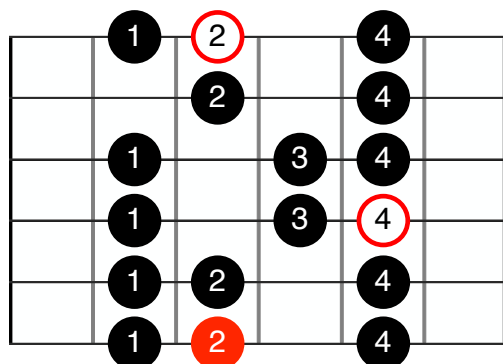


Guitar Scales

- How to Read a Scale Chart
- Fretboard Diagrams
- Major Scales
- Natural Minor Scales
- Harmonic Minor Scales
- Melodic Minor Scales
- Major Pentatonic Scales
- Minor Pentatonic Scales
- Blues Scales
- Chromatic Scales
- Diminished Scales
- Whole Tone Scales

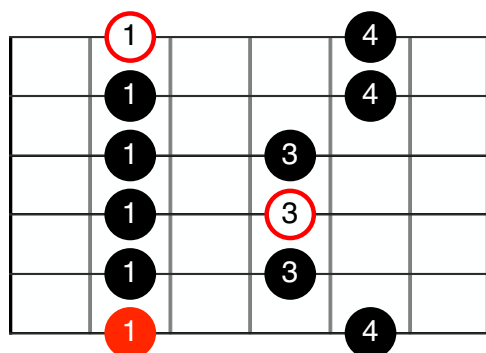
How to Read a Scale Chart



- Each scale chart shows six horizontal lines representing the six strings. The bottom line is the 6th string (thickest). The top line is the 1st string (thinnest).
- The vertical lines represent frets. The line on the left is the end of the guitar (the nut). The next vertical line to the right is the 1st fret, then 2nd fret, 3rd fret, etc.

- The numbers inside the circles are finger numbers.
- Start playing at the **solid red** circle. This is the tonic, or foundation of your scale. (The **open red** circles are tonic notes in other octaves.)
- From there, play left to right, or low to high. (In this diagram, you won't play the first finger on the 6th string right away.)
- Move to the next string, playing from low to high.
- Play to the 1st string and then reverse directions, playing from high to low (right to left) until you reach the starting note.
- If there are any notes remaining on the low strings, play past the starting note to the lowest sounding note in the chart, and then play back up to the starting note.

Moveable Scale Forms and Fretboard Diagrams

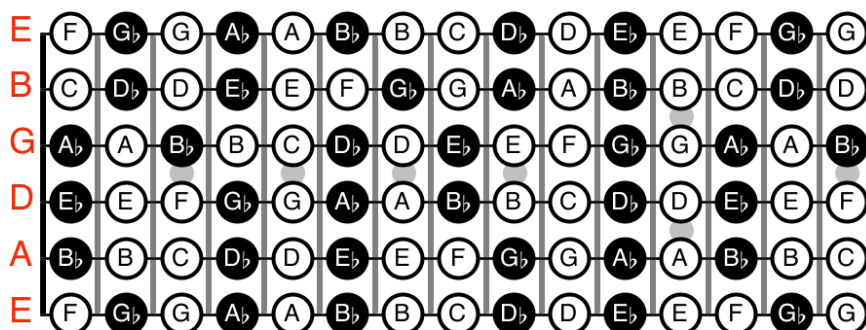


Every scale chart in this document is moveable. Because there are no open strings, you can play each scale form anywhere on the fretboard. For example, the scale chart on the left is a minor pentatonic scale. If you start where it is written in this diagram, you would call it either G $\flat$ or F $\sharp$ Minor Pentatonic because it begins on the 6th string, 2nd fret, which is the note G $\flat$ /F $\sharp$. If you move up the fretboard

