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C major



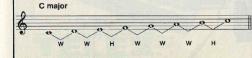
Open Up The Fingerboard By Speed-Processing Melodic Elements

By Jim Ferguson

FEARN ALL SCALES IN all fretboard positions" is a common piece of advice that's easier said than done. Still, imagine how major scale to conveniently formulate harmonies. This method is also useful in plotting scale structures. (Intervallic names are also derived fingerboard. You could not only build smoother phrases, but also by numbering major scale degrees; e.g., second, third, fourth, etc.) process new bits of information much easier. And getting lost Here is this numerical system applied to the major scale: mid-solo would be a rare occurence. Without question, an expanded awareness of the fretboard can help shorten those dreaded plateaus in your development-periods where you seem to be stuck at one particular level of knowledge and technical ability.

Intended for the guitarist who has a basic understanding of music theory, this article introduces all scales in all positions, and examines how to develop your own fingerings. Regardless of style-rock, country, blues, jazz, or classical—the following approaches to organizing melodic material can help you gain a comprehensive view of the fingerboard by visually relating scale patterns to a system of basic chord forms. Similar methods have been successfully employed by master improvisors such as George Barnes, Barney Kessel, Joe octave: Pass, and Ron Eschete.

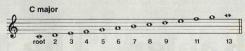
Before discussing ways of relating melodic material to the fingerboard, let's outline basic scale construction. The C major scale is the focal point for the majority of music theory terminology, largely because it is the most straightforward of scales, since it does not utilize sharps or flats in its makeup. [Ed. Note: For a detailed look at the C major scale's central role, see page 85.] The following example shows the whole-step/half-step construction of the major scale. Remember that the "W" stands for a whole-step, or two-fret distance, while the "H" designates a half-step, or one-fret distance. (Although this major, the C harmonic minor scale has a b3 and a b6: whole-step/half-step pattern can be used to build all major scales by starting on any given pitch, a thorough knowledge of key signatures is necessary, and is beyond the scope of this article.)



Jazz chord theory employs a system of numbering each note of the



When establishing formulas for arpeggios-chordal tones played one at a time—use the designations 9, 11, and 13 in place of 2, 4, and 6, respectively, to describe extensions and alterations in the upper

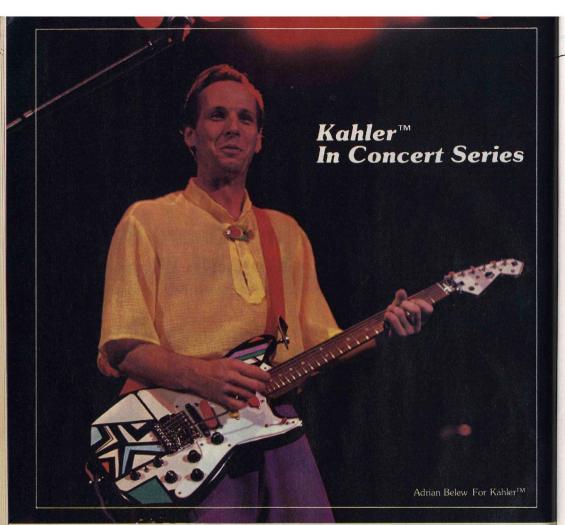


Once the major scale formula is established, all other scale structures can be derived in relation to it. For instance, compared to C



(Note: Avoid using contradicting designations such as 5 and #5 in the

Likewise, the natural minor scale (also known as the pure minor scale and the aeolian mode) has a b3, a b6, and a b7 in relation to C:



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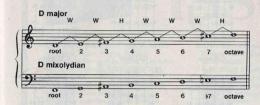
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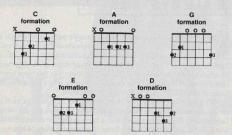


So far we have discussed analyzing scales with Croots, If you wanted to formulate a scale whose root is D, would you compare it to the C major scale? No! A scale possessing a root other than C must be compared to its parallel major scale—the major scale with the same root. The following example shows the D mixolydian mode in relation to D major:

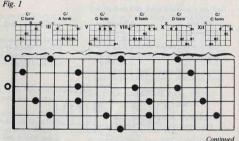


(As mentioned earlier, in order to analyze scales with roots other than C, you need a familiarity with key signatures.)

Now that you have the tools to analyze most scales, let's learn where to play them on the fingerboard. One common way is to visually relate scale patterns to the following five familiar chord formations:



By using a barre and modified fingerings, these formations can be transposed to one key, so that we now have a five-point visual framework covering the entire length of the fretboard, as shown in Fig. 1. Carefully analyze each diagram.

