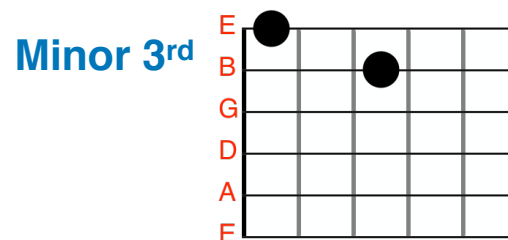
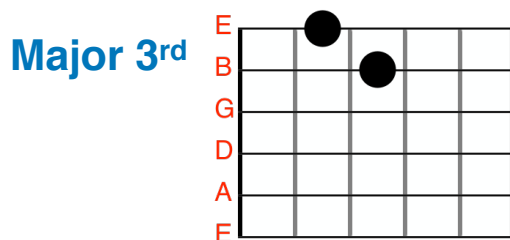


Double Stops (3rds, 6ths, 10ths)

A double stop is simply playing two notes at the same time on the guitar. One of the best ways to practice double stops is to use them to harmonize scales, treating the scale as the melody and the extra note as a harmony line.

Double stops are especially effective when played as parallel 3rds, 6ths, and 10ths. In this lesson, you'll learn how to do this with major scales.

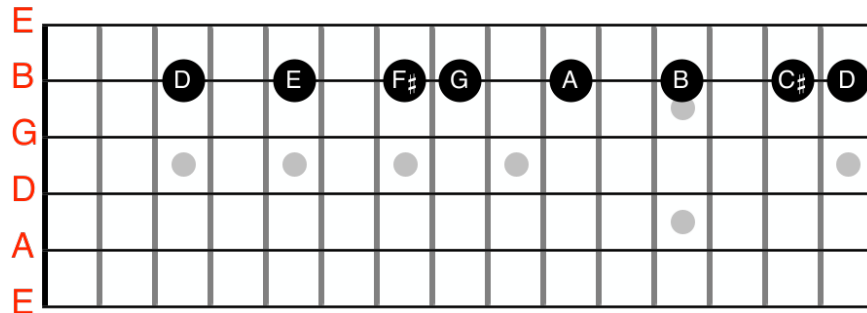
Playing 3rds on Strings 1 and 2



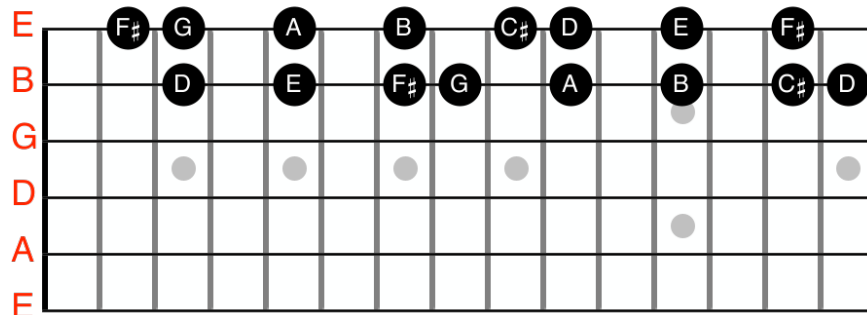
We'll begin by harmonizing a major scale played along the 2nd string. Before doing so, we need to know which interval to play above each scale degree.

- 1st Scale Degree – Major 3rd
- 2nd Scale Degree – Minor 3rd
- 3rd Scale Degree – Minor 3rd
- 4th Scale Degree – Major 3rd
- 5th Scale Degree – Major 3rd
- 6th Scale Degree – Minor 3rd
- 7th Scale Degree – Minor 3rd

With that information, let's harmonize a D major scale in 3rds. First, play a D major scale horizontally on the 2nd string.

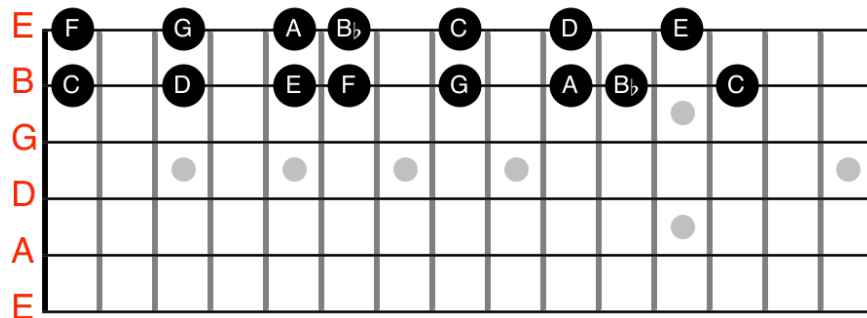
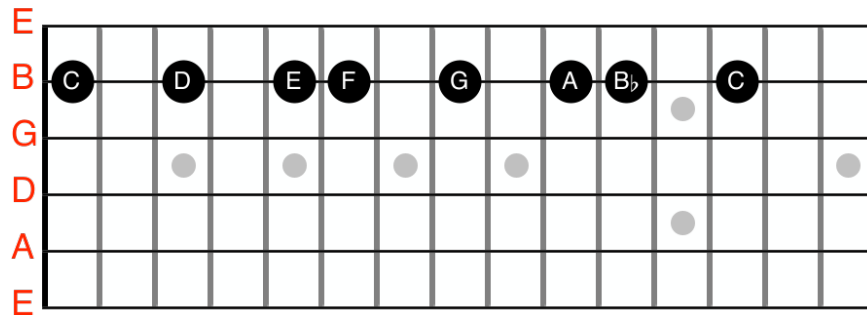


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 3rds on the 1st string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 3 rd
D	1	Major 3 rd (F#)
E	2	Minor 3 rd (G)
F#	3	Minor 3 rd (A)
G	4	Major 3 rd (B)
A	5	Major 3 rd (C#)
B	6	Minor 3 rd (D)
C#	7	Minor 3 rd (E)
D	1	Major 3 rd (F#)

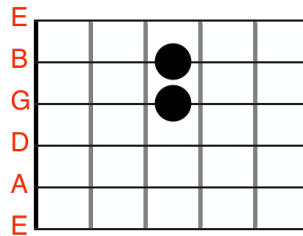
If you are harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, I recommend starting on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and returning to the tonic. Using the F major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 2nd string as described, and then play it again in 3rds.



