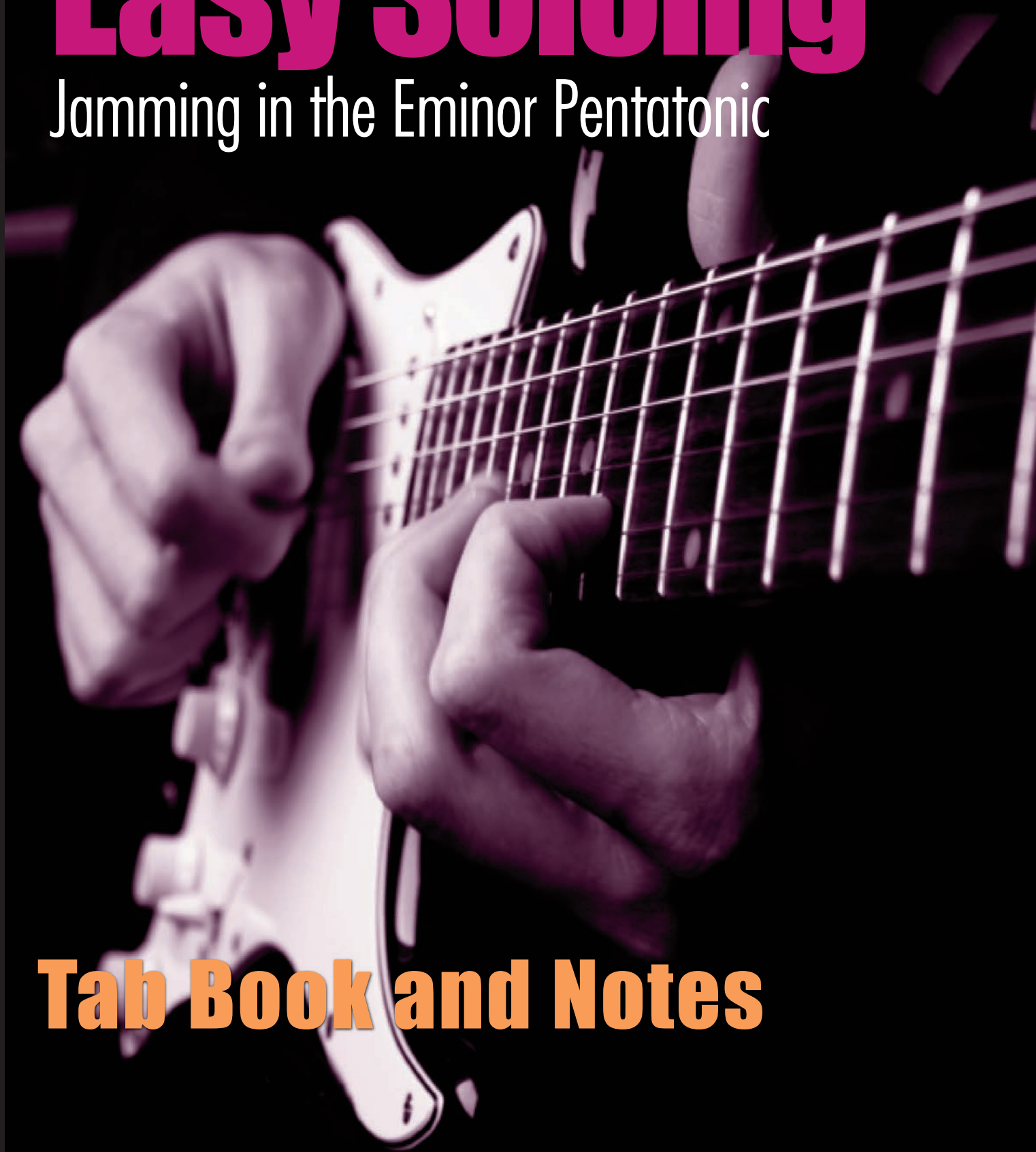


guitarcoach

Easy Soloing

Jamming in the E minor Pentatonic

Tab Book and Notes



Easy Soloing

Jamming in the E minor Pentatonic

If you require any support, or wish
to contact us, please email:
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Overview



Overview

Welcome to Easy Soloing from Guitar Coach magazine.

All guitarists aspire to be able to improvise and effortlessly join jam sessions or, even better, play live by creating "on the spot" solos, maybe as a guest guitarist or as a "dep", with the minimum of, or no, rehearsal. This where the ability to improvise and create your own solos is an essential tool to your guitar-playing armoury.

This series of easy soloing video lessons gives you the opportunity to learn the E minor pentatonic scale in all 5 positions on the fretboard, practice it effectively and efficiently, and also learn some cool, but simple riffs and licks that will enable you to develop your own style at a pace that suits you.

You will learn how to incorporate core skills and techniques that will make you sound impressive. There are 4 backing tracks for you to jam along to, all in different styles, where you can experiment with the suggested licks and riffs that we teach. These will become your own as you put your own personal mark on them and, once committed to your muscle memory, you will find yourself playing variations without thought as you weave your mastery within the scale.