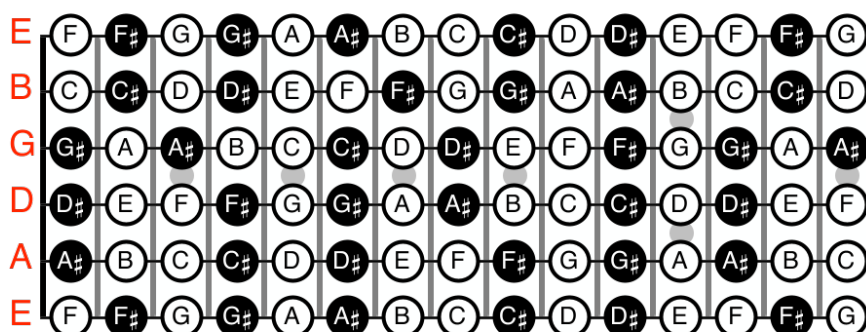
and start on the 7th fret, 6th string (the note B), it becomes B Minor Pentatonic.

The diagrams below show the notes on the fretboard. If you need help learning the fretboard, you can find the free [Learning the Fretboard PDF](#) on my website at GodfreyGuitarLessons.com/downloads.

Non-Natural Notes Spelled as Flats

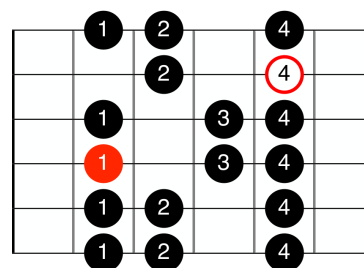
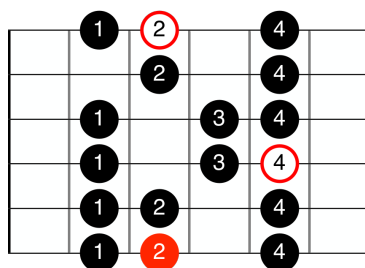


Non-Natural Notes Spelled as Sharps

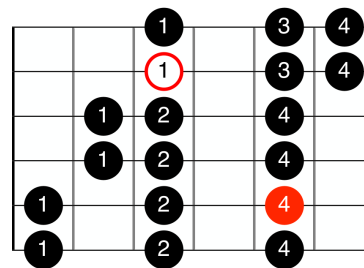
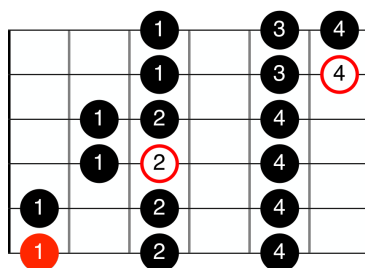


Natural Minor Scales

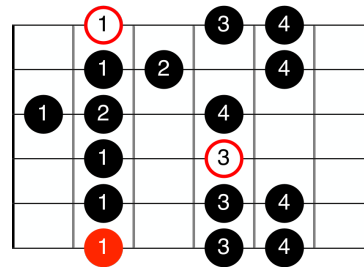
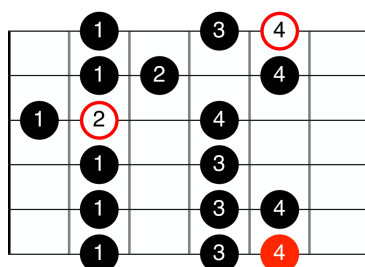
Form 1



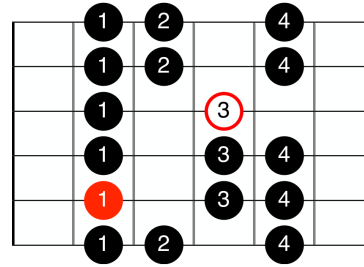
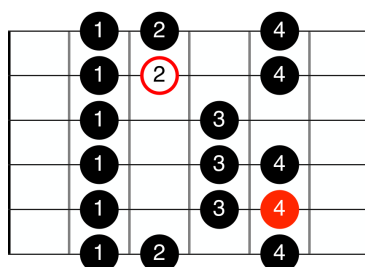
Form 2



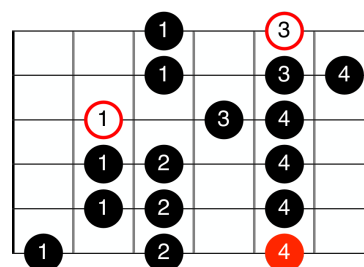
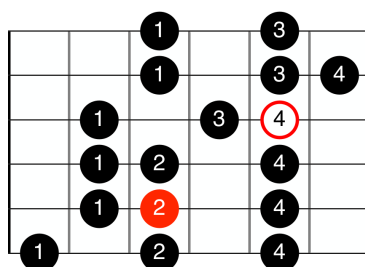
Form 3