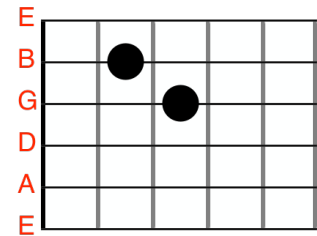
Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 3 rd
F	1	Major 3 rd (A)
G	2	Minor 3 rd (B _b)
A	3	Minor 3 rd (C)
B _b	4	Major 3 rd (D)
C	5	Major 3 rd (E)
D	6	Minor 3 rd (F)
E	7	Minor 3 rd (G)
F	1	Major 3 rd (A)

Playing 3rds on Strings 2 and 3

Major 3rd



Minor 3rd



Smaller intervals such as 3rds are heard more clearly in the upper voices, so for the most part, you'll find yourself playing double stop 3rds on strings 1-2, 2-3, and 3-4, which is what we'll be exploring in this lesson.

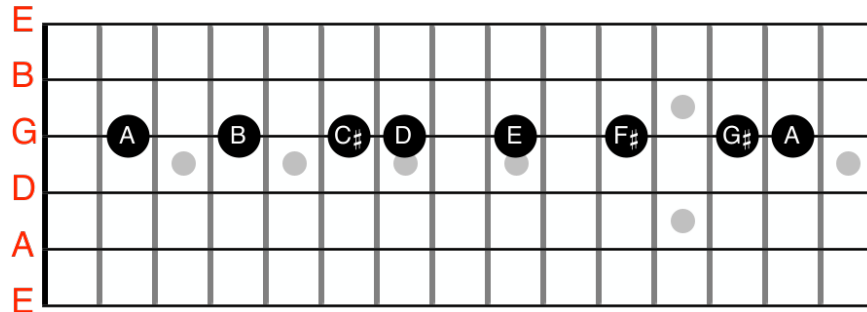
Now we'll take a look at playing double stop 3rds on strings 2 and 3. As with the previous section, we'll use the lower note as our guide note.

The diagrams above show that if your guide note is on the 3rd string, you can play a major 3rd higher by playing the same fret on the 2nd string, and you can play a minor 3rd higher by playing one fret lower on the 2nd string.

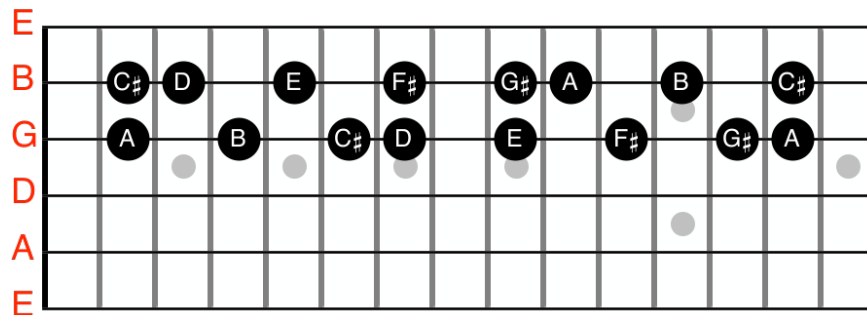
If you're unfamiliar with intervals such as major and minor 3rds, you may want to check out my book ***Guitar Theory Modules***. You can go to godfreyguitarlessons.com/guitar-theory-modules to see a full playlist of ***Guitar Theory Module*** lessons, and if you are interested in ordering the book, you can find it at godfreyguitarbooks.com

Next, we'll harmonize some major scales based on the 3rd string.

Let's harmonize an A major scale in 3rds. First, play an A major scale horizontally on the 3rd string.

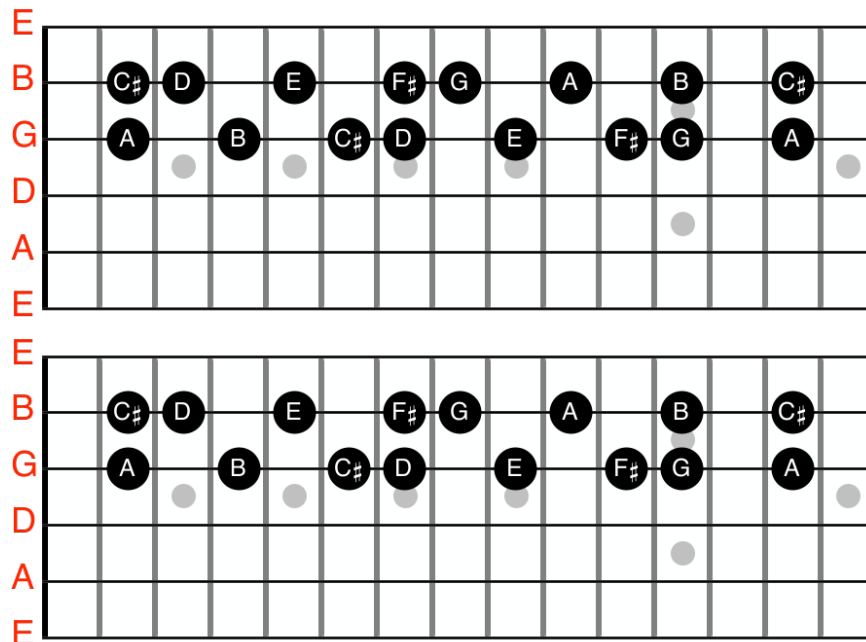


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 3rds on the 2nd string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 3 rd
A	1	Major 3 rd (C#)
B	2	Minor 3 rd (D)
C#	3	Minor 3 rd (E)
D	4	Major 3 rd (F#)
E	5	Major 3 rd (G#)
F#	6	Minor 3 rd (A)
G#	7	Minor 3 rd (B)
A	1	Major 3 rd (C#)

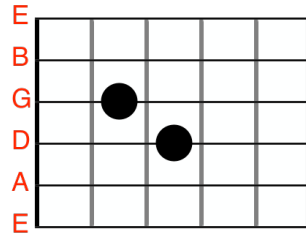
As already mentioned, when harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, start on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and return to the tonic. Using the D major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 3rd string as described, and then play it again in 3^{rds}.



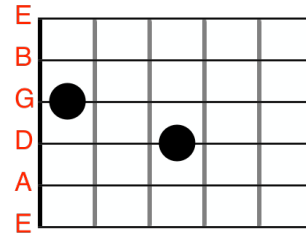
Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 3 rd
D	1	Major 3 rd (F#)
E	2	Minor 3 rd (G)
F#	3	Minor 3 rd (A)
G	4	Major 3 rd (B)
A	5	Major 3 rd (C#)
B	6	Minor 3 rd (D)
C#	7	Minor 3 rd (E)
D	1	Major 3 rd (F#)

Playing 3rds on Strings 3 and 4

Major 3rd



Minor 3rd

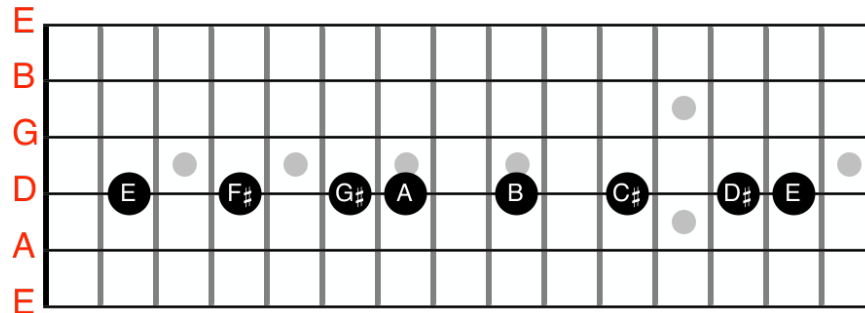


Now we'll take a look at playing double stop 3rds on strings 3 and 4, using the lower note as our guide note.

