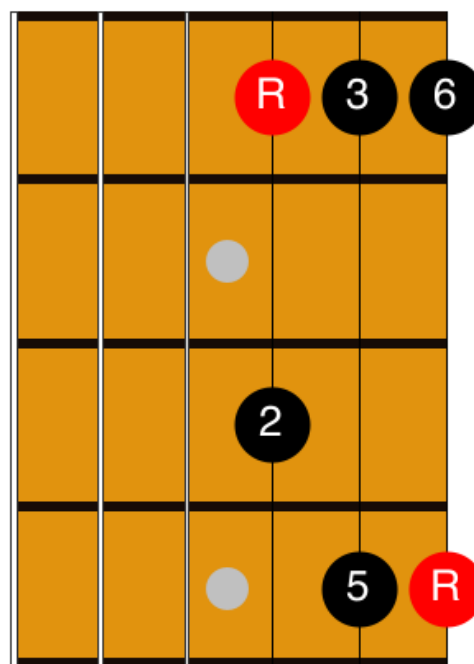
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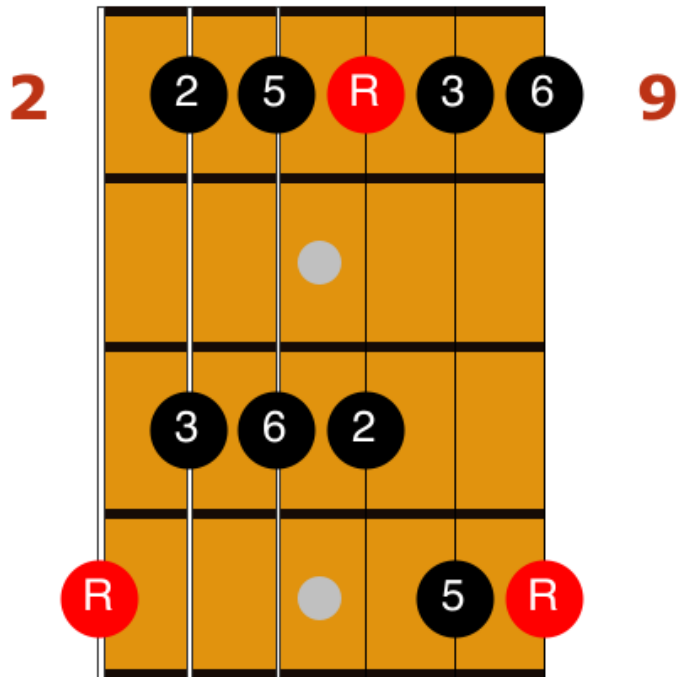
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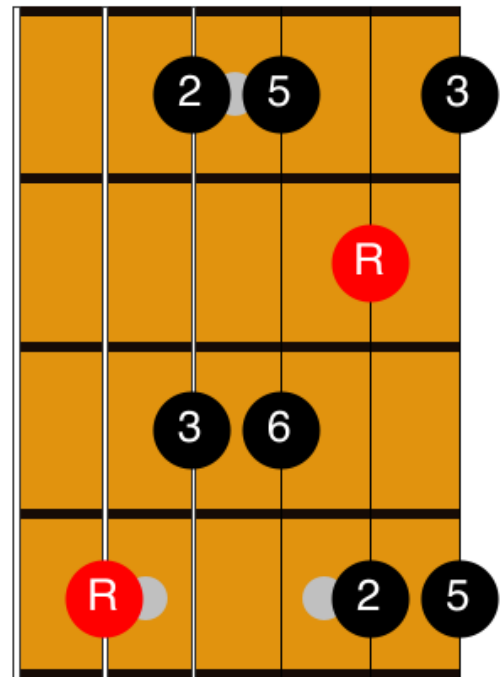
A Maj Pent



