



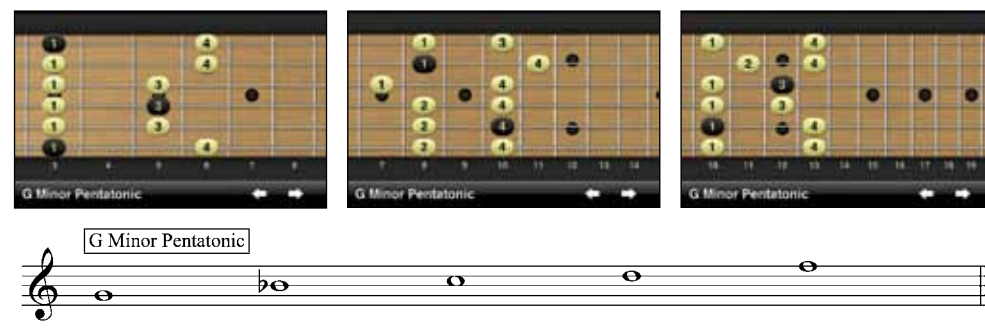
MINOR PENTATONIC

No scale is more important to guitarists than the minor pentatonic scale. The name *pentatonic* comes from a combination of *penta* (which means 'five') and *tonic* (which means 'tones' or 'notes').

Formula: root, b3rd, 4th, 5th, b7th

Intervals: w+1/2-w-w-w+1/2-w

Related chords: major triads, minor triads and dominant 7th chords and its extensions (9th, 11th and 13th chords)



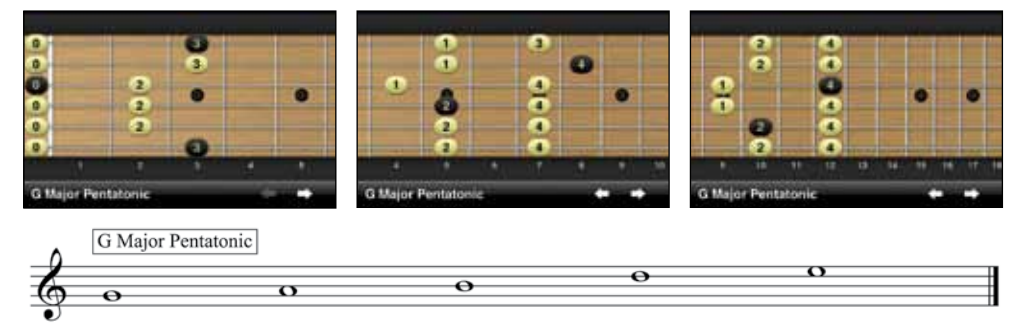
MAJOR PENTATONIC

The major pentatonic scale is another important 5-note scale. It is brighter when compared to the minor pentatonic scale. You'll hear this scale in rock, country and jazz music. It's perfect for writing melodies and improvising over major tonalities.

Formula: root, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th

Intervals: w-w-w+1/2-w-w+1/2

Related chords: major triads



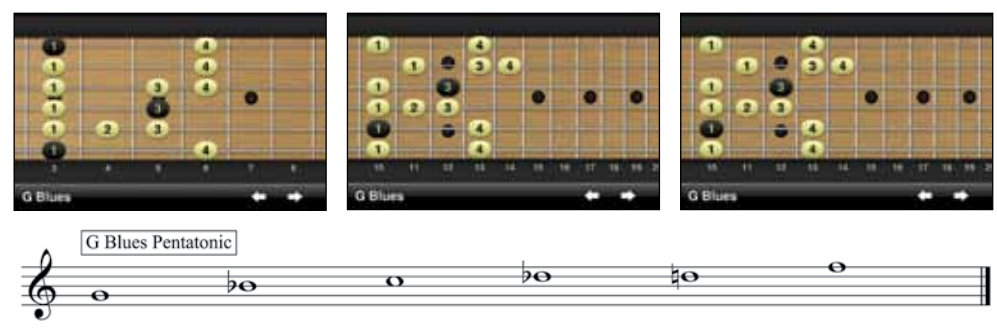
BLUES SCALE

The blues scale is a variation of the minor pentatonic scale with an additional b5th passing tone. While this scale is at home in the blues, you'll hear it used in other styles of music, such as rock and jazz.