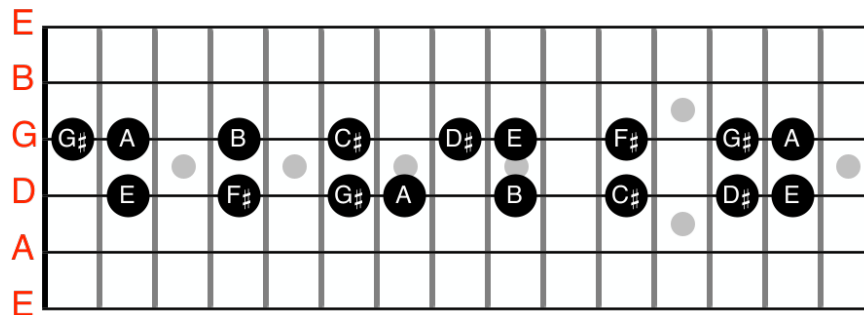
The diagrams above show that if your guide note is on the 4th string, you can play a major 3rd higher by playing one fret lower on the 3rd string. If your guide note is on the 4th string, you can play a minor 3rd higher by playing two frets lower on the 3rd string.

Next, we'll harmonize some major scales based on the 4th string.

Let's harmonize an E major scale in 3rds. First, play an E major scale horizontally on the 4th string.

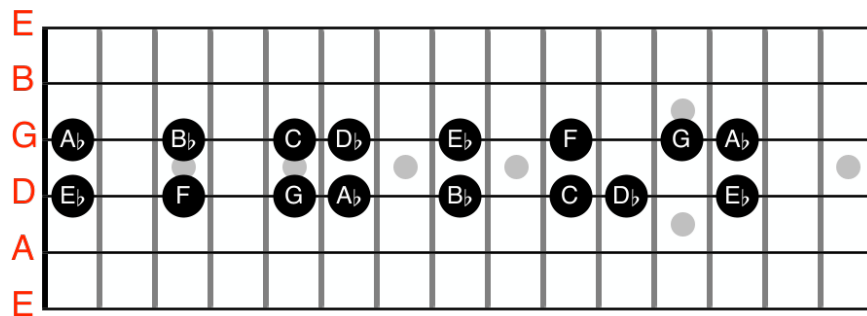
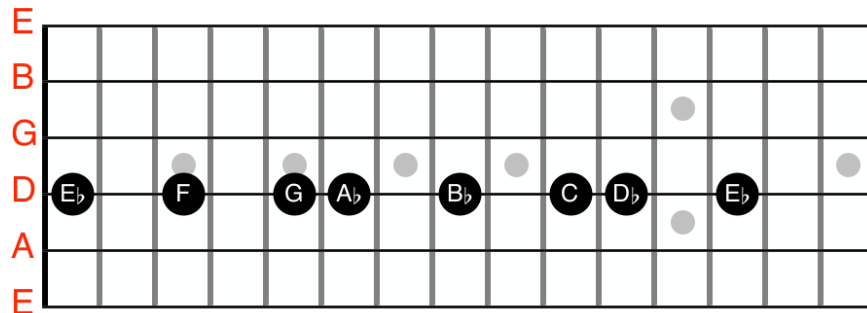


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 3rds on the 2nd string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 3 rd
E	1	Major 3 rd (G#)
F#	2	Minor 3 rd (A)
G#	3	Minor 3 rd (B)
A	4	Major 3 rd (C#)
B	5	Major 3 rd (D#)
C#	6	Minor 3 rd (E)
D#	7	Minor 3 rd (F#)
E	1	Major 3 rd (G#)

Again, when harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, start on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and return to the tonic. Using the Ab major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 4th string as described, and then play it again, harmonizing in 3rds.



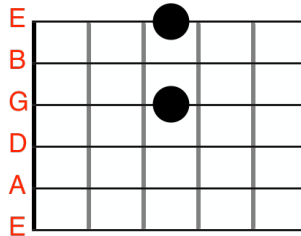
Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 3 rd
Ab	1	Major 3 rd (C)
Bb	2	Minor 3 rd (Db)
C	3	Minor 3 rd (Eb)
Db	4	Major 3 rd (F)
Eb	5	Major 3 rd (G)
F	6	Minor 3 rd (Ab)
G	7	Minor 3 rd (Bb)
Ab	1	Major 3 rd (C)

Double Stops in 6ths

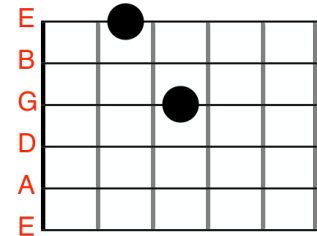
This section covers double stops played in 6ths. When playing 6ths, it's most common to use the highest note as your guide. Think of the high note as your melody note, while the 6th below acts as a lower harmony voice.

Playing 6ths on Strings 1 and 3

Major 6th



Minor 6th

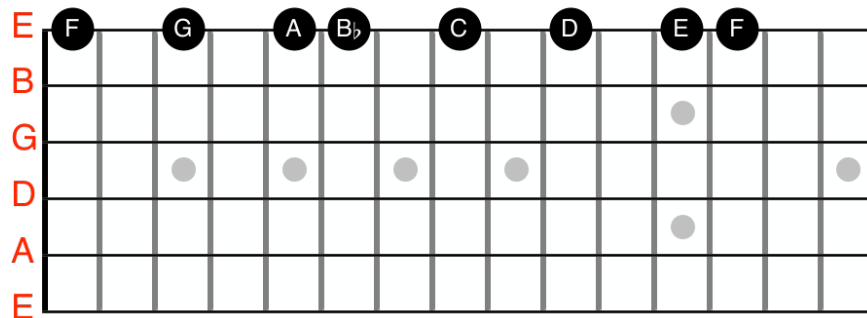


A 6th is an inversion of a 3rd and vice versa. Additionally, the major 3rd and minor 6th are inversions of each other, and the minor 3rd and major 6th are inversions of each other. See [Guitar Theory Modules](#) for a more thorough explanation.