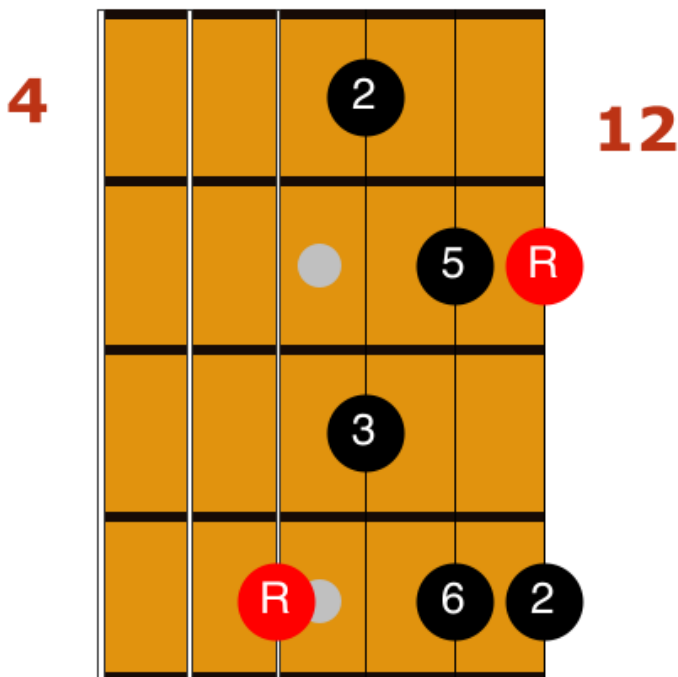
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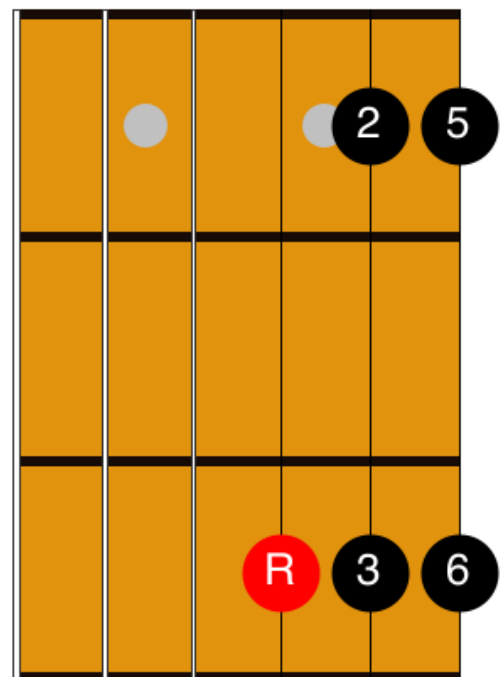
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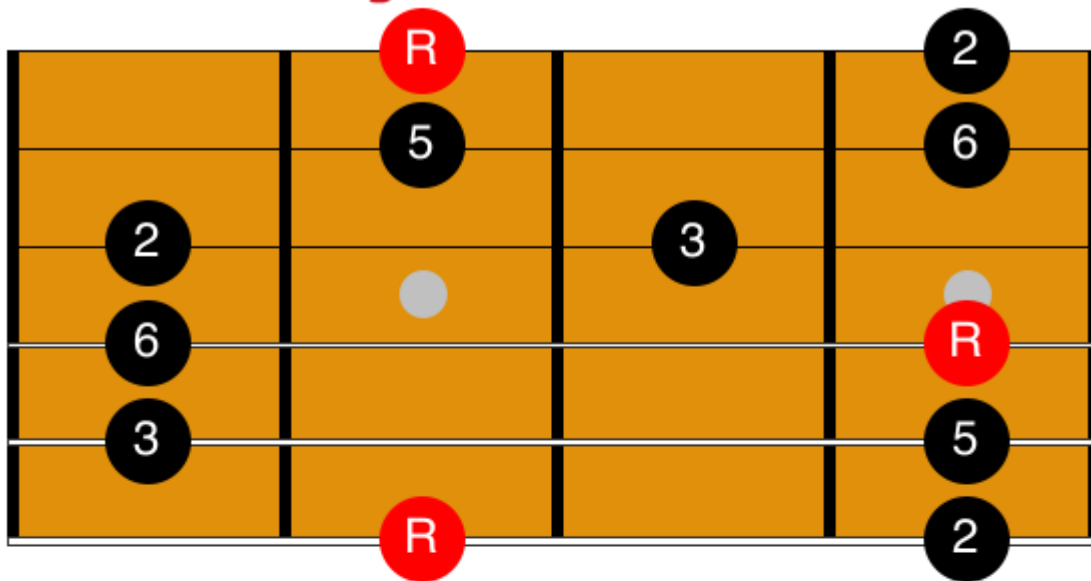
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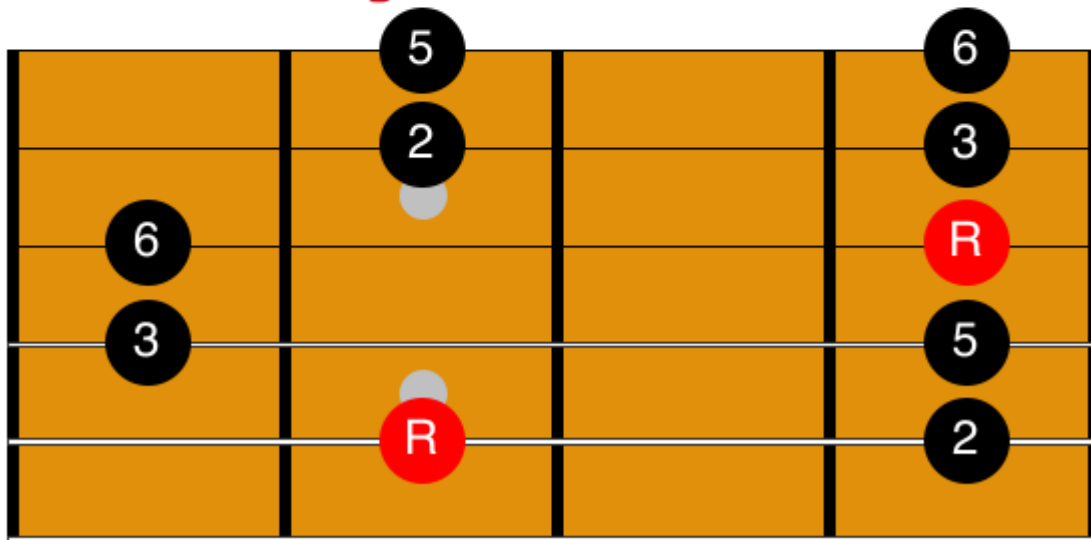