Formula: root, b3rd, 4th, b5th, 5th, b7th

Intervals: w+1/2-w-h-h-w+1/2-w

Related chords: major triads, minor triads and dominant 7th chords and its extensions (9th, 11th and 13th chords)



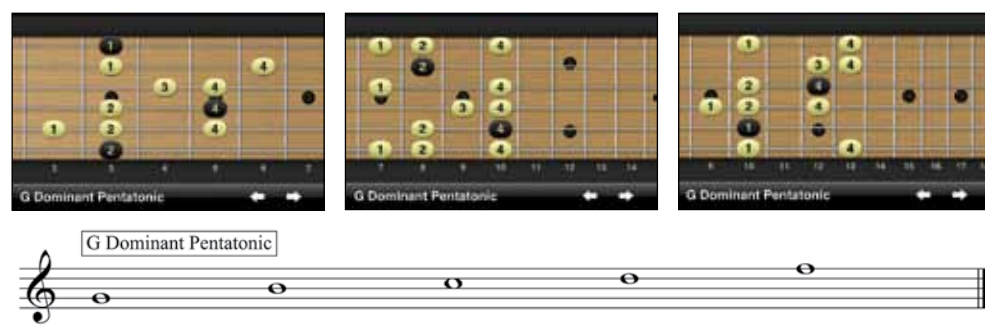
DOMINANT PENTATONIC

The dominant pentatonic is a 5-note scale based on the minor pentatonic scale with one important difference. The dominant pentatonic replaces the minor third with the brighter sounding major third. It's a great alternative to the minor pentatonic, especially when major and dominant 7th chords are used.

Formula: root, 3rd, 4th, 5th, b7th

Intervals: w+w-h-w-w+1/2-w

Related chords: major triads, dominant 7th & its extensions (9th, 11th and 13th chords)



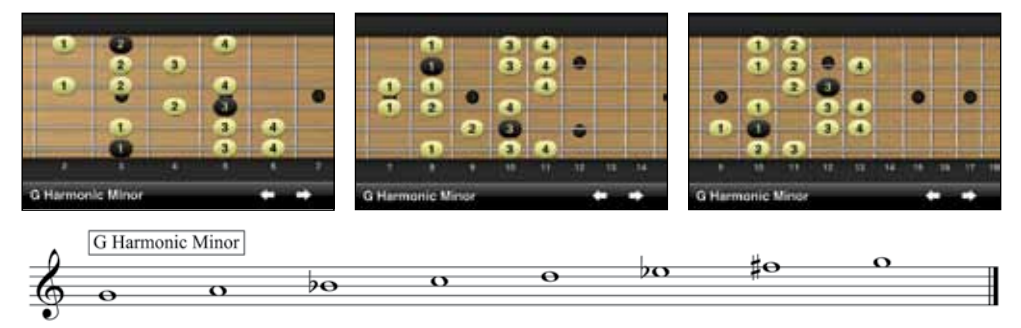
HARMONIC MINOR

The harmonic minor scale is based on a natural minor scale with a raised 7th tone. You'll hear harmonic minor in ethnic music of the Middle East and other cultures and also in jazz and rock music. It's one of the most colorful scales to play over a minor chord and one of the only choices for a minor (maj7) chord.

Formula: root, 2nd b3rd, 4th, 5th, b6th, 7th

Intervals: w-h-w-w-h-w+1/2-h

Related chords: minor triads, minor (maj7th) and its extensions (9th, 11 and 13th)