This is your first step to improvisation and these series of easy soloing lessons will allow you to have fun whilst learning loads of new stuff and keeping your motivation high!

Jamming in the Em Pentatonic

The Magic



The Magic Of Improvisation

In this series of videos, we'll be starting from the absolute basics. So, if you're new to improvisation, or for that matter, new to lead guitar, this is the place to start.

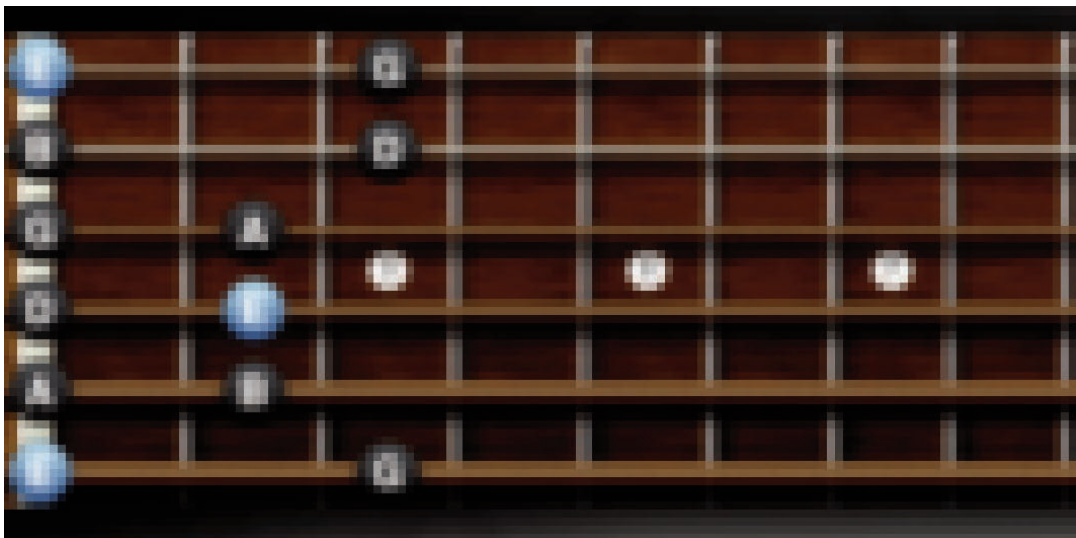
Over the course of these videos, I'll share with you an approach that I use when teaching improvisation to my students.

It all starts with the three core elements; The Ingredients, The Recipe and finally, The Magic!

The art of improvisation can take time, but by learning the most common scale, the E minor pentatonic, with clear and concise guidance this will become reality in no time at all. There are pointers on tips and techniques and 4 backing tracks, all in different styles, to help you on your way.

So where do we start? Essentially the basics; in other words, what notes comprise the E minor pentatonic scale, where are the notes on the fretboard situated, and how do we move from one position on the fretboard to another.

The Scale



Jamming in the Em Pentatonic Positions & Licks



Open Position / Position 1

Notes

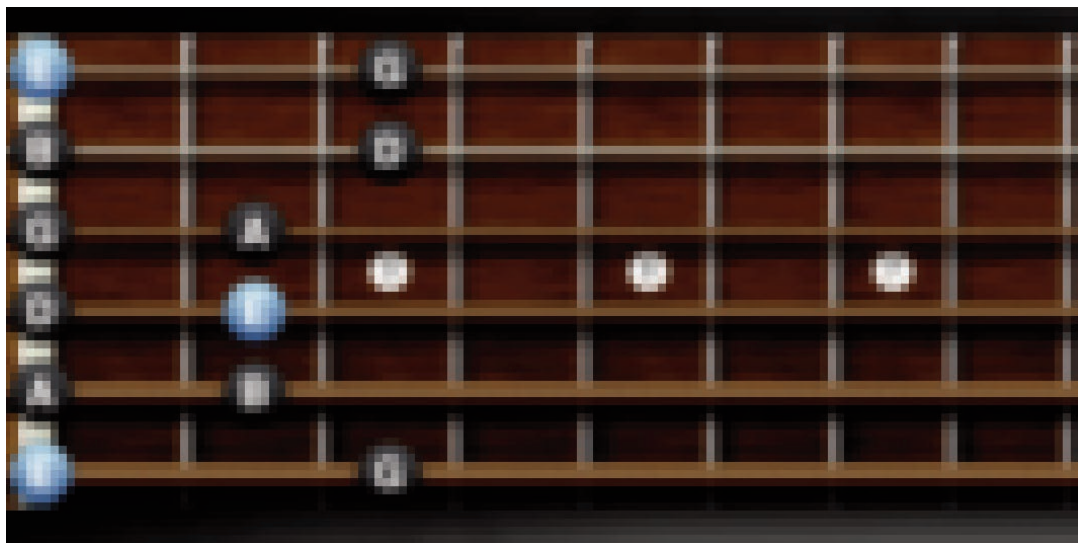
Right then....let's start by looking at position 1 where we are using the open strings, as well as fretted notes, to play the scale.

