

The Pentatonic Minor Scale

One of the most common, useful and easy scales used in jazz, rock and blues.

Tones: Root – minor third – fourth – fifth – flat seventh

Key of C:	C	E _b	F	G	B _b
Key of A:	A	C	D	E	G
Key of D:	D	F	G	A	C
Key of E _b :	E _b	G _b	A _b	B _b	D _b

Although it has a minor 3rd, it can be used over major chords. For instance, C Major chord has an E natural, but the C Pentatonic Minor scale has an E_b. This clash of the thirds gives a bluesy quality.

Uses: in a Blues in A (for example) use an A Pentatonic Minor scale. It can also be used on the root of a minor chord, so use D Pentatonic Minor over D minor. It can be used in 'So What' by Miles Davis. Remember to move from D Pentatonic Minor to E_b Pentatonic Minor when the music moves up a semitone.

The Blues Scale

Same as the Pentatonic Minor, but with an added note between the fourth and fifth:

Key of C:	C	E _b	F	F _#	G	B _b
Key of A:	A	C	D	D _#	E	G
Key of D:	D	F	G	G _#	A	C
Key of E _b :	E _b	G _b	A _b	A	B _b	D _b

The added note is very expressive and should be used carefully. It can be fun to bend it up or down a semitone.

Uses: as for the Pentatonic Minor.