

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. ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are A2, C3, E3, G3, and A3. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings labeled T, A, and B. The notes are indicated by fret numbers: T (5, 8), A (5, 7), and B (5, 8).

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

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are A2, C3, E3, G3, and A3. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings labeled T, A, and B. The notes are indicated by fret numbers: T (5, 8), A (5, 7), and B (5, 3, 5, 7). A 'sl' (slide) is marked under the 5th fret on the B string.

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

Spell out the scale. ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are D10, F10, A10, B10, and D11. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings labeled T, A, and B. The notes are indicated by fret numbers: T (10, 13), A (10, 12), and B (10, 8, 10, 12). A 'sl' (slide) is marked under the 10th fret on the B string.

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.

Musical notation for a descending sequence on a guitar. The notation includes a treble clef staff with six measures of music, each containing a triplet of eighth notes. Below the staff are three lines labeled T, A, and B, which provide fret numbers for the strings. The fret numbers are: T (13 10 13, 10 10), A (13, 13 10 13, 10 10, 12 10 12, 10 10), and B (12, 12 10 12, 10 10).

Musical notation for a descending sequence on a guitar. The notation includes a treble clef staff with six measures of music, each containing a triplet of eighth notes. Below the staff are three lines labeled T, A, and B, which provide fret numbers for the strings. The fret numbers are: T (12 10 12, 10 10), A (12 10 12, 10 8 10, 8 8, 10 8 10, 8 10), and B (12, 12 10 12, 10 8 10, 8 8, 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.