Without a doubt, this is where everyone should start, because you are using open strings you will only need to actually fret 6 notes – one per string. If you are a real beginner, you can also use just 1 finger to play the fretted notes!!!!

The notes and positions are easy to remember and you can easily construct some great solos and riffs using position one. Additionally, you can employ some techniques such as hammer ons and pull offs relatively easily and also allow two open strings to be played together (double stops) to create notes that can ring out together, either softly or aggressively, depending on the style of solo you are playing. This is basic, but essential and will allow you to start to understand the way you want to play and the sounds you want to create.

You can play quickly or slowly, but the open position of the E minor pentatonic scale (position 1) is a must before you progress further. There are 3 simple licks for you to learn that will give you a taster of what is to come.

The Scale



Open Position / Position 1

Lick 1 Tab

Position 1

mf

2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0

Full Full Full Full

Lick 2 Tab

Position 2

3 3 3 4 2 0 2 0 2

Lick 3 Tab

mf

0 0 2

0 3

Position 2.

Notes

Position 2 is based mainly around the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th frets, but, unlike position there are no open strings. This means the level of difficulty has increased and your knowledge will be rapidly growing.

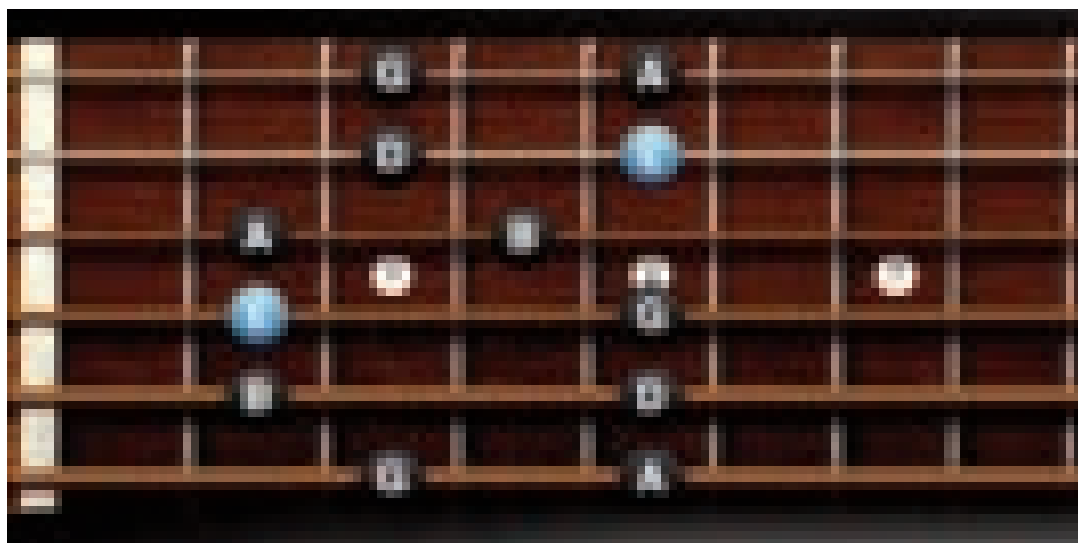
This is where you can start employing slides and start to use double stops in a different way to the open strings, for example by adding some vibrato. You will also be able to execute slides, notably on the 3rd fret and 5th fret of the B and E strings.

Once you have learned position 2, combine the notes with position 1 and practice moving from one to the other, looking to employ slides, hammer-ons and pull-offs as you do this.

Because we are still playing near the bottom of the fretboard, remember, when jamming, that this is where you can use the lower strings (E, A and D) to create a low, rich and full sound. Some solos, depending on the style, will benefit having this sound, so install this in your muscle memory for future use.

As before, there are a couple of simple licks for you to learn to start your create juices flowing.

The Scale



Position 2

Lick 1 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 1 Tab. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The melody is written on a single staff. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for each string (T, A, B). The first measure contains notes on the 3rd, 5th, and 3rd frets. The second measure contains notes on the 3rd, 4th, and 2nd frets. The third measure contains notes on the 3rd and 5th frets. The notation includes a *mf* dynamic marking and a *let ring* instruction with a dotted line above the final note.

Lick 2 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 2 Tab. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The melody is written on a single staff. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for each string (T, A, B). The first measure contains notes on the 2nd, 5th, and 2nd frets. The second measure contains notes on the 2nd, 5th, and 2nd frets. The third measure contains notes on the 5th, 2nd, and 3rd frets. The notation includes a *let ring* instruction with a dotted line above the final note.

Positions 1 & 2

Lick 1 Tab

Measures 10-12 of Lick 1. The notation consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line starting on the 10th fret, with notes on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th frets, each with a slur above it. The guitar tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 0, 3, 5, and 3. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present above the first measure.