Form 4

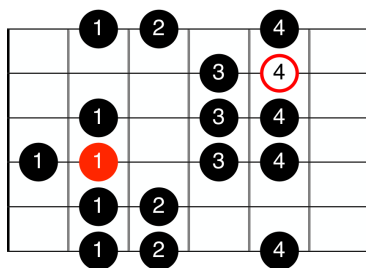


Form 5

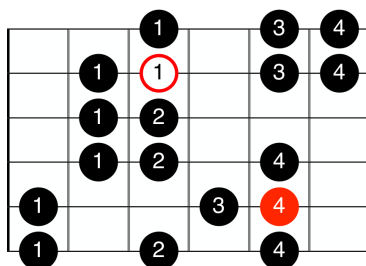


Harmonic Minor Scales

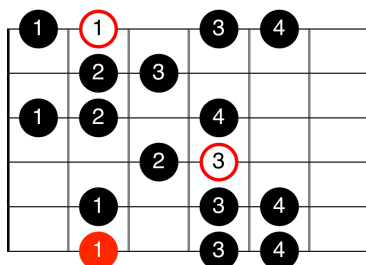
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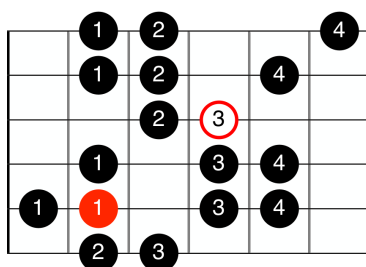
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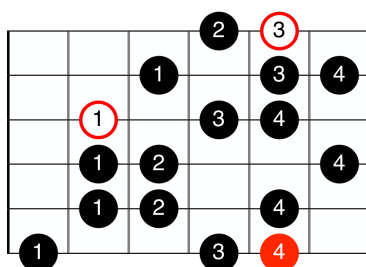
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Form 4

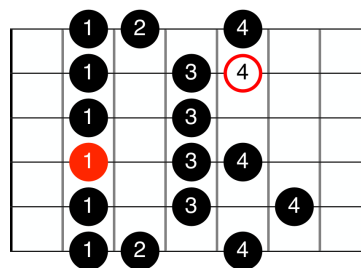


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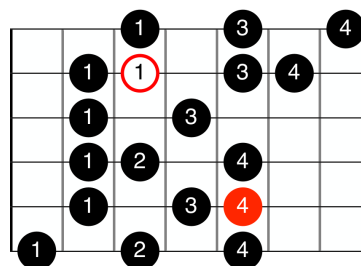


