

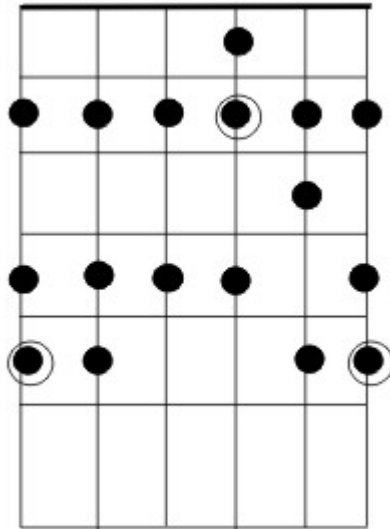
Learning to Improvise - Part 2

This lesson assumes that you have read though and understood "learning to improvise."

In the last lesson, we learned how to improvise in a minor and major key. To improvise in a major key, begin on the first note of the scale, and then use any other notes or chords. To improvise in a minor key, begin on the sixth note of the scale, and then use any other note or chord. So in fact, the keys of C major and A minor have exactly the same notes in them. In music this is called relative minors. It is the principal that every major key has a corresponding minor key. To create a different sound, we begin on either the first (for a happy sound) or sixth note (for a serious sound) (you can actually begin on any of the notes, but we will look at this later.)

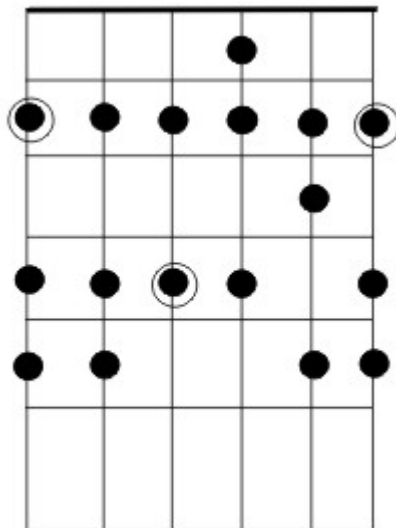
If one instrument plays the rhythm using either a major or minor sound, then a lead instrument will play either the major scale or natural minor scale over it. The major scale in the key of C is simple C, D, E, F, G, A, B. To play the minor version, in the key of Am it is simply A, B, C, D, E, F, G. It is the same notes each time, just beginning on either the first or the sixth note of the key of C.

To create a major scale on the guitar, use this pattern:



There are lots of different patterns you could use to create the same notes, but this one is one of my favourites and easiest to use.) The notes with a circle around them are the root notes. That means that if you are playing in the key of C, make sure that the circled notes are C notes.

Here is a pattern for the natural minor scale:



In Am, make sure that the circled notes are on A.

To play one octave, play from root note to root note, to play two octaves, carry on up to the next root note. These patterns are moveable, so play in the key of D minor, play the natural minor scale with the root notes on D.