Measures 13-15 of Lick 1. The notation consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line starting on the 13th fret, with notes on the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th frets, each with a slur above it. The guitar tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 5, 0, 2, 4, 3, 5, 5, 2, 0, 2. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present above the first measure. The notation ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Position 3.

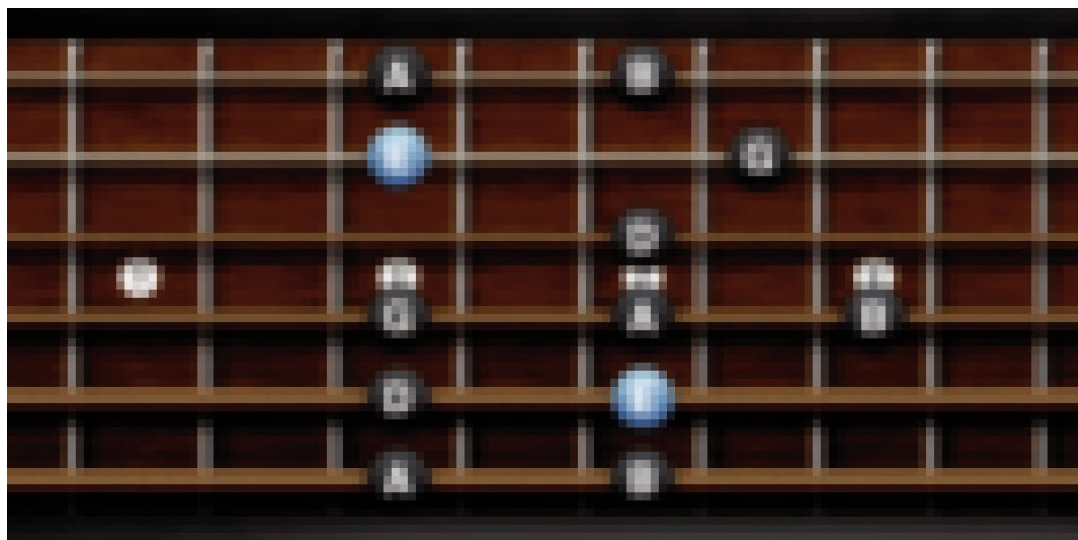
Notes

The video provided demonstrates 1 simple lick using frets 4,5, 7, and 8, but this is one of the more difficult positions to commit to memory.

Position 3 is the scale where it may help to make extra effort to learn where the E notes are, mainly because, when you first start out, you may find yourself losing your way and a return to an E note is a safe bet to ensure you are playing accurately within the scale. It will also give you extra time to compose yourself and quickly plan your next move.

The suggested lick will certainly help you with this. Before progressing to position 4, why don't you create and tab your own lick, making an effort to include a slide, a bend and a hammer-on.

The Scale



Position 3

Lick 1 Tab

E-Gt

mf

T
A
B

4 7 5 5 4 7 5 5 4 7 5 5

full

T
A
B

8 5 7 5

Position 4.

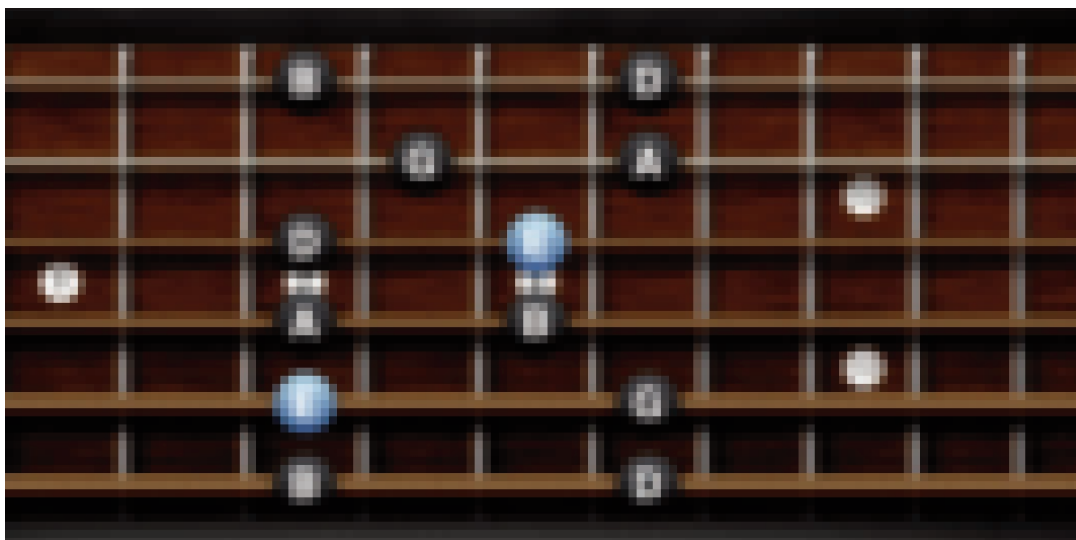
Notes

We're now starting to progress our way up the fretboard towards position 1 (on the octave) where the higher "screaming" notes come into play more and more. Just think Gary Moore.

