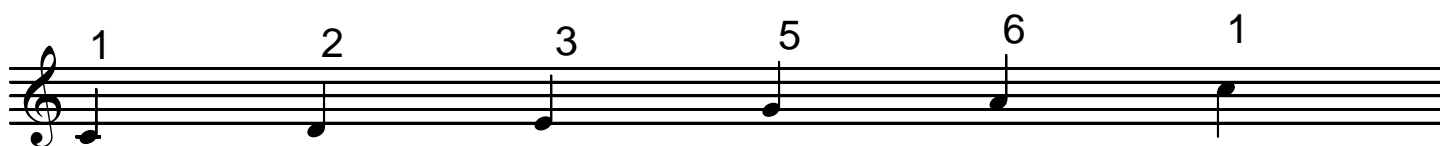


The Pentatonic Scale

The pentatonic scale is an important tool in jazz. It is found in all types of music. Learning the pentatonic scale will help you in learning the art of improvisation. It will quickly give you a foundation in which to improvise. For further study of pentatonics, I recommend the book, "Pentatonic Scales for Jazz Improvisations" by Ramon Ricker. Below is a handout giving to me by Jerry Coker to help realize the function of the pentatonic scale in various applications

The C Major Pentatonic Scale is:



Chord	Note to build scale from	Notes Realized
C7	Root	1 , 9 , 3 , 5 , 13
Gb7	Tritone	+11 , +5 , 7 , b9 , +9
A7	Minor 3rd	+9 , 11 , 5 , 7 , 1
D-7	Minor 7	7 , 1 , 9 , 11 , 5
G-7	4th	11 , 5 , 13 , 1 , 9
A-7	Minor 3rd	3 , 11 , 5 , 7 , 1
CMaj7	Root	1 , 9 , 3 , 5 , 13
FMaj7	Fifth	5 , 13 , 7 , 9 , 3
BbMaj7	Second	9 , 3 , +11 , 13 , 7

Below is the A Blues scale. Notice that it has the same notes as the C Major Pentatonic with the addition of the #4. A is the relative minor of C. Since they are so similar, the learning of the major pentatonics should help you grasp the blues scale and minor pentatonics more quickly. In my own experience, I learned early on, that learning pentatonics gave me a wealth of ideas to draw from when improvising. In fact, you could play the one blues scale throughout the entire form of a blues. While it is effective, it should not be the only device you use when performing the blues. Pentatonics can be performed in virtually all styles of music. It is greatly recommended that the aspiring musician be able to play pentatonics in all 12 keys.

A Blues Scale



PENTATONIC SCALE PATTERNS

C PENTATONIC SCALE PATTERN



PENTATONIC SCALE PATTERNS

65 A^b

69

75 A

77

81 B^b

85

89 B

93

MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALES

C PENTATONIC

D FLAT

D

E FLAT

E

F

G FLAT

G

A FLAT

A

B FLAT

B

MAJOR PENTATONICS EXERCISES

A

Exercise A consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, and the second staff contains measures 5 through 8. The melody is written in a treble clef and features a major pentatonic scale in C major. Slurs and accents are used to indicate phrasing and emphasis on specific notes.

B

Exercise B consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff contains measures 9 through 10, and the second staff contains measure 11. The melody continues the major pentatonic scale in C major, with slurs and accents indicating phrasing.

C

Exercise C consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff contains measures 12 through 15, and the second staff contains measure 16. The melody continues the major pentatonic scale in C major, with slurs and accents indicating phrasing.

D

Exercise D consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff contains measures 17 through 26, and the second staff contains measure 27. The melody continues the major pentatonic scale in C major, with slurs and accents indicating phrasing.