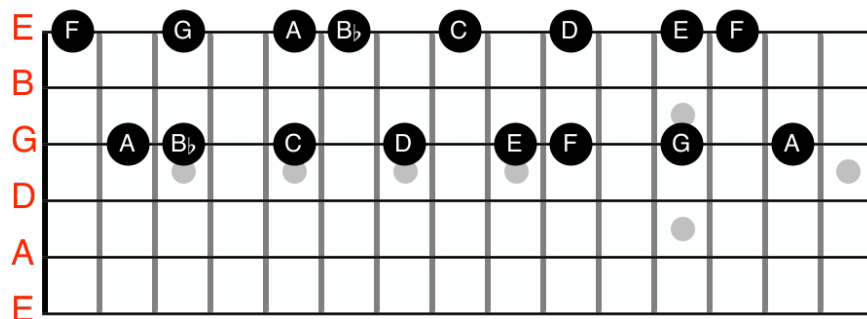
We'll begin by harmonizing a major scale played along the 1st string. Before doing so, we need to know which interval to play below each scale degree.

1 st Scale Degree – Minor 6 th Lower
2 nd Scale Degree – Major 6 th Lower
3 rd Scale Degree – Major 6 th Lower
4 th Scale Degree – Minor 6 th Lower
5 th Scale Degree – Minor 6 th Lower
6 th Scale Degree – Major 6 th Lower
7 th Scale Degree – Major 6 th Lower

With that information, let's harmonize an F major scale in 6ths. First, play an F major scale horizontally on the 1st string.

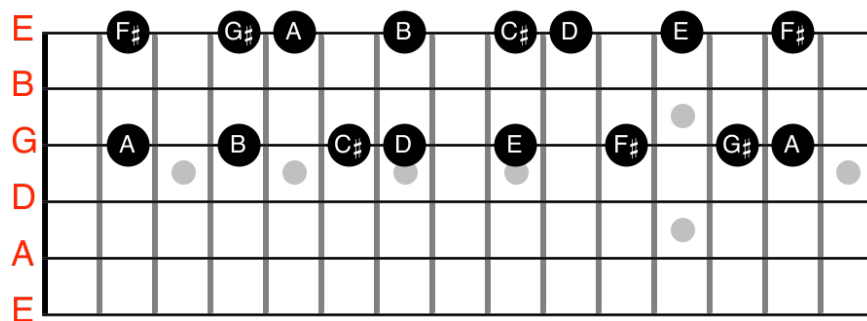
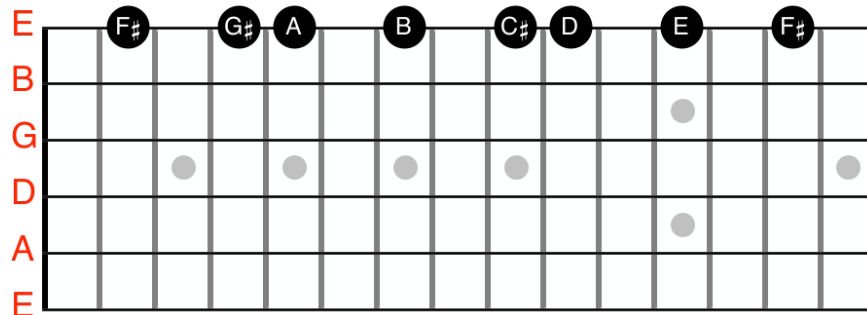


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 6ths lower on the 3rd string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 6 th LOWER
F	1	Minor 6 th (A)
G	2	Major 6 th (Bb)
A	3	Major 6 th (C)
Bb	4	Minor 6 th (D)
C	5	Minor 6 th (E)
D	6	Major 6 th (F)
E	7	Major 6 th (G)
F	1	Minor 6 th (A)

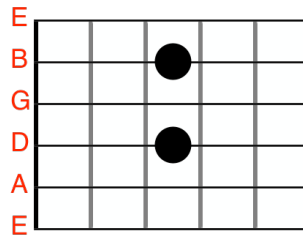
Again, when harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, start on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and return to the tonic. Using the A major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 1st string as described, and then play it again, adding 6ths on the 3rd string.



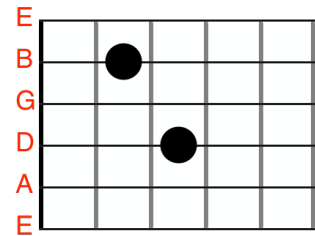
Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 6 th LOWER
A	1	Minor 6 th (C#)
B	2	Major 6 th (D)
C#	3	Major 6 th (E)
D	4	Minor 6 th (F#)
E	5	Minor 6 th (G#)
F#	6	Major 6 th (A)
G#	7	Major 6 th (B)
A	1	Minor 6 th (C#)

Playing 6ths on Strings 2 and 4

Major 6th



Minor 6th



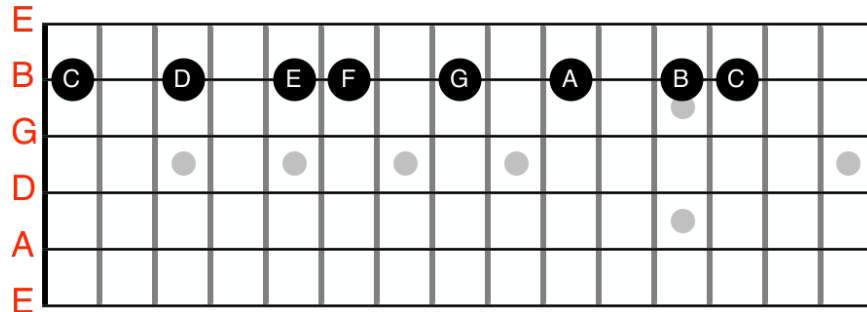
When we play double stop 3rds, we play on adjacent strings. For wider intervals such as 6ths, it's common to skip a string so the notes are located in or near the same frets.

The diagrams above show how to play double stop 6ths on strings 2 and 4.

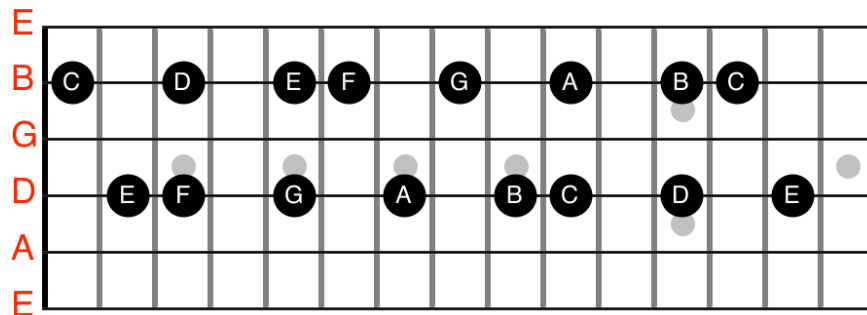
Again, if you're unfamiliar with intervals such as major and minor 6ths, you may want to check out my book ***Guitar Theory Modules***. You can go to godfreyguitarlessons.com/guitar-theory-modules to see a full playlist of ***Guitar Theory Module*** lessons, and if you are interested in ordering the book, you can find it at godfreyguitarbooks.com

Next, we'll harmonize some major scales in 6ths on strings 2 and 4, and we'll use the notes on the 2nd string as our guide notes. Consider the higher note to be the melody, while the lower note functions as the harmony.