But before we reach these dizzy heights, you should master the E minor pentatonic notes in this position. Like position 3, it will take a bit more time to learn, but will be very beneficial in the end because it gives you another stepping stone to work your way up and down the different positions. Believe you me, a large percentage of lead guitarists never progress beyond position 1.

The lick that has been included that demonstrates how to move between positions 3 and 4 includes a couple of bends to assist you in developing some real screamers in the future – just like Gary Moore!!!!

The Scale



Position 4

Lick 1 Tab

E-Gt

Lick 1 Position 4

mf

The image shows a guitar lick in E major, 4/4 time, labeled "Lick 1 Position 4". The notation is presented in two systems. The first system starts with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a first finger position marker. The melody consists of quarter notes: E4 (1st fret), F#4 (2nd fret), G4 (3rd fret), A4 (4th fret), B4 (5th fret), A4 (4th fret), G4 (3rd fret), F#4 (2nd fret), and E4 (1st fret). The tablature below shows the fret numbers: 9, 8, 9, 8, 10, 8, 10, 7, 10, 7. The second system continues the lick with quarter notes: A4 (4th fret), B4 (5th fret), A4 (4th fret), G4 (3rd fret), F#4 (2nd fret), E4 (1st fret), and D4 (open). The corresponding tablature shows fret numbers: 10, 7, 10, 10, 7, 10, 8, 9.

Position 3 & 4

Lick 1 Tab

Measure 1: Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Fret numbers: 7, 8, 8, 8. An arrow labeled 'full' points to the 8th fret.

Measure 2: Treble clef, notes B4, A4, G4, F4. Fret numbers: 7, 7, 9, 8. An arrow labeled 'full' points to the 7th fret.

Measure 3: Treble clef, notes E4, D4, C4. Fret numbers: 10. An arrow labeled 'full' points to the 10th fret.

Measure 4: Treble clef, notes B4, A4, G4, F4. Fret numbers: 10, 10, 8, 9. An arrow labeled 'full' points to the 10th fret.

Measure 5: Treble clef, notes E4, D4, C4. Fret numbers: 7, 8, 5. An arrow labeled 'full' points to the 7th fret. The staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Position 5.

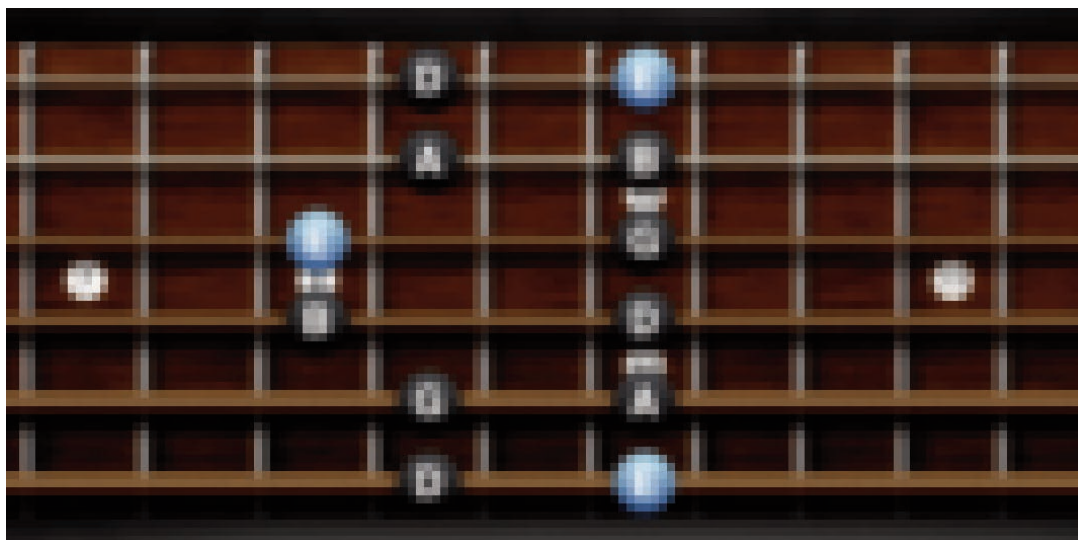
Notes

If you are desperate to be able to move between positions with fluidity (once you have learned all of them) and let's face it, we all do, this is a great place to start.

It is adjacent to position 1 on the octave, which all lead guitarists commit to memory very early on, so your thinking time does not need to be as long when you are improvising. Position 5 is also one of the easier ones to install to your memory bank.

Although not included in our licks, yet again, position 5 gives you a great opportunity to use double stops (especially on the 12th fret). Learn these licks and add in some double stops to start creating your own style.

The Scale



Position 5

Lick 1 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 1 Tab. The notation consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff shows a melodic line starting on the 12th fret, moving up to the 13th, then down to the 10th, and finally up to the 12th. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 12, 12, 10, 10, 10, 10, 12, 10, 12, 9. There are six asterisks above the treble staff and six asterisks above the tablature staff, indicating sixteenth-note patterns. The dynamic marking *mf* is present.