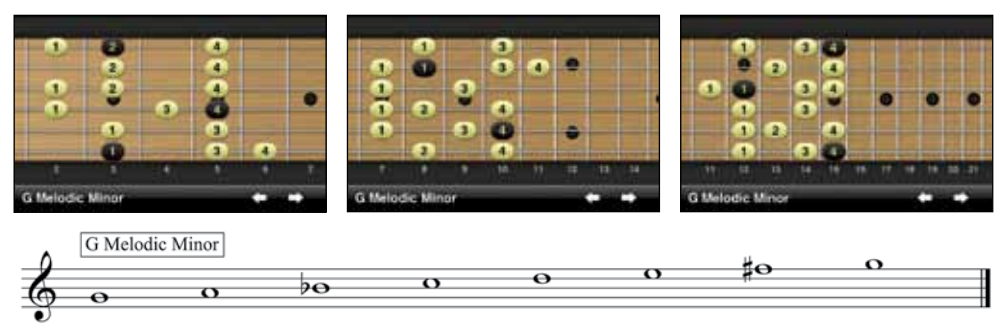
MELODIC MINOR

The melodic minor is also based on the natural minor scale but raises both 6th and 7th tones. Jazz players often use the melodic minor scale—for a wide variety of situations. The melodic minor is a rich scale for minor tonalities and is the other choice for the minor (maj7) chord. Rock players have been known to use this scale, too.

Formula: root, 2nd b3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th

Intervals: w-h-w-w-w-w-h

Related chords: minor triads, minor (maj7th) and its extensions (9th, 11 and 13th)



A WORD ABOUT MODES...

Modes are scales derived from the basic major scale yet start on a different note. Even as derivative scales, they stand on their own as distinct scales with unique sounds.

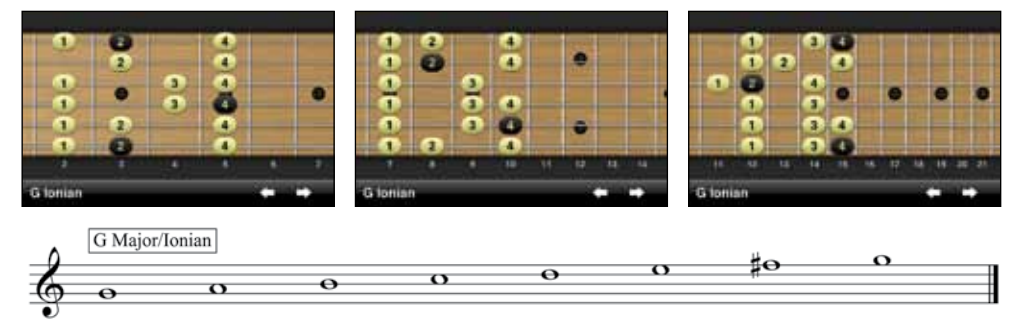
MAJOR (AKA THE IONIAN MODE)

The major scale is one of the oldest scales in western music. Often referred to as a parent scale, many other scales are derived from it. It's also the first mode of the major scale—its proper name is Ionian.

Formula: root, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th

Intervals: w-w-h-w-w-w-h

Related chords: major triads, major 7th and its extensions (9th, 11th and 13th)



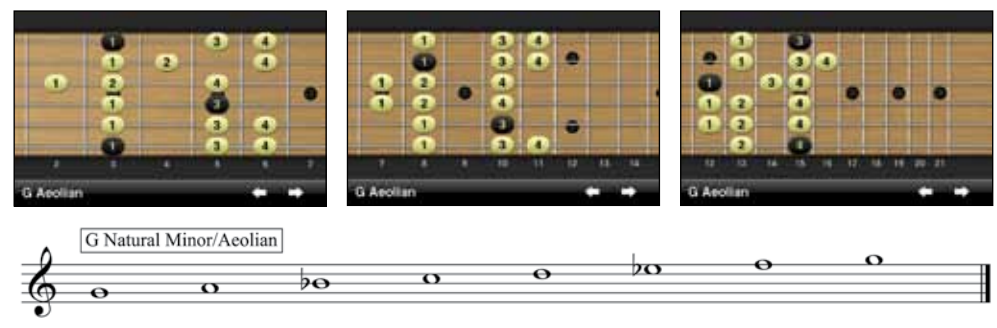
NATURAL MINOR (AKA THE AEOLIAN MODE)

The Aeolian is the sixth mode of a major scale and is another staple of western music. You'll find this scale in countless styles of music from heavy metal to classical music. You'll definitely want to know this scale inside and out.

