

Soloing 2: Pentatonic Box Sequence

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Guitarists use pentatonic boxes to create solos and most beginners can play the basic minor pentatonic box seen below. This is an A minor pentatonic.

By the way, you should print out this page and write in the notes names for everything.

A minor pentatonic. Spell out the scale. ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

Musical notation for the A minor pentatonic scale in the first position. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The scale is written on a single staff with a guitar icon. Below the staff are three lines representing the strings: Treble (T), A, and Bass (B). The notes and fret numbers are as follows:

String	Notes (Fret)
Treble (T)	A2 (0), C3 (1), E3 (2), G3 (3), A3 (4)
A	A3 (5), C4 (7), E4 (9), G4 (10), A4 (12)
Bass (B)	A2 (5), C3 (8), E3 (10), G3 (12), A3 (14)

A lot of folks move the C on the low E string to the C on the A string. Play the next example.

Musical notation for the A minor pentatonic scale in the first position, showing a variation where the C on the low E string is moved to the A string. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The scale is written on a single staff with a guitar icon. Below the staff are three lines representing the strings: Treble (T), A, and Bass (B). The notes and fret numbers are as follows:

String	Notes (Fret)
Treble (T)	A2 (0), C3 (1), E3 (2), G3 (3), A3 (4)
A	A3 (5), C4 (7), E4 (9), G4 (10), A4 (12)
Bass (B)	A2 (5), C3 (8), E3 (10), G3 (12), A3 (14)

Now, move the pattern to the 10th fret. This will make it a D minor pentatonic scale.

Spell out the scale. ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

Musical notation for the D minor pentatonic scale in the 10th position. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of two flats. The scale is written on a single staff with a guitar icon. Below the staff are three lines representing the strings: Treble (T), A, and Bass (B). The notes and fret numbers are as follows:

String	Notes (Fret)
Treble (T)	D3 (10), F3 (12), A3 (13), B3 (14), D4 (15)
A	D3 (10), F3 (12), A3 (13), B3 (14), D4 (15)
Bass (B)	D3 (10), F3 (12), A3 (13), B3 (14), D4 (15)

Now, there's a pile of licks you can play in this box.

Remember, you can bend the higher note on the G, B, and E string a whole step.

Here's a sequence that will work in any key. Just give it an overview. We're going to apply smaller pieces of this instead of shooting for the whole thing right now. This way you can get the pattern under your fingers, gain some muscle memory, and then gradually expand the sequence. Remember to write in the notes. Use the index and ring fingers. Alternate pick or use hammer ons and pull offs.

Same sequence descending.

T 13 10 13 10 10

A 13 13 10 13 10 10

B 12 12 10 12 10 10

T

A 12 10 12 10 10

B 12 12 10 12 10 8 10 8 8 10 10 8 10 8 10

Download Soloing 2 from GuitarSteve.com and see how you can apply short bursts of these sequences.

This is the same solo from Soloing 1 with the sequence patterns substituted in. Use these ideas over Another Brick in the Wall Pt. II and Sunshine of Your Love.