Lick 2 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 2 Tab. The notation consists of two systems, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The first system starts on the 5th fret. The treble staff shows a melodic line with a slur over the first four notes. The tablature staff shows fret numbers: 9, 12, 9, 12, 9, 12, 9, 9, 12, 9, 12, 9. There are six asterisks above the treble staff and six asterisks above the tablature staff. The second system starts on the 9th fret. The treble staff shows a melodic line with a slur over the first four notes. The tablature staff shows fret numbers: 12, 9, 12, 9, 12, 10, 12. The dynamic marking *mf* is present.

Lick 3

Lick 3 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 3 Tab. The notation consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff shows a melodic line starting on the 13th fret, moving up to the 14th, then down to the 10th, and finally up to the 12th. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 12, 10, 12, 10, 12, 10, 12, 10, 12, 9, 12, 9. The dynamic marking *mf* is present.

Position 1, On The Octave

Notes

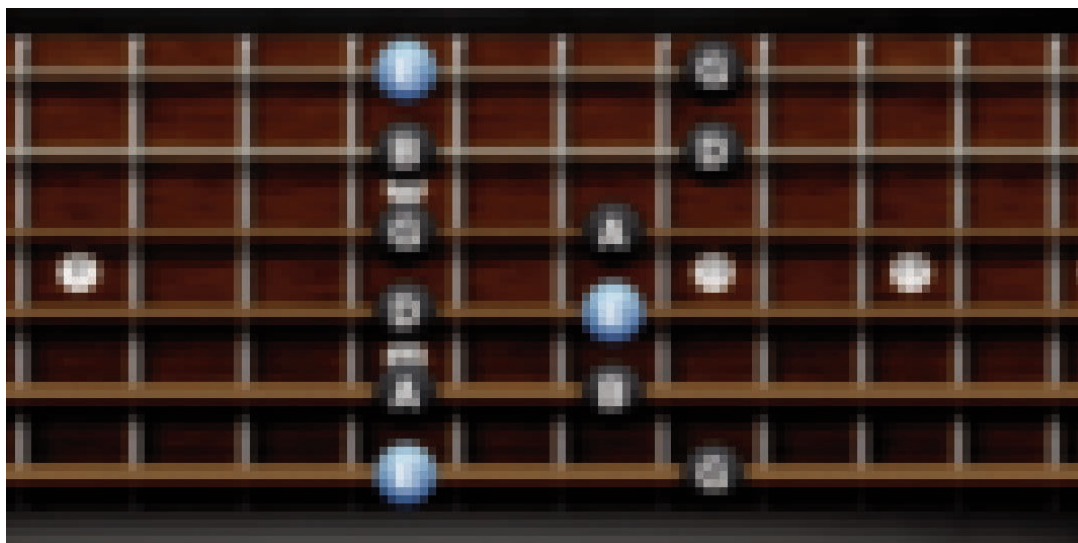
Yes – we're here at last. Along with position 1 using open strings, an octave below, this is the most commonly used, easiest to master and most pleasurable to play as a beginner.

Using this position allows you to start to create “screaming” and “passionate” solos. This is where you will find it easiest to bend and hold notes, start to play a little faster and create some meaningful and satisfying solos. OK it will take time, but I bet you are now thinking “I want more.”

The licks include both double stops and bends and show a couple of ways to move from position 1 to position 5, using slides, pull-offs and hammer-ons. This is where your own ideas and experimentation should take over.

When moving from one position to another, use a pull off or hammer-on instead of a slide, or simply play both notes without any of these. Perhaps employ a pre-bend or bend. Make each move your own and use the licks as an idea – and expand them to suit your own style, or that of the song or people you are jamming with.

The Scale



Position 1, On The Octave

Lick 1 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 1 Tab. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with strings labeled T, A, B. The notation includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a series of chords and notes. The tablature shows fret numbers: 13, 13, 13, 13, 13, 13, 13, 13, 12, 12, 12, 14.

Lick 2 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 2 Tab. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with strings labeled T, A, B. The notation includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a series of notes with slurs and accents. The tablature shows fret numbers: 14, 12, 12, 14, 12, 12, 15, 12, 14, 12, 15, (14). There are three "full" accents with arrows pointing to the notes.

Lick 3 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 3 Tab. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with strings labeled T, A, B. The notation includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a series of notes with slurs and accents. The tablature shows fret numbers: 12, 12, 14, 12, 14, 12, 14, 14, 12, 15. There are two "full" accents with arrows pointing to the notes.

Musical notation for Lick 3 Tab continuation. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with strings labeled T, A, B. The notation includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a series of notes with slurs and accents. The tablature shows fret numbers: 12, 14, 12, 14.