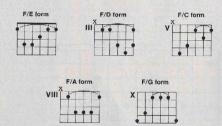




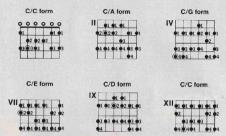
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Before we begin to superimpose major scale patterns over each of the five formations, let's discuss several points about Fig. 1. First, each of the chords shown is a C. The name of the formation—Cform, A form, G form, etc.—is derived from the visual shape of the fingering. In other words, the A form at the 3rd fret looks like the basic openstring chord in the preceding example; however, when played with a barre at the 3rd fret, it is in fact a C major chord.

With the exception of the first C, which uses open strings, each of the formations in Fig. 1 is movable and can be played at any fret on the fingerboard. The C form played with a barre in Fig. 1 is the same as the first C form, only played with a barre one octave higher. While each formation can be moved separately, think of all five as a unit. (Observe how the shapes interconnect and have certain notes in common.) Practice transposing the five formations to all keys; here they are in the key of F



Now let's begin to apply major scale patterns to our five-formation visual skeleton. First, play the chord formation, and then play the corresponding scale sequence. Start on the lowest-sounding root (circled) of each pattern, and play up the scale. The C, A, and D forms have a range of about an octave-and-a-half, while the G and E forms accommodate two octaves. Although it is occasionally necessary to shift either up or down a fret when crossing to an adjacent string for certain patterns, each of your left-hand fingers (index, middle, ring, pinky) is generally in a four-fret relationship. With the exception of the first Cformation, which uses open strings, each scale pattern is fully movable and can be played at any fret.



Once these patterns are learned, you have a system of scales covering the entire length of the fingerboard. The importance of being able to visually relate the patterns to the formations cannot be over stressed. If you know where the chord form is, then you should know where the scale is. Practice visualizing the corresponding formations



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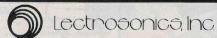
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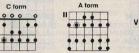
in relation to the preceding scale fingerings. In the following example the circles show the E form within its major scale:



When the preceding five fingerings feel comfortable, transpose them to other keys by moving the patterns up and down the fretboard. As you practice each pattern, mentally recite the name of each note, as well as its position in the scale (root, 2, 3, 4, etc.).

Just as we developed formulas for scales other than C major. various scales can be applied to our five-formation visual framework by modifying the fingerings you just learned. Developing fingerings can be tricky, and it requires some experimentation; however, it's a highly useful skill, and essential for jazz and fusion improvisation, as well as editing classical pieces.

So that you can better understand how fingerings evolve, let's look at the mixolydian mode, which is different from the major scale by only one note. The formula for the mixolydian mode is: root 23456 b7. Fingerings corresponding to the five formations can be developed by lowering the 7th of the major scale:



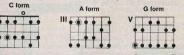






Compare the fingerings in the preceding example to those of the five major scale forms. When applying scale formulas, it is often necessary to relocate certain notes to different strings, in order to keep a pattern in the same general neck area as its corresponding chord formation. (For the mixolydian mode, the Bb was relocated at least once for every position on the fingerboard.) Sometimes a lowered or raised note can be played by stretching a finger out of position, rather than relocating. Rule: If there is more than one way to finger a scale, learn both; however, give priority to the one that stays within the parameters of the chord formation, Good fingering is the result of logic and experience.

Fingerings for pentatonic scales and various arpeggios, which generally have fewer notes than the groupings we've covered so far. can also be developed. The next example shows the minor-based blues pentatonic scale commonly used in rock, blues, and jazz. While some players use the left-hand pinky, many employ only the 1st and 3rd fingers, because they're stronger and make string bending easier. The formula for the blues pentatonic is: root b3 4 5 b7. If the fingering for the E form is the only scale pattern you recognize, you're only utilizing 20% of the blues pentatonic's potential. (Again, be sure to make a visual connection with the five chord forms.)



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The following list gives the formulas for a variety of scales. If a scale is known by more than one designation, both names are included.

Scale Formulas

Major/ionian mode: root 2 3 4 5 6 7 root Harmonic minor; root 2 b3 4 5 b6 7 root Natural minor/pure minor/aeolian mode: root 2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 root Melodic minor (ascending): root 2 b3 4 5 6 7 root Melodic minor (descending): root b7 b6 5 4 b3 2 root Dorian mode: root 2 b3 4 5 6 b7 root Phrygian mode: root b2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 root Lydian mode: root 2 3 #4 5 6 7 root Locrian mode: root b2 b3 4 b5 b6 b7 root Country pentatonic: root 2 3 5 6 root Blues pentatonic: root b3 4 5 b7 root Blues scale: root b3 4 b5 45 b7 root Dominant lydian: root 2 3 #4 5 6 b7 root Whole-tone: root 2.3 b5b6 b7 root Diminished: root 2 b3 4 b5 b6 \(\frac{1}{2} \) 7 root

Good references on the subject of scales include Nicholas Slonimsky's Thesaurus Of Scales And Melodic Patterns [dist. by Belwin-Mills 1: Sal Salvador's Single-String Studies For Guitar [Belwin-Mills]; and William Leavitt's A Modern Method For Guitar, Vols. I.