Let's harmonize a C major scale in 6ths. First, play a C major scale horizontally on the 2nd string.

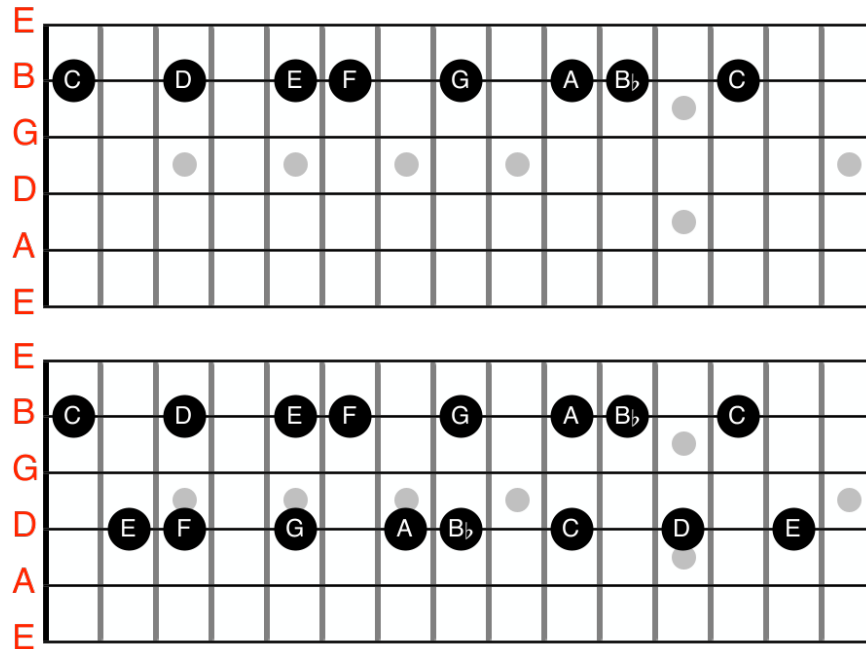


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 6ths lower on the 4th string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 6 th LOWER
C	1	Minor 6 th (E)
D	2	Major 6 th (F)
E	3	Major 6 th (G)
F	4	Minor 6 th (A)
G	5	Minor 6 th (B)
A	6	Major 6 th (C)
B	7	Major 6 th (D)
C	1	Minor 6 th (E)

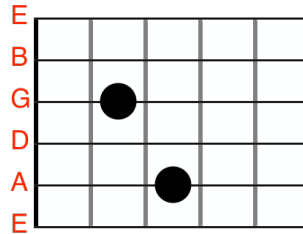
As before, when harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, start on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and return to the tonic. Using the F major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 2nd string as described, and then play it again, adding 6ths on the 4th string.



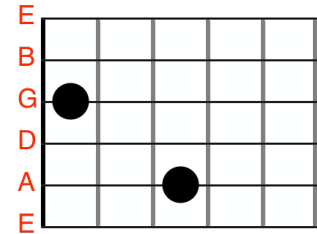
Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 6 th LOWER
F	1	Minor 6 th (A)
G	2	Major 6 th (Bb)
A	3	Major 6 th (C)
Bb	4	Minor 6 th (D)
C	5	Minor 6 th (E)
D	6	Major 6 th (F)
E	7	Major 6 th (G)
F	1	Minor 6 th (A)

Playing 6ths on Strings 3 and 5

Major 6th



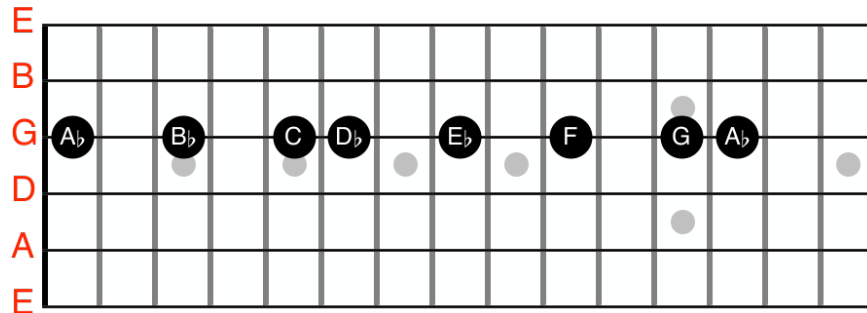
Minor 6th



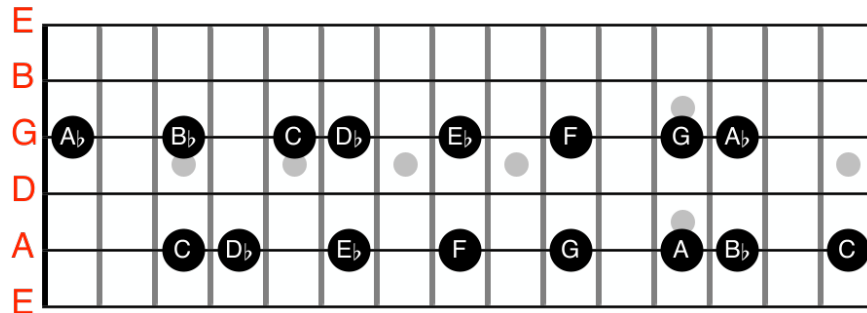
The diagrams above show how to play double stop 6ths on strings 3 and 5.

Next, we'll harmonize some major scales in 6ths on strings 3 and 5, and we'll once again use the higher notes on the 3rd string as our guide notes. Consider the higher note to be the melody, while the lower note functions as the harmony.

Let's harmonize an Ab major scale in 6ths. First, play an Ab major scale horizontally on the 3rd string.

