Guitar scales chart

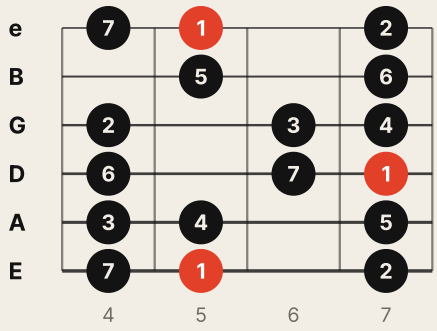
Six scales as movable boxes, all in A, with what each one is for. The table moves them to any of the 12 keys.

Root · Other scale notes · Numbers are scale degrees

Major

Frets 4 to 7

Bright melodies, and the base of all music theory.

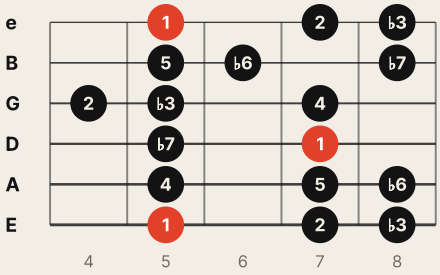


Degrees	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
In A	A B C♯ D E F♯ G♯

Minor

Frets 4 to 8

Sad, dark and dramatic songs. Rock ballads.

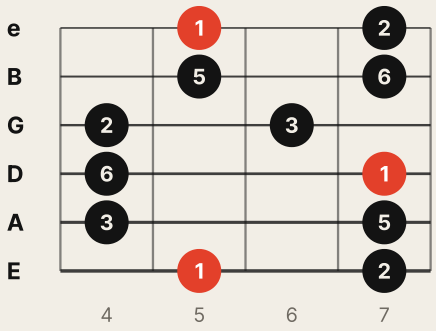


Degrees	1 2 ♭3 4 5 ♭6 ♭7
In A	A B C D E F G

Major pentatonic

Frets 4 to 7

Country, pop and happy-sounding solos.

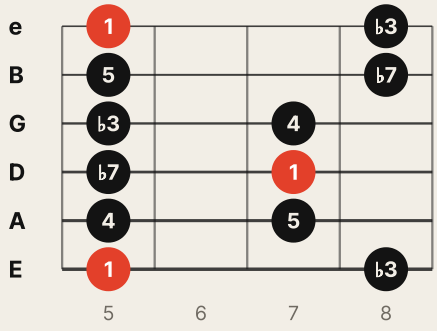


Degrees	1 2 3 5 6
In A	A B C♯ E F♯

Minor pentatonic

Frets 5 to 8

Rock and blues solos. Start here.

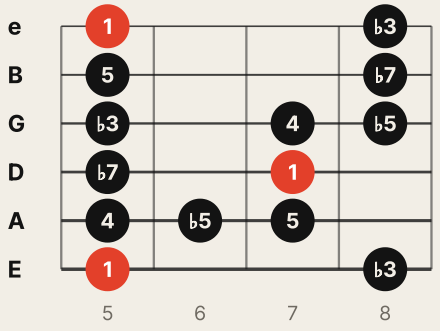


Degrees	1 ♭3 4 5 ♭7
In A	A C D E G

Blues

Frets 5 to 8

Blues and rock. The ♭5 adds the grit.

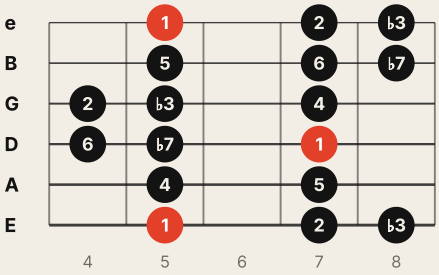


Degrees	1 ♭3 4 ♭5 5 ♭7
In A	A C D E♭ E G

Dorian

Frets 4 to 8

Funk and minor jams, with a brighter 6th.



Degrees	1 2 ♭3 4 5 6 ♭7
In A	A B C D E F♯ G

Move any box to any key

Put the 6th-string root at this fret. Every box above starts at A, fret 5.

Key	C	C♯	D	E♭	E	F	F♯	G	A♭	A	B♭	B
6th string (E)	8	9	10	11	0/12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Read the boxes

High E on top, low E at the bottom, frets left to right. The number in each dot is its scale degree. 1 is the root.

Follow the roots

Keep track of the 1s when you move a box. Start and end your phrases on them and everything sounds resolved.

Which one first

Minor pentatonic, then blues: one extra note. Add major pentatonic for brighter songs, then the full major and minor.

Hear every scale at **guitarmanac.app**

Standard tuning E A D G B E