Melodic Minor Scales

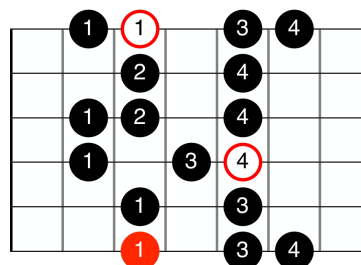
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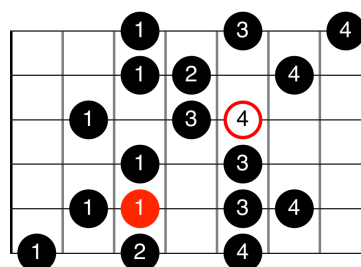
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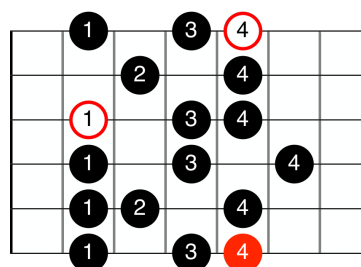
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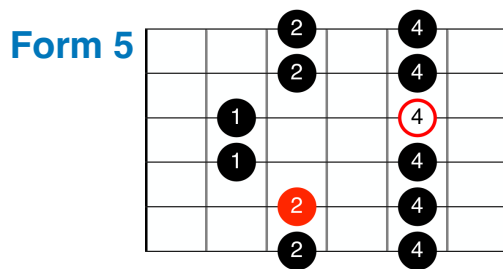
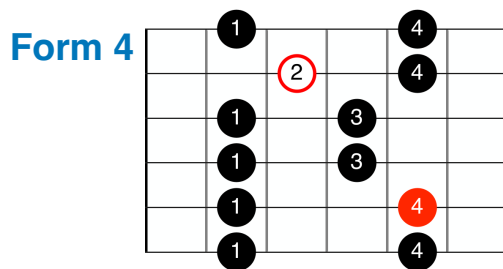
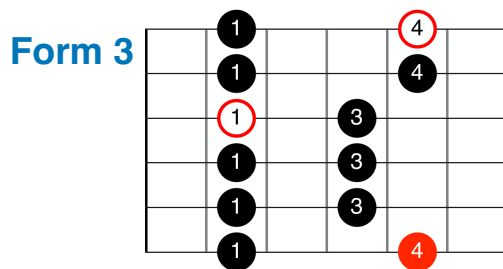
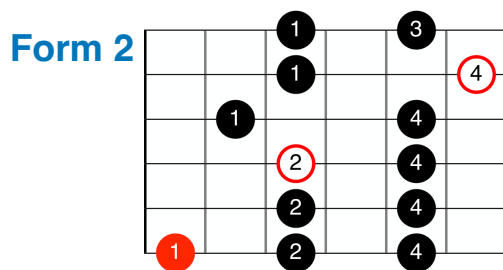
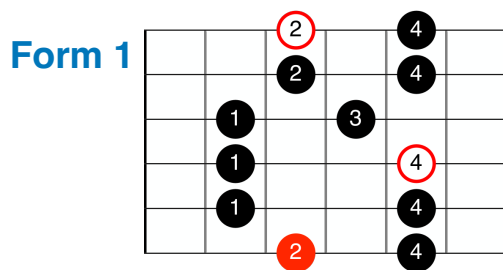
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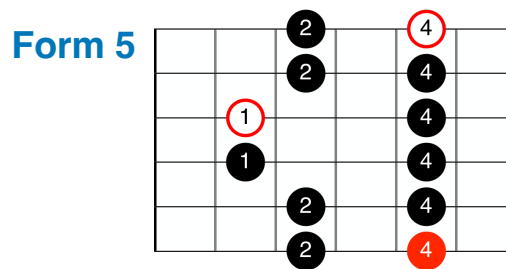
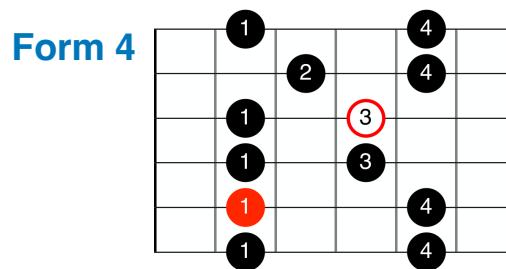
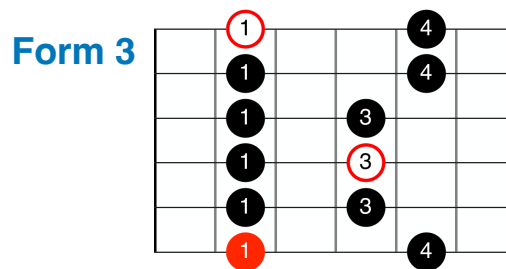
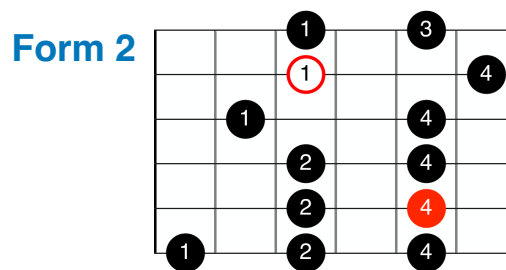
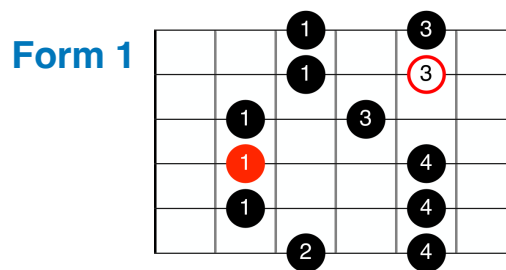
Form 5