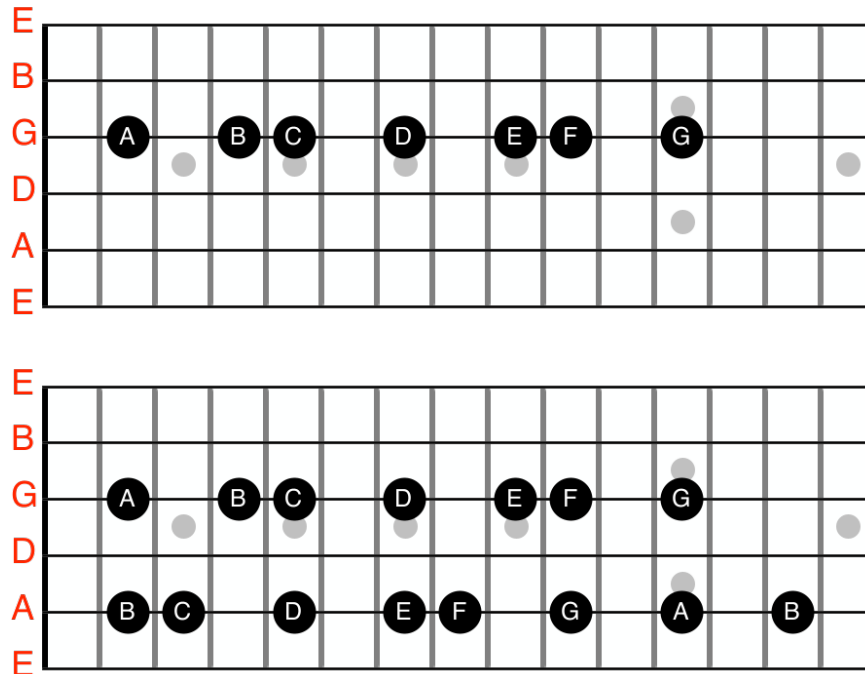


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 6ths lower on the 4th string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 6 th LOWER
Ab	1	Minor 6 th (C)
Bb	2	Major 6 th (Db)
C	3	Major 6 th (Eb)
Db	4	Minor 6 th (F)
Eb	5	Minor 6 th (G)
F	6	Major 6 th (Ab)
G	7	Major 6 th (Bb)
Ab	1	Minor 6 th (C)

When harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, start on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and return to the tonic. Using the C major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 3rd string as described, and then play it again, adding 6ths on the 5th string.



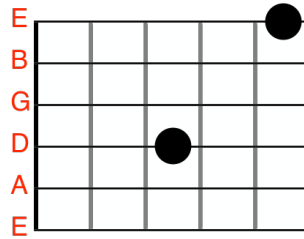
Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 6 th LOWER
C	1	Minor 6 th (E)
D	2	Major 6 th (F)
E	3	Major 6 th (G)
F	4	Minor 6 th (A)
G	5	Minor 6 th (B)
A	6	Major 6 th (C)
B	7	Major 6 th (D)
C	1	Minor 6 th (E)

Double Stops in 10ths

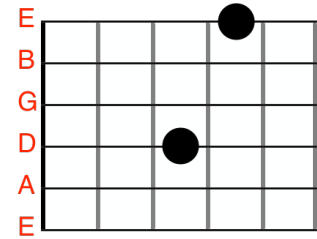
This section covers double stops played in 10ths. When playing 10ths, it's most common to use the lower note as your guide.

Playing 10ths on Strings 1 and 4

Major 10th



Minor 10th

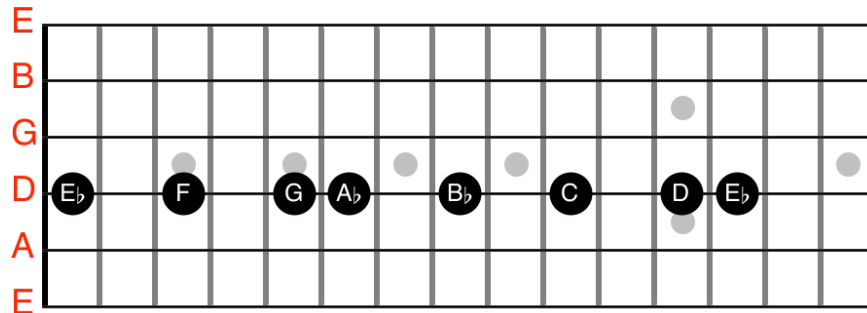


A 10th is simply a 3rd raised one octave, so the 10ths in this section will have the same quality as the 3rds you studied in the first section. Major 3rd = Major 10th. Minor 3rd = Minor 10th. See [Guitar Theory Modules](#) for a more thorough explanation of intervals.

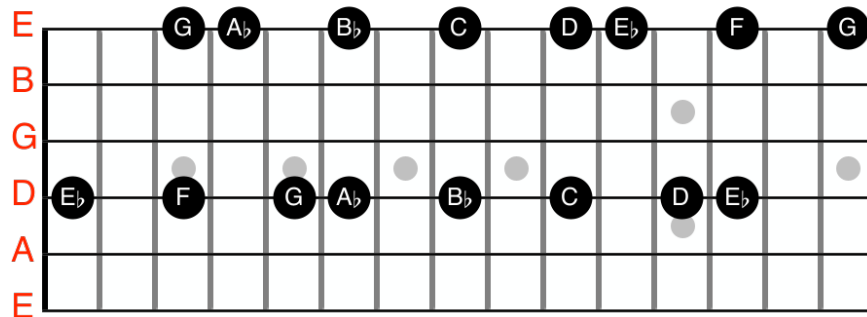
We'll begin by harmonizing a major scale played along the 4th string. Before doing so, we need to know which interval to play above each scale degree.

- | |
|---|
| 1 st Scale Degree – Major 10 th |
| 2 nd Scale Degree – Minor 10 th |
| 3 rd Scale Degree – Minor 10 th |
| 4 th Scale Degree – Major 10 th |
| 5 th Scale Degree – Major 10 th |
| 6 th Scale Degree – Minor 10 th |
| 7 th Scale Degree – Minor 10 th |

With that information, let's harmonize an Eb major scale in 10ths. First, play an Eb major scale horizontally on the 4th string.

