

# THE PENTATONIC WAY THE 5 STEPS ON THE WAY

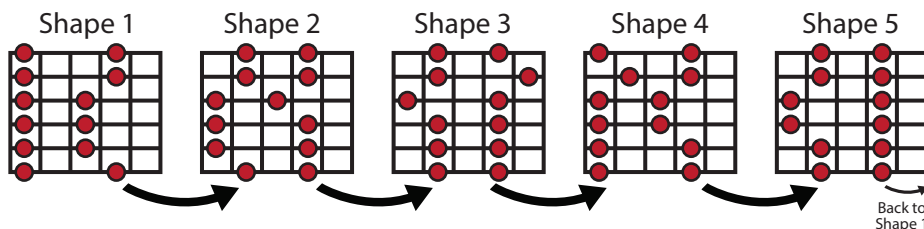


Click or Scan to Learn

On this page are the five most important musical concepts that an intermediate guitar player can know. Learn the five shapes of the pentatonic scale, how to apply them to chords using simple and advanced methods, and the most popular chords used for progressions.

## THE FIVE SCALE SHAPES

Here are The Five Shapes of the major & minor pentatonic scale. Notice how the shapes fit together like puzzle pieces as they progress up the neck.



## THE SIX CHORD SHAPES

Here are the only six chord shapes you really need to know in order to cover the entire neck. There are three major shapes (voicings) and three minor chord shapes.

### Three G Major Shapes

● = Root note  
● = Major third  
● = Perfect fifth

### Three G Minor Shapes

● = Root note  
● = Minor third  
● = Perfect fifth

## MATCHING CHORDS & SHAPES

Below you can see how the shapes of the pentatonic scale match up with The Six Chords. There is a Primary shape that fits directly over the chord, and a secondary shape that is further up the neck.

### Major Chords with Primary & Secondary Scales

Primary	Chord	Secondary

### Minor Chords with Primary & Secondary Scales

Primary	Chord	Secondary

● = Chord note ● = Added scale note ● = Chord note ● = Added scale note

## PENTATONIC ALTERNATE USES

By beginning the pentatonic scale on a note other than the chord's root, you highlight other notes that will sound good with that chord. Each chord type has different starting points that will allow all five notes to work properly with them.

Chord Type	Start On	Scales Tones Played				
Minor	Root	R	b3	4	5	b7
	Second	R	9	4	5	6
	Fifth	R	9	4	5	b7
Major	Second	R	9	4	5	6
	Third	9	3	5	6	7
	Sixth	R	9	3	5	6
Dominant	Second	R	9	4	5	6
	Fifth	R	9	4	5	b7
	Sixth	R	9	3	5	6
Min7b5	Flat Third	b9	b3	b5	b6	b7
	Fourth	R	b3	4	b6	b7
	Flat Seventh	b9	b3	4	b6	b7
Alt Dom	Sharp Ninth	b9	b3	b5	b6	b7
	Flat Seventh	b9	b3	4	b6	b7

## THE FOUR CHORD GROUPS

When writing chord progressions for your songs it's good to know the popular chords used by professional songwriters to construct theirs. Below are the four chord families in the key of C Maj.

Diatonic	<b>Major</b>	I Maj C Maj	IV Maj F Maj	V Maj G Maj	
	<b>Minor</b>	ii Min, D Min	iii Min, E Min	vi Min A Min	
Nondiatonic	<b>Flat Major</b>	bIII Maj Eb Maj	bVI Maj Ab Maj	bVII Maj Bb Maj	
	<b>Shifted</b>	II Maj D Maj	III Maj E Maj	iv Min F Min	v Min G Min