Major Pentatonic Scales

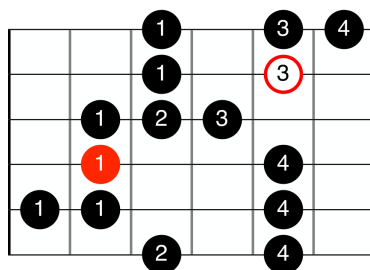


Minor Pentatonic Scales

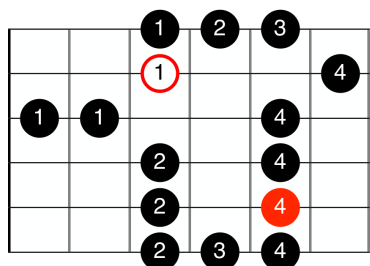


Blues Scales

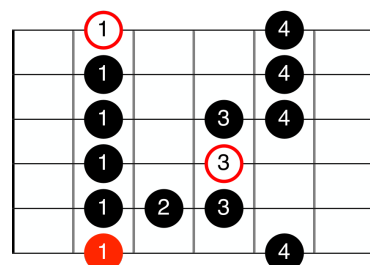
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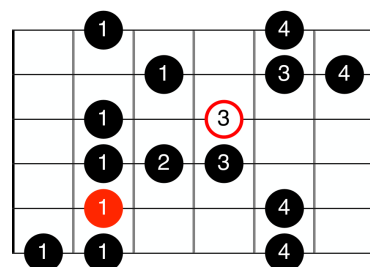
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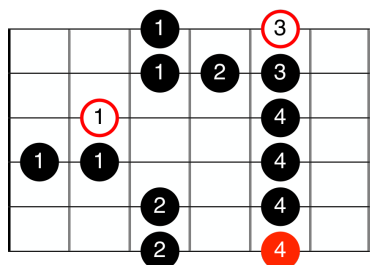
Form 3



Form 4



Form 5



Major and Natural Minor forms are the same. You just start on a different note in the form.

Harmonic and Natural Minor are same except for the raised 7th scale degree in Harmonic Minor.

Melodic and Harmonic Minor are the same except for the raised 6th scale degree in Melodic Minor.

Major Pentatonic is the same as the Major scale, minus the 4th and 7th scale degrees.

Minor Pentatonic is the same as Natural Minor, minus the 2nd and 6th scale degrees.

The Blues Scale is the same as Minor Pentatonic with a note added (often called the “blue note.”)

If you are interested in the theory side of things, check out my book [Guitar Theory Modules](#).

Chromatic Scales

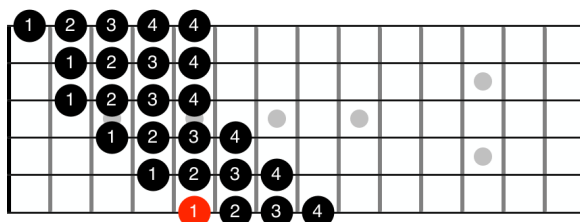
Ascending

- Play fingers 1-2-3-4 in that order.
- Shift one fret lower on the next higher string except when moving between strings 2 and 3, where you stay on the same fret.
- Play one extra note with 4th finger at the top of the scale.

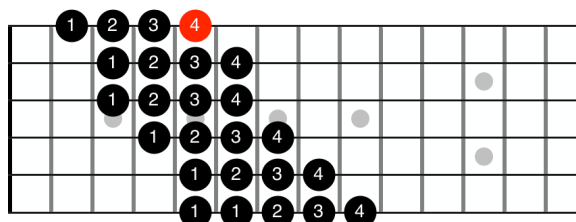
Descending

- Play fingers 4-3-2-1 in that order.
- Shift one fret higher on the the next lower string except when moving between strings 2 and 3, where you stay on the same fret.
- Play one extra note with 1st finger at the bottom of the scale.