II, and III [Berklee Music Study Pub.]. A feature article entitled Exotic Scales appeared in the August 1980 issue of Guitar Plaver.

While the five-formation concept provides a convenient system to apply most scales, it by no means encompasses all fingerings. Certain scale types, such as the diminished, whole-tone, and blues pentatonic, readily lend themselves to patterns that move lengthwise along the neck rather than across it. (See Eddie Van Halen's Private Lesson on page 52 for an example of a lengthwise pentatonic fingering.) However, the five-formation approach gives you a place to begin organizing melodic material.

Another major scale system employed by many players utilizes seven patterns. Its use of left-hand five-fret stretches offers a variety of fingering alternatives to the five-position approach. The lowest available roots are circled; notice how the five chord forms are overlapped.

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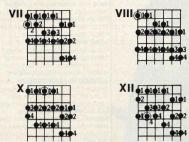
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TO PLACE YOUR VISA, MASTERCARD OR COD (COD-US only) ORDER BY PHONE. CALL THE NEW HOT LICK'S HOTLINE 914-763-8013. 10-5 Eastern Time MON-FRI HOT LICKS® Instruction Tapes, Box 337, Pound Ridge, N.Y. 10576

SCALE SYSTEMS



In addition to broadening your aural experience, improving your fingerboard knowledge, and increasing your ability to assimilate new material, an organized approach to melodic material provides several other benefits. First, for passages using more than one scale, needless shifting of positions can be avoided. The following example employs the C, F, Bb, and Eb mixolydian modes, respectively. Notice how the entire four-bar phrase can be played in one area of the fingerboard by carefully selecting formations that are close together.



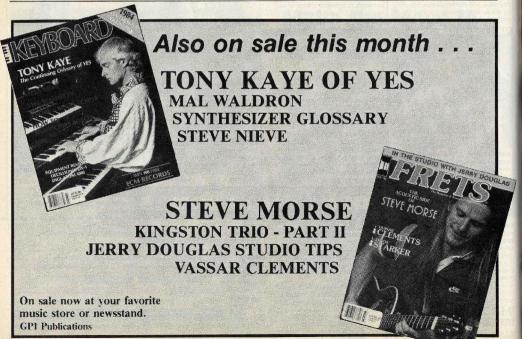
Sight-reading becomes easier because you can almost immediately find the formation that best accommodates a particular melody. And you can instantly transpose by reading out of a formation at one fret while imagining it to be located at a point on the fingerboard corresponding to the part's actual key.

So, organization is essential to maximizing your ability to retain and immediately draw upon musical material when needed. By minimizing the frustrations of having your ear hear something your fingers don't recognize, structure will ultimately help you get several steps closer to attaining fretboard freedom and the ability to play whatever you imagine.



MEXT: Ratt





How changing your pickup will improve your guitar's sound.

There's a frustrating time in a guitar player's development when you have the fingering right, you're bending the strings at the right time, but you

still don't sound the way the

record does.

It happened to me when I shared a bill once with Robbie Robertson, (Later he was in The Hand.) When we played together between sets, trading off licks. Louidn't get close to the sounds he was getting out of his Telecaster* guitar where so tricity. The first box, but no; you can magnetiz

ingele the signal with effects hoves, but you can't improve the original sound except with a pickup. His pickups had more windings and bigger magnets than my stock pickups, and were more sensitive and responsive to hard or soft picking.

My own Telecaster guitar was so comfortable in my hands, I couldn't bear to play anything eise. But it didn't have the professional sound I needed on stage. Putting in a new pickup was like getting a new guitar

The pickup is the place where sound changes into electricity. The magnetic pole piece magnetizes the string, and when the string vibrates, if moves a magnetic field through wire wrapped around the magnet. The wire resists the field and sends electricity to the amphirer where the signal is changed back into sound.

With bigger magnets and more wire, you'll put more electricity into the amp, and your guitar will be louder than another guitar through the same amp. With other arrangements of magnets and wire, you can end annoying single coil

hum, get more sustain to work with, and have a better attack.

You can hear how pickups improve your sound at your Seymour Duncan dealer. My replacement pickups will fit right into the pickup holes in your present guitar. (If as half, hour job at most guitar shops.) Ask for a copy of my brochure, "How to Picka Pickup" or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to 203 Chapala St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.



