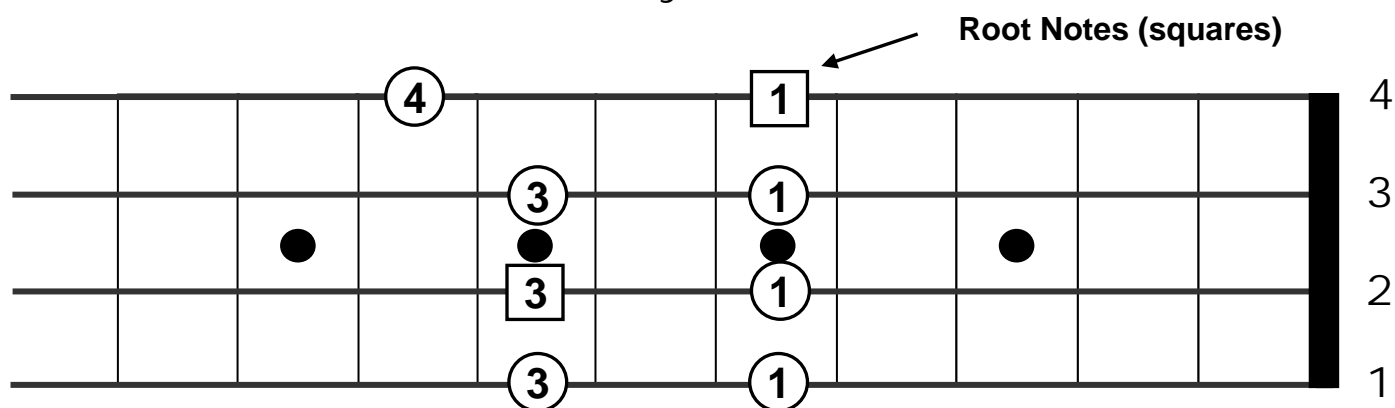


# Basic Minor Pentatonic Scale – Bass Guitar

**This lesson will introduce beginning bass guitar players to a very basic, but popular scale (The Minor Pentatonic Scale). Scale patterns help players to improve finger dexterity, get the pick and fret hand in sync, and to improvise (jam).**

A Scale is a basic pattern that is used as a guide in making up runs, walks, and for improvising (creating bass lines). There are usually 5 scale patterns for each mode (the Minor Pentatonic Scale mode has 5 patterns). These patterns fit together on the fret board like a puzzle. Each scale has a “Root Note” that will indicate the Key (each scale can be moved up and down the fret board to change keys very easily).

## Minor Pentatonic Scale - Key of “A”



**\*How to practice this scale pattern:** Start with your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the 4<sup>th</sup> string (top string – fattest string), then your 4<sup>th</sup> finger on the 8<sup>th</sup> fret of the 4<sup>th</sup> string (top string). Then move to the next string with your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the 3<sup>rd</sup> string, then your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 7<sup>th</sup> fret of the 3<sup>rd</sup> string. Then move to the next string with your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the 2<sup>nd</sup> string, then your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 7<sup>th</sup> fret of the 2<sup>nd</sup> string, (and so on...). Once you play all the strings – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 7<sup>th</sup> fret of the 1<sup>st</sup> string, then your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the 1<sup>st</sup> string. Then move to the next string up with your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 7<sup>th</sup> fret of the 2<sup>nd</sup> string, then your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the 2<sup>nd</sup> string. Then move to the next string up with your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 7<sup>th</sup> fret of the 3<sup>rd</sup> string, then your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the 3<sup>rd</sup> string (and so on...).

It is very important to try and 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 start. Alternate your picking using the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers of your pick hand. The 1<sup>st</sup> note is picked with your 1<sup>st</sup> finger, the 2<sup>nd</sup> note is picked with your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger, the 3<sup>rd</sup> note is picked with your 1<sup>st</sup> finger, and so on...alternate between your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> picking fingers.

This picking sequence should not be “neglected” and should be practiced and utilized right from the start to get the best results in the long run.