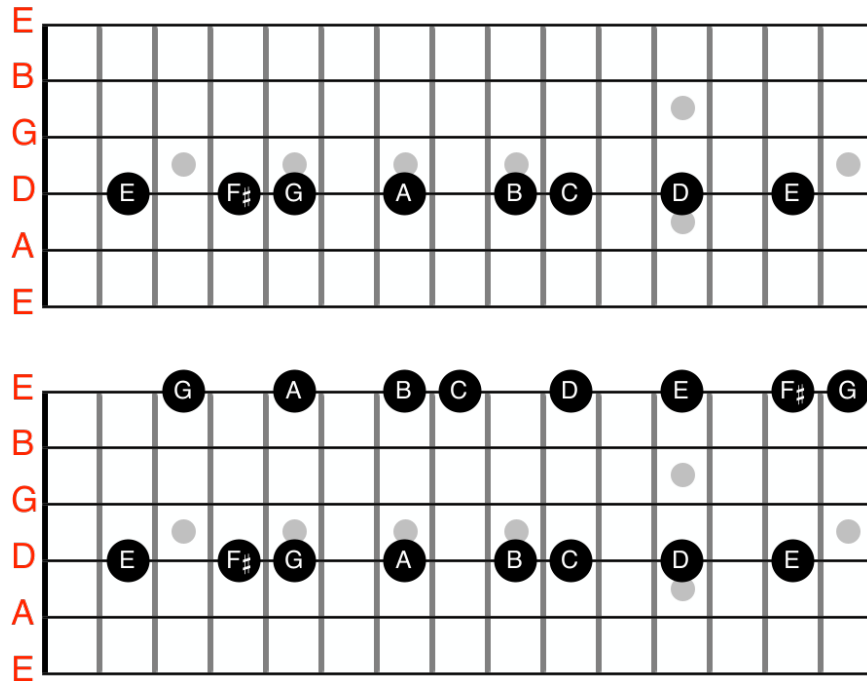


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 10ths on the 1st string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 10 th
E _b	1	Major 10 th (G)
F	2	Minor 10 th (A _b)
G	3	Minor 10 th (B _b)
A _b	4	Major 10 th (C)
B _b	5	Major 10 th (D)
C	6	Minor 10 th (E _b)
D	7	Minor 10 th (F)
E _b	1	Major 10 th (G)

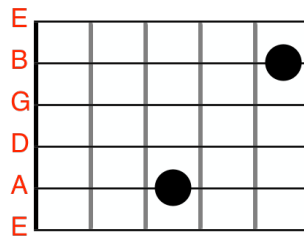
When harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, start on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and return to the tonic. Using the G major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 4th string as described, and then play it again, adding 10ths on the 1st string.



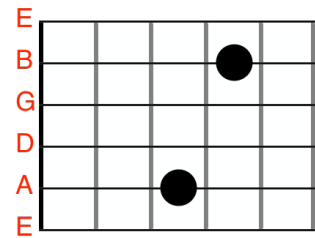
Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 10 th
G	1	Major 10 th (B)
A	2	Minor 10 th (C)
B	3	Minor 10 th (D)
C	4	Major 10 th (E)
D	5	Major 10 th (F#)
E	6	Minor 10 th (G)
F#	7	Minor 10 th (A)
G	1	Major 10 th (B)

Playing 10ths on Strings 2 and 5

Major 10th



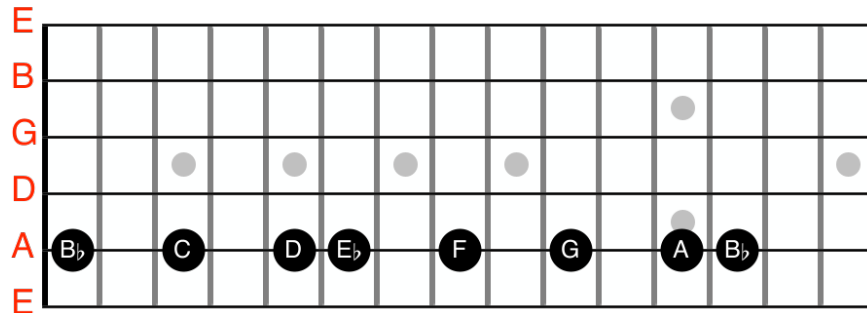
Minor 10th



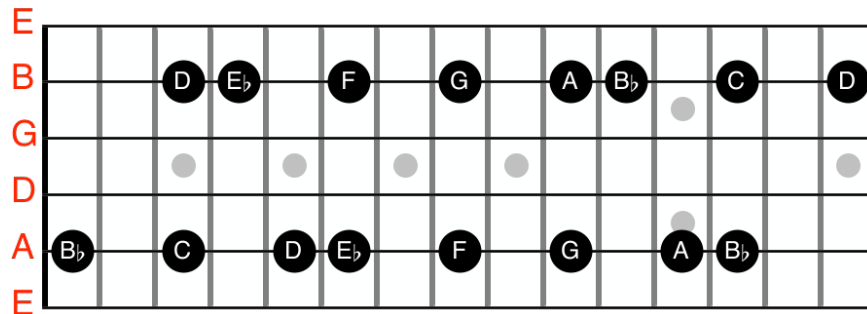
The diagrams above show how to play double stop 10ths on strings 2 and 5.

Next, we'll harmonize some major scales in 10ths on strings 2 and 5, using the lower notes on the 5th string as our guide notes.

Let's harmonize a Bb major scale in 10ths. First, play a Bb major scale horizontally on the 5th string.

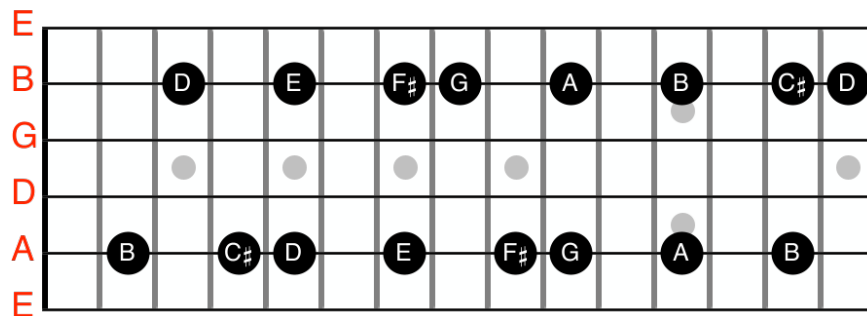
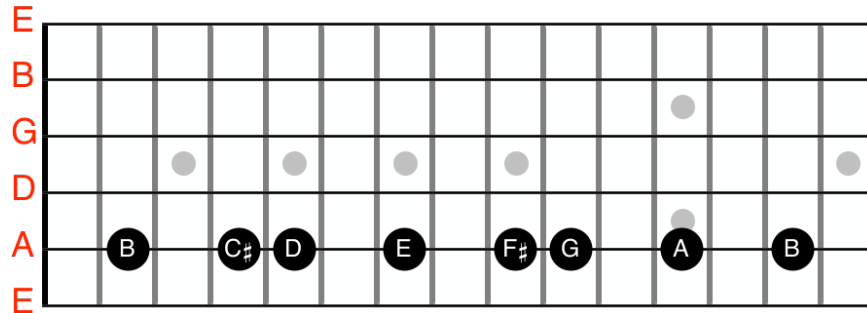


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 10ths on the 2nd string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 10 th
Bb	1	Major 10 th (D)
C	2	Minor 10 th (Eb)
D	3	Minor 10 th (F)
Eb	4	Major 10 th (G)
F	5	Major 10 th (A)
G	6	Minor 10 th (Bb)
A	7	Minor 10 th (C)
Bb	1	Major 10 th (D)

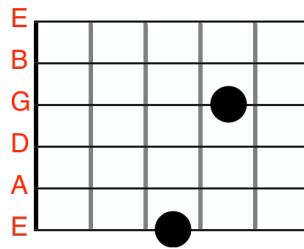
When harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, start on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and return to the tonic. Using the D major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 5th string as described, and then play it again, adding 10ths on the 2nd string.