Formula: root, 2nd, b3rd, 4th, 5th, b6th, b7th

Intervals: w-h-w-w-h-w

Related chords: minor triads, minor 7th and its extensions (9th, 11th and b13th)



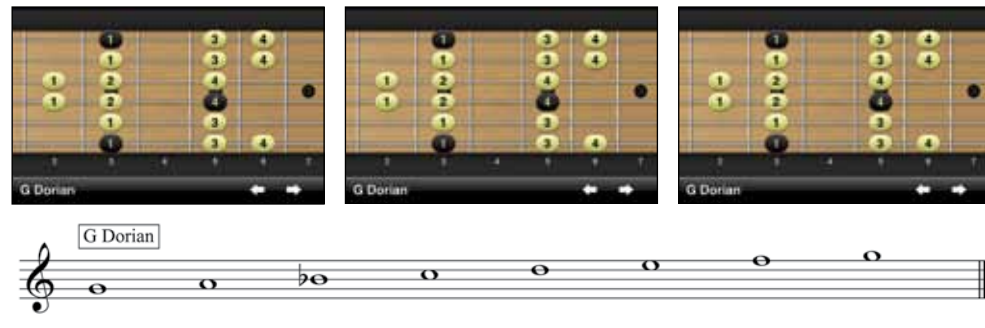
DORIAN

The Dorian scale is the second mode of the major scale. Due to its intervallic construction, many players refer to it as a minor scale with a raised sixth tone. Dorian is a great jazz/blues scale and is used in rock music as well.

Formula: root, 2nd, b3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, b7th

Intervals: w-h-w-w-w-h-w

Related chords: minor triads, minor 6th & minor 7th and its extensions (9th, 11 and 13th)



PHRYGIAN

The Phrygian scale is the third mode of the major scale. It sounds similar to the minor scale but uses a distinctive lowered 2nd tone. Metal players love the dark sound of the lowered second. The national music of Spain is based heavily on the Phrygian scale.

Formula: root, b2nd, b3rd, 4th, 5th, b6th, b7th

Intervals: h-w-w-w-h-w

Related chords: minor triads, any minor chord with a b9/b2



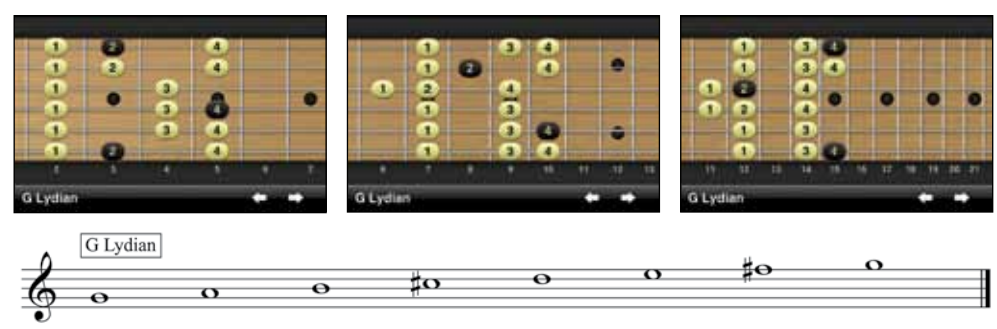
LYDIAN

The Lydian scale is the fourth mode of the major scale. It is based on the major scale with a raised fourth tone and works as a great jazz scale for major seventh chords.

Formula: root, 2nd, 3rd, #4th, 5th, 6th, 7th

Intervals: w-w-w-h-w-w-h

Related chords: major triads, any major 7th with a #4/b5 or #11 and its extensions (9th, #11th and 13th)



MIXOLYDIAN

Mixolydian is the fifth mode of the major scale. Famous with rock, jazz, and blues musicians, it's a perfect companion for dominant seventh chords. The Mixolydian scale is very similar to the major scale, but uses a lowered seventh tone. Use this as a great alternate to the blues scale. It is also a vital scale for jam bands.

Formula: root, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, b7th

Intervals: w-w-h-w-w-w-h

Related chords: major triads, dominant 7th chords & its extensions (9th, 11th and 13th)