Position 5 & 1

Lick 1 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 1 Tab. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The guitar tablature below shows the fret positions for the strings: T (Treble), A (4th), and B (5th). The fret numbers are: 15-15-15, 13-13-13, 10-10-10, and 12-10-10.

Lick 2 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 2 Tab. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The guitar tablature below shows the fret positions for the strings: T (Treble), A (4th), and B (5th). The fret numbers are: 12-9-12-9, 9-12-12-14, and 12-15-15. A slur is placed over the final two notes of the lick, with an arrow pointing to the word "full".

Lick 3 Tab

Musical notation for Lick 3 Tab. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The guitar tablature below shows the fret positions for the strings: T (Treble), A (4th), and B (5th). The fret numbers are: 9-9-9-9, 9-9-12-12, 12-12-12-12, and 14-14-14-14.

Continuation of Lick 3 Tab. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The guitar tablature below shows the fret positions for the strings: T (Treble), A (4th), and B (5th). The fret numbers are: 14-14, 12-15, 12-10-12-10, and 12-14-12-9. The lick ends with a double bar line and a series of asterisks (*****).

Practice Techniques

Notes

This is really an individualistic thing, because what works for some, may not work for others.

Some things that keep practicing fun are:

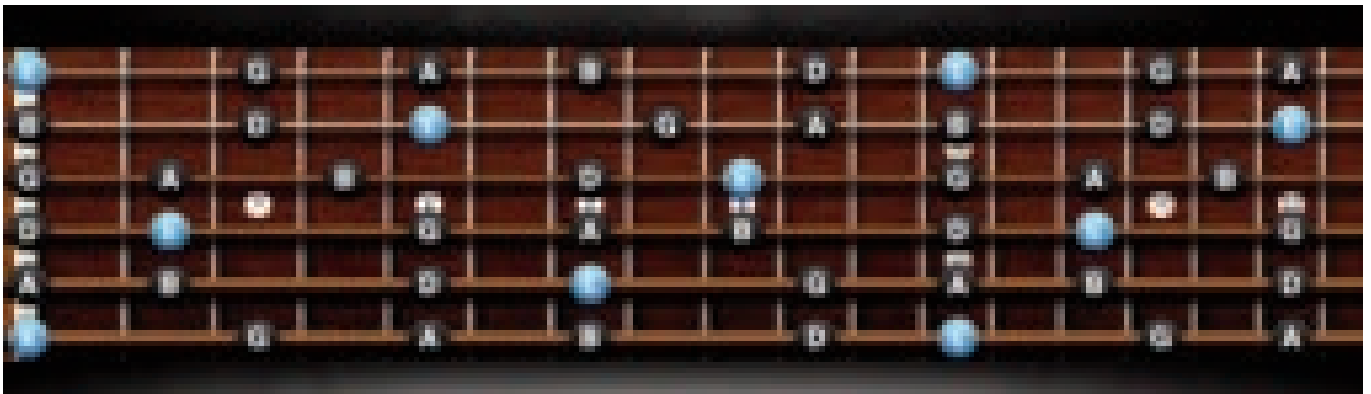
Whenever you finish a riff, lick or solo, play the notes of the scale on the string you finished on, starting with your last note. You will then become familiar with positions on that one string, and this will considerably aid your muscle memory.

Whilst practicing the scale on one string, memorise the notes and the number of frets between each note and play them in a different order, perhaps using the open string in between each other note played.

Give yourself a little test on where the E notes are in each position. Once you have done this, use the first 2 practice tips mentioned above. It is just a variation on a theme, but nevertheless useful and still fun.

Starting at the lowest E (the bottom open E string) work your way up to the E on the 12th fret of the top E string, using parts of all the scale positions. You can also do this in reverse. Perhaps use slides and hammer-ons on the way up and slides and pull-offs on the way down.

The full scale



The E Notes

mf

T
A
B

0-12 7-19 2-14 9-21 5-17 0-12

Practice Techniques

E scale Riff

The main musical notation consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody is written in the key of E major. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T (Treble), A (Middle), and B (Bass). The fret numbers and directions are as follows:

0	3	5	7	5	7	7	5	7	9	7	9	9	8	10	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----

This smaller notation snippet shows a treble clef staff with a 5th fret note. Below it is a guitar tablature with a 10-12 fret sequence.

10	12
----	----

Practice Techniques

Scale on a string Riff

E-Gt

mf

1

5

8

11

14

let ring

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

Improvising in the Em Pentatonic Styles & Phrasing



Country Blues

Notes

This backing track has a country feel to it (the clue is in the title) and, although you would need to learn some more scales to play a wider range of more “countrified” licks using the E minor pentatonic scale is a great place to start.

As a beginner, it would be good to play the usual array of bends and slides, because keeping the notes and bends shorter will help you achieve a country feel. Also, the use of double stops and the addition of slight bends i.e. less than one step, will put you on the right track – so to speak.

Lick 2 includes a classic quarter bend from the G note on the bottom E string to an open E and, as soon as you play it, you will think Johnny Cash.