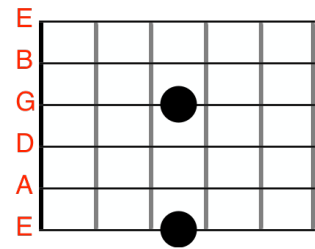
Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 10 th
D	1	Major 10 th (F#)
E	2	Minor 10 th (G)
F#	3	Minor 10 th (A)
G	4	Major 10 th (B)
A	5	Major 10 th (C#)
B	6	Minor 10 th (D)
C#	7	Minor 10 th (E)
D	1	Major 10 th (F#)

Playing 10ths on Strings 3 and 6

Major 10th



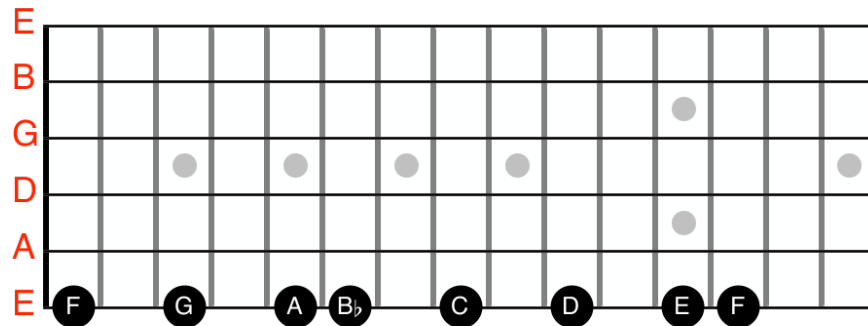
Minor 10th



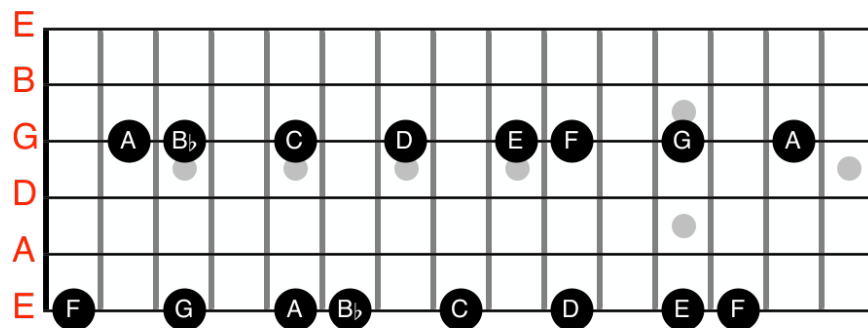
The diagrams above show how to play double stop 10ths on strings 3 and 6.

Next, we'll harmonize some major scales in 10ths on strings 3 and 6, using the lower notes on the 6th string as our guide notes.

Let's harmonize an F major scale in 10ths. First, play an F major scale horizontally on the 6th string.

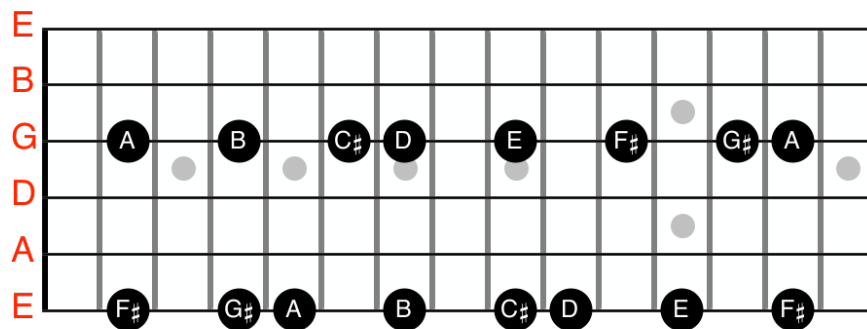
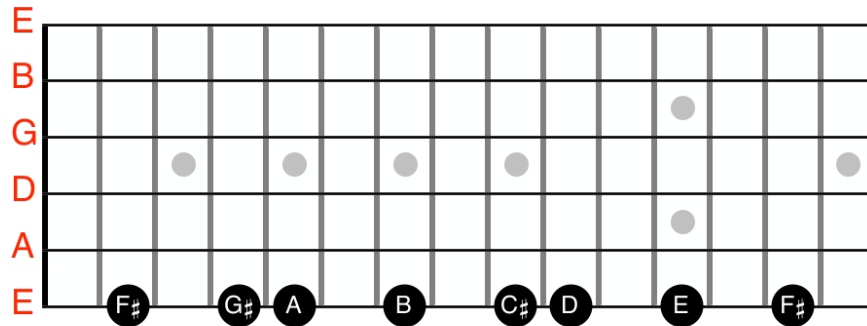


Then play double stops, adding major or minor 10ths on the 3rd string, depending on the scale degree.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 10 th
F	1	Major 10 th (A)
G	2	Minor 10 th (Bb)
A	3	Minor 10 th (C)
Bb	4	Major 10 th (D)
C	5	Major 10 th (E)
D	6	Minor 10 th (F)
E	7	Minor 10 th (G)
F	1	Major 10 th (A)

When harmonizing a scale that begins in the middle of the fretboard, start on the tonic (main note of the scale), playing up as high as is comfortable on your fretboard, then down to the end of the neck, and return to the tonic. Using the A major scale as an example, first play the scale on the 6th string as described, and then play it again, adding 10ths on the 3rd string.



Guide Note	Scale Degree	Type of 10 th
A	1	Major 10 th (C#)
B	2	Minor 10 th (D)
C#	3	Minor 10 th (E)
D	4	Major 10 th (F#)
E	5	Major 10 th (G#)
F#	6	Minor 10 th (A)
G#	7	Minor 10 th (B)
A	1	Major 10 th (C#)

Playing double stop scales may seem like more of a technical exercise at first, but as you continue to practice them, you'll be able to incorporate them into your own playing. Guitar players tend to either play single notes as lead players or chords as rhythm players, so you'll stand out if you are able to harmonize your own melody lines as a soloist. I personally use double stops most often when arranging solo guitar music and when improvising.

I like to play in 3rds when I wish to play tight harmony lines, and I'll use 6ths when I want to add a harmony line beneath the melody note. I use 10ths to either harmonize a moving bass line or when I want to play a low bass note with a high melody note.

This double stop lesson assumes familiarity with major scales, and you can of course use them in other scales as well. If you are looking for more information on scales, please check out godfreyguitarlessons.com.