Building a Major Scale

The major scale is made up of 7 different notes before reaching the *octave* of the starting note.

These 7 notes follow a specific pattern no matter which note you start from.

The pattern describes the distances between each of the notes in the scale. These distances are either a **TONE** or a **SEMI-TONE.**

TONE = two frets along a string. For example 3rd to 5th.
SEMI-TONE = 1 fret along a string. For example 5th to 6th.

Be aware that you can move by a **T**ONE or **S**EMI-TONE across strings as well. Try this by playing a 'C' on the E string at the 8th fret then moving to a 'D' on the A string at the 5th fret. The major scale pattern will move between notes on the same string and different strings. The full pattern spans over 3 octaves.

Lets build a major scale…
The first example below is the 'C' major scale
The numbers show the position of the note in the scale.
The **T's** and **S'** show the distance between the positions.
The letters show the actual note being played.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1
T T S T T T S
C D E F G A B C

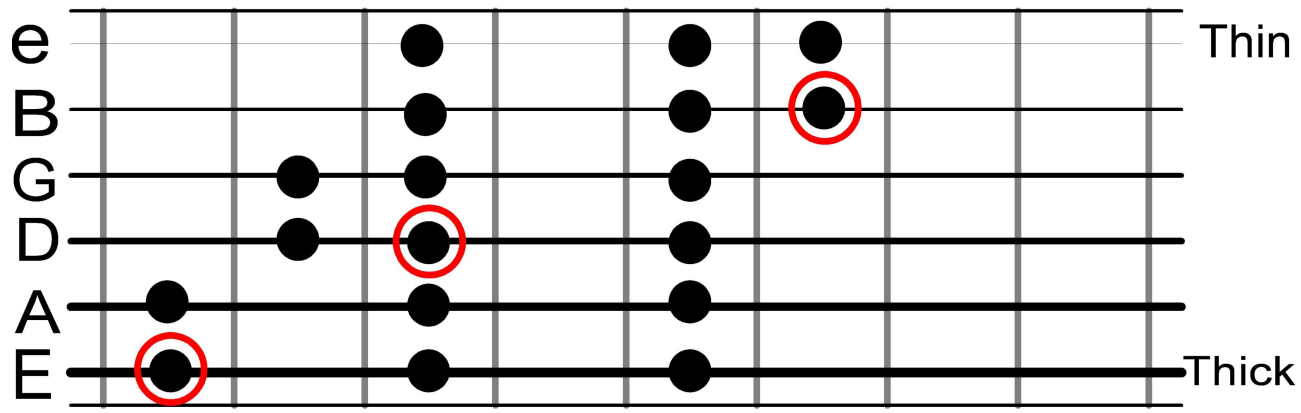
Now lets build an A major scale…

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
	T	**T**	**S**	**T**	**T**	**T**	**S**
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A

Grab a pen and paper…
Could build an E major scale? Be careful about the sequence of notes you use (demystifying the fretboard).

Play through the major scale pattern and say out loud the number of the note. Do this through the 3 octaves.

Major scale pattern



● finger positions
◉ root note