

Using the Minor Pentatonic

The Minor pentatonic is probably the most widely used scale pattern for solo's and riffs across Rock and Blues. In its basic form it is easy to learn and be creative with.

Before trying to use the minor pent' make sure you can find the notes along your guitar (especially the E string). If you're not sure how to do this have a look at the [Demystifying the Fretboard](#) resource.

The Minor pentatonic has a minor feel, by this we mean sad/soulful. However the feel of it really depends on when and where you use it.

Practice the [pattern](#) – learn the scale playing from the lowest note to the highest note and back again. Develop your speed and fluidity.

Put a song on to play...

Is the first chord minor or major? (Recognising major and minor chords)

If the first chord is minor, then you can almost always start jamming along using the minor pent. You must play the minor pent in the correct place though. The scale pattern is “transposable” meaning you can start it from any fret on the guitar. However, you need to play it from the same note as the first chord of the song, for example:

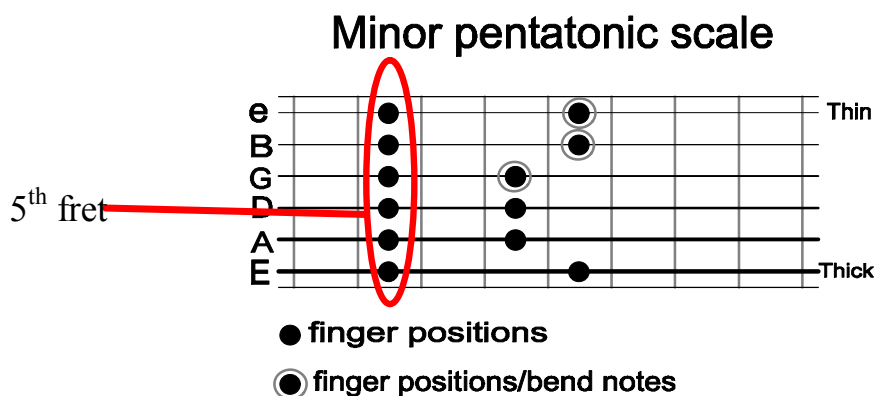
Ain't no sunshine – Bill Withers (have a look on spotify or youtube)

Amin / Emin / Gmaj.

House of the Rising Sun – The Animals

Amin / C maj / Dmaj / F maj /

The first chord is Amin so locate the note 'A' on the E string. It's the 5th fret.



You can now experiment by moving around the notes in the scale pattern to improvise a solo over the top of the song.