

## Scale Construction - Blues

The Pentatonic Minor interval pattern ('*m3-W-W-m3-W*') is essentially the 'DNA code' for Blues, and can be applied to play Blues or Rock on any instrument where these intervals are found. On guitar, the '*m3-W-W-m3-W*' interval pattern can be used to **construct** the Pentatonic Minor scale over the entire fretboard. Starting from 'scratch' with a blank fretboard, the following sections provide a step-by-step approach to constructing the complete twelve-fret pattern for the Pentatonic Minor scale.

### Scale Construction - Three Steps

**Step 1:** Locate 'E' notes on each string (*as shown below on far left*).

**Step 2:** From each 'E' note, use the Pentatonic Minor interval pattern ('*m3-W-W-m3-W*') to construct notes going *up* each string. Just draw in empty circles to represent these notes.

**Step 3:** From each 'E' note, *reverse* the Pentatonic Minor interval pattern ('*W- m3-W-W- m3*') to construct notes going *down* each string. (*Steps 1 & 2 are already shown below left on the second string*). The other blank fretboards can be used to construct the Pentatonic Minor Scale in other keys. Completed versions of this construction are on the following page.

The image displays three vertical guitar fretboard diagrams, each with six strings and twelve frets. The first diagram on the left shows the E notes on each string: the 1st string is open (E), the 2nd string has an E at the 1st fret, the 3rd string has an E at the 2nd fret, the 4th string has an E at the 3rd fret, the 5th string has an E at the 4th fret, and the 6th string has an E at the 5th fret. Empty circles are placed on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th strings at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th frets respectively, representing notes constructed upwards from the E notes. The second and third diagrams are blank fretboards for practice.

## The Complete Pentatonic Minor Pattern

Below are three examples of the *Complete Pentatonic Minor Pattern*, which is essentially the 'blueprint' for the Pentatonic Minor scale that covers a span of twelve frets and then repeats. Note how the standard box pattern can be seen along various fret positions (*open, fifth, and seventh*) for each corresponding key ('E', 'A', and 'B' respectively). Constructing and observing this pattern is only the first step, as upcoming lessons will introduce new riffs and approaches derived from this pattern.

The diagrams illustrate the Complete Pentatonic Minor Pattern for three keys: E, A, and B. Each diagram shows a fretboard from fret 1 to 12. The notes are represented by circles, and the key signature is indicated by a letter in a circle above the fretboard. The patterns are as follows:

- 'E' Pentatonic Minor:** Notes are located at frets 1 (open), 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 12 (open).
- 'A' Pentatonic Minor:** Notes are located at frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 12.
- 'B' Pentatonic Minor:** Notes are located at frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 12.

Below each diagram is its corresponding label: **'E' Pentatonic Minor**, **'A' Pentatonic Minor**, and **'B' Pentatonic Minor**.