That’s not to say you can not use full bends and hold notes for a longer time, it’s just that adding the couple of things mentioned above, will give you a head start.

Lick 1 Tab

The image shows a musical score for a guitar lick. It consists of a standard musical staff with a treble clef and a guitar tablature below it. The tablature is for the top three strings: Treble (T), A, and Bass (B). The notation includes a dynamic marking 'mf', a quarter bend symbol (1/4), and a quarter note symbol (1/4). The tablature shows fret numbers 12, 9, and 12, with arrows indicating bends and slurs.

String	Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3	Measure 4
T	12	9	12	9
A	12	12	12	12
B	12	12	12	12

Country Blues

Lick 2 Tab

9

mf

full

full

T
A
B

14 15 15 14 12 7 9 9 9 9 8 9 7 7 4 4

13

T
A
B

4 2 2 3 3 0

1/4 1/4

12 Bar Blues

Notes

This improvisation session wouldn't be complete without teaching you a riff that could easily feature in all the backing tracks – this is lick one.

It is something you will return to time and time again, so, if there was one definitive lick – this would be it. Granted, there are more common and more recognisable ones, but starting off bending the G string on the 14th fret up 2 steps, followed by the 12th fret on the B and top E strings is a classic move. You can repeat this part over and over again and also play the B and E strings together to create extra volume and thickness of sound.

One tip for this and all the other styles - do not be afraid to leave gaps, play more slowly and also repeat a series of notes, with different phrasing. It is easier to do this when there are fewer beats per minute, but try to think space, melody and variation. Speed of playing isn't everything!

Lick 1 Tab

The image shows a musical score for a 12-bar blues lick. The top staff is in standard notation (treble clef, 4/4 time), and the bottom staff is guitar tablature. The tablature is labeled with strings T (Treble), A (Middle), and B (Bass). The lick consists of the following fret numbers: 14 (T), 12 (A), 12 (B), 15 (T), 15 (A), 15 (B), 10 (T), 10 (A), 8 (B), and 9 (T). The notation includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a 'let ring' instruction. The lick is repeated four times over the 12 bars.

12 Bar Blues

Lick 2 Tab

5

mf

T
A
B

9

Play many times

full

T
A
B

13

T
A
B

Blues Rock

Notes

Yup – speed isn't everything and this track will allow you to use your sense of timing to play at a slower pace. This track maybe faster and the licks not necessarily at a slow pace...so there lies the challenge ahead.

See if you can play notes provided in each of the licks at a slower pace to give yourself some extra thinking time and breathing space. Once you have jammed around for a while, you will find yourself creating melody lines as opposed to just a series of notes. Obviously you can change the mood and pace, but being able to create slower solos over faster backing tracks is an art. Think J.J. Cale and you'll know what I mean.

Lick 1 Tab

The image displays a guitar solo in standard notation and tablature. The standard notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The solo consists of four measures. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on C5. The second measure contains a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F#5, and a quarter note on G5. The third measure contains a quarter note on A5, a quarter note on B5, a quarter note on C6, and a quarter note on D6. The fourth measure contains a quarter note on E6, a quarter note on F#6, a quarter note on G6, and a quarter note on A6. The tablature is on a six-string staff with fret numbers 14, 12, 12, 12, 15, 17, 15, 17, 17, 17, 17, 15, 17, 15, 15, 17. The first measure starts on the 14th fret of the D string, moves to the 12th fret of the G string, and then stays on the 12th fret of the G string for the next two measures. The second measure starts on the 15th fret of the D string, moves to the 17th fret of the G string, and then stays on the 17th fret of the G string for the next two measures. The third measure starts on the 17th fret of the D string, moves to the 17th fret of the G string, and then stays on the 17th fret of the G string for the next two measures. The fourth measure starts on the 17th fret of the D string, moves to the 15th fret of the G string, and then stays on the 15th fret of the G string for the next two measures. The notation includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a *full* articulation mark above the first measure. The tablature includes a *full* articulation mark above the first measure and two *full* articulation marks above the second and third measures. The notation ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Blues Rock

Lick 2 Tab

The image shows a musical score for a guitar lick. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Above the notes are asterisks indicating vibrato. The bottom staff is a guitar tab with fret numbers: 7-9-9-9, 7-2-2-2, 10-10-10-12, 10-12. Annotations include 'full' and 'full full' with arrows indicating bends, and 'let ring' at the end. There are also asterisks above the notes indicating vibrato.

And to finish with...

Some Tips

- Learn where the E notes are in each of the scale positions
- Learn the scale on one string
- Combine the learning aspects but keep jamming, so you keep it fun and remain motivated
- Start by keeping it simple. (Don't walk before you can run).
- Don't try and play too fast
- Learn some sample licks and commit them to memory
- Use these licks and extend them to help create your own playing style
- After every practice session, think about what you have learned – you are progressing
- Impress everyone
- Keep smiling and keep enjoying

For more from Guitar Coach visit the web site:

<https://guitarcoachmag.com>