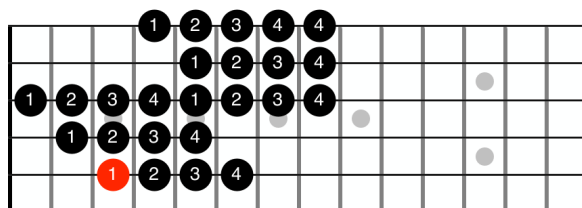
Chromatic 1 Ascending



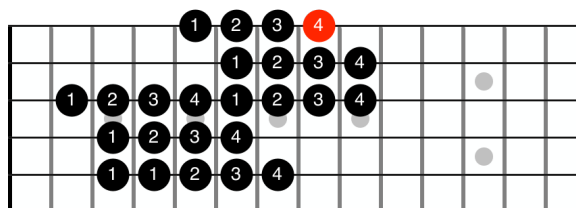
Chromatic 1 Descending



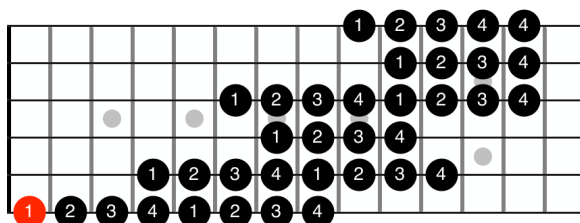
Chromatic 2 Ascending



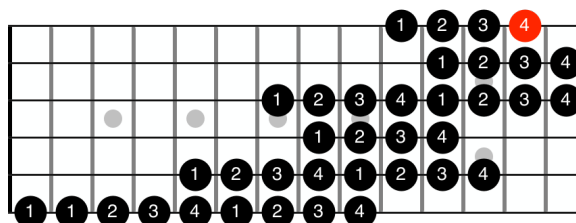
Chromatic 2 Descending



Chromatic 3 Ascending



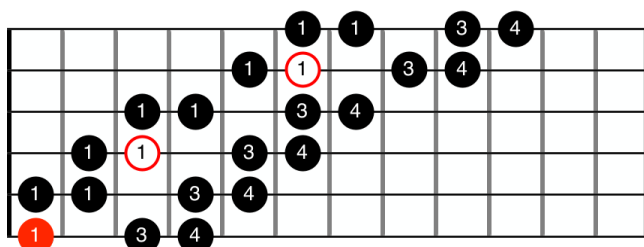
Chromatic 3 Descending



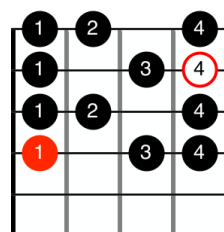
Diminished Scales

Here are two Diminished Scale forms. One travels across the fretboard, and one is stationary. Notice that in the “traveling” form, the 1st finger slides and plays two notes on most strings.

Diminished Scale 1 – Traveling



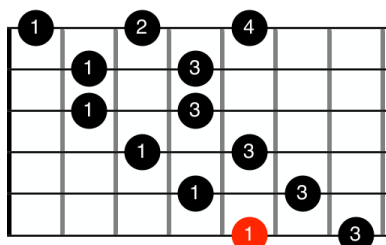
Diminished Scale 2 – Stationary



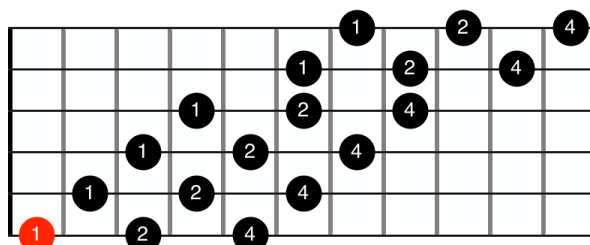
Whole Tone Scales

Here are three Whole Tone Scale forms. One travels across the fretboard from high to low, one travels from low to high, and one is relatively stationary.

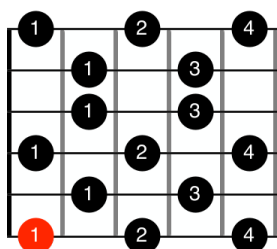
Whole Tone Scale 1



Whole Tone Scale 2



Whole Tone Scale 3



Check out this [guitar scales playlist](#) for scale demonstrations and other scale lessons, including patterns and harmonized scales.