A Major Pentatonic



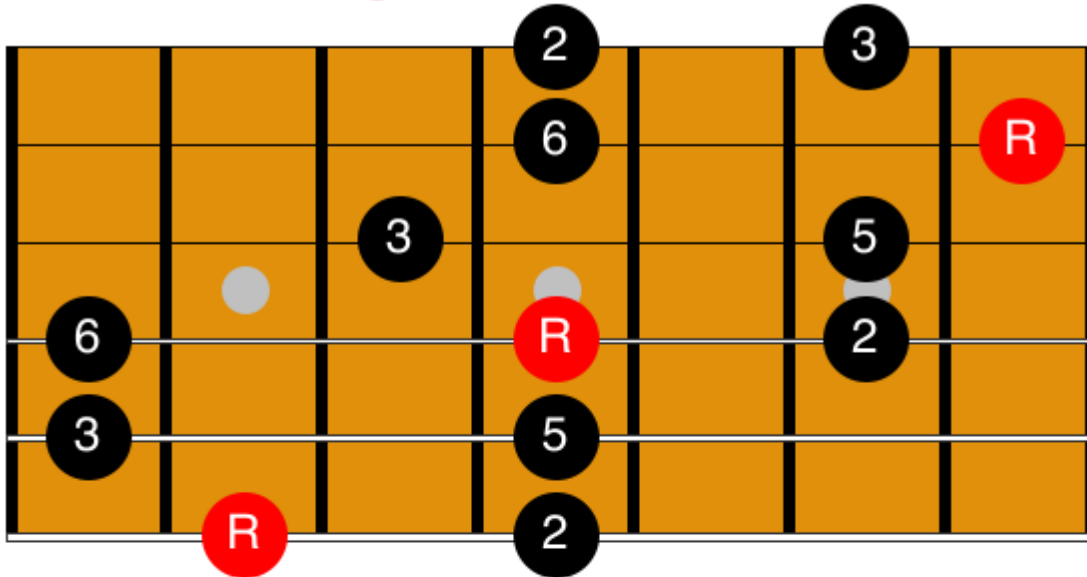
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A Major Pentatonic



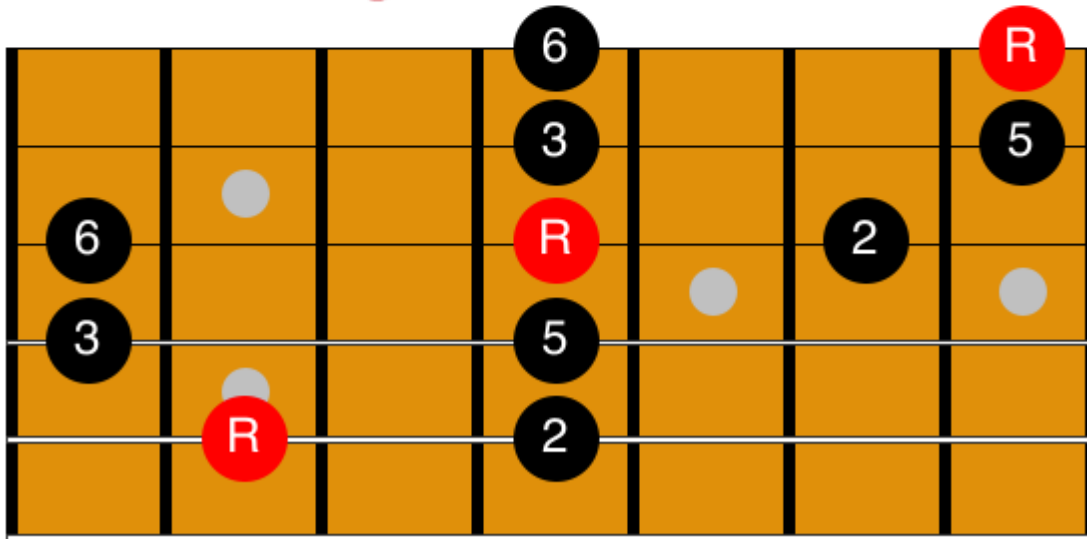
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A Major Pentatonic



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A Major Pentatonic



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A Major Pentatonic

