

Theory Sheet 3 davejonesguitar.co.uk

Pentatonic Scales

Pentatonic scales are five-note scales. They are constructed from the 'parent' major and natural minor scales with 2 notes omitted in each case. They are very useful for improvising as there are not any notes that clash with the accompanying chords. Which is not the case with the major and natural minor scales.

Pentatonic Major Scales

This scale is created from the 'parent' major scale with the 4th and 7th degrees omitted.

So the spelling is:- 1 2 3 5 6 8

C major pentatonic:- C D E G A C

G major pentatonic:- G A B D E G

D major pentatonic:- D E F# A B D

F major pentatonic:- F G A C D F

Pentatonic Minor Scales

This scale is created from the 'parent' minor scale with the 2nd and 6th degrees omitted.

So the spelling is:- 1 b3 4 5 b7 8

A minor pentatonic:- A C D E G A

E minor pentatonic:- E G A B D E

B minor pentatonic:- B D E F# A B

D minor pentatonic:- D F G A C D

Notice again that the pentatonic major scale and the relative pentatonic minor scale contain the same notes as each other.