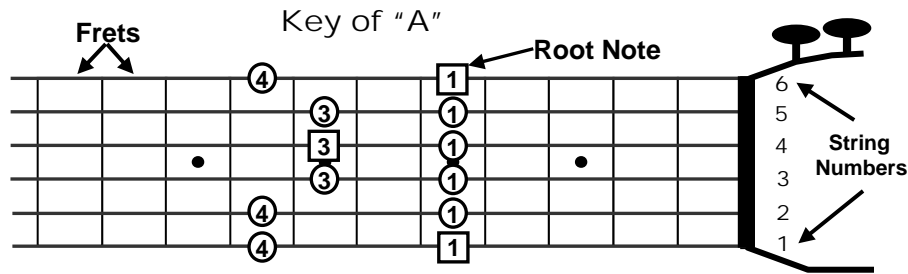


Basic Lead Pattern (Minor Pentatonic Scale)

This lesson will introduce Intermediate guitar players to a very basic, but popular Lead Pattern (The Minor Pentatonic Scale). Whether or not you choose to pursue lead playing at a higher level – all guitarists should at least understand the basics of lead playing.

A lead pattern is a basic pattern or scale that is used as a guide in making up leads and melodies. It basically gives you a look at which notes to use while playing a lead. This pattern has a root note (the Key) and moves up and down the fretboard (as do barre chords) so it can be played in any Key.

This lead pattern is in the key of "A" (root note is on the 5th fret of the 6th string which is an "A" note).
 *The number inside each circle (or square) represents the number of the finger on your left hand to use.
 ① = use 1st finger here.



The Formal name for this Lead Pattern is "Minor Pentatonic Scale"
 * This pattern is taken from a set of 5 Patterns.

***How to practice this lead pattern:** Start with your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 6th string (top string – fattest string), then your 4th finger on the 8th fret of the 6th string (top string). Then move to the next string with your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 5th string, then your 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 5th string. Then move to the next string with your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 4th string, then your 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 4th string, (and so on...). Play all the strings until you get to the bottom string – then start at the bottom and play all the strings until you get back to the top string again. To start back up play the notes in reverse. Start with your 4th finger on the 8th fret of the 1st string, then your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 1st string. Then move to the next string up with your 4th finger on the 8th fret of the 2nd string, then your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 2nd string. Then move to the next string up with your 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 3rd string, then your 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 3rd string (and so on...). Get a good sound from each note as you play it.

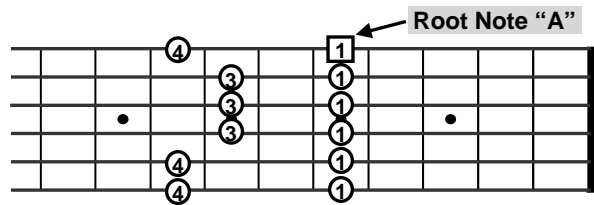
*** Picking sequence** – It is very important that you use the proper picking sequence right from the beginning. Alternate Picking down then up: The first note (5th fret of the 6th string) is picked down, then the second note (8th fret of the 6th string) is picked up, and so on... Always alternate the picking sequence down, then up.

This picking sequence should not be "neglected" and should be utilized to get the best results.

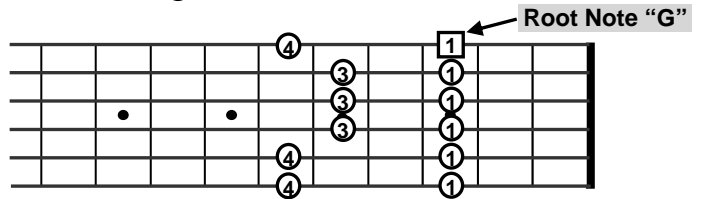
Changing Keys:

You must learn how to move the Lead Pattern to different keys (since not all songs are in the same key). Ex: Changing from the Key of A to the Key of G. *Simply move the lead pattern from the 5th fret (A) to the 3rd fret (G).
*** See the diagram below to learn the notes on the top (E) string of the guitar.**

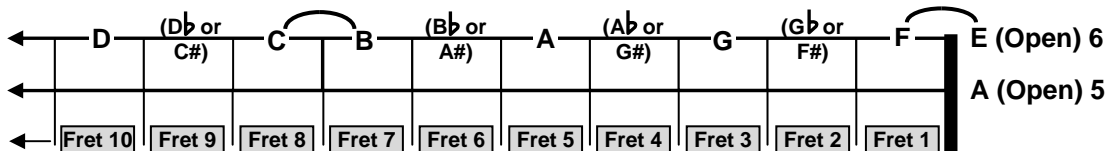
"Key of A" The Root note is on the 5th fret of the 6th string when using the pattern.



"Key of G" The Root note is on the 3rd fret of the 6th string when using the pattern.



Learning the names of the notes on the top string "E" will help you move the lead pattern up and down the fret board to different keys. Once you remember the notes on the top string (E) it will be easy to play this lead pattern in any key (Ex: If you place the root note of the pattern on the 7th fret, this will be the Key of "B").



Only the notes on the top string "E" are shown in the diagram to the left.

Note: The lead pattern shown in this lesson is only one pattern from a group of at least "5" patterns used in the Minor Pentatonic series. For more information on scales and lead patterns visit our Music Store at www.avcssguitarworld.com