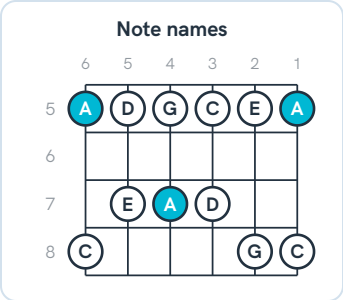
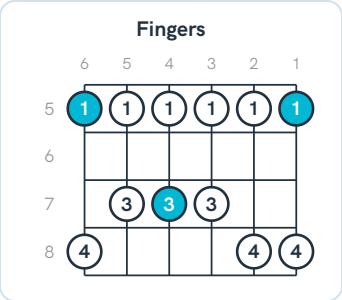
A Minor Pentatonic, Shape 1

The minor pentatonic has five notes. In A they are **A, C, D, E and G**. **Shape 1** is the box with its root on **string 6, fret 5**: four frets, two notes on every string. Books number the shapes differently; here, shape 1 means this box.

1 · THE BOX AT FRETS 5–8





Strings 6, 2 and 1: frets 5 and 8. **Strings 5, 4 and 3:** frets 5 and 7. That is 12 notes, from the low A on string 6 up to C on string 1, fret 8.

Roots (the filled dots) are the three As: string 6 fret 5, string 4 fret 7 and string 1 fret 5. Each one is an octave above the last.

Fingers (1 index … 4 pinky): one finger per fret. Index on every fret-5 note, ring finger (3) on fret 7, pinky (4) on fret 8.

Note	A	C	D	E	G
Degree	1	♭3	4	5	♭7

2 · UP AND DOWN IN TAB AND NOTATION

Up
A on string 6 to C on string 1

Down
C on string 1 back to A on string 6



Numbers under the staff are scale degrees (A = 1); tab numbers are frets. Guitar music is written an octave above its sound.

3 · A SHORT LICK FROM THE BOX

Every note comes from shape 1, on strings 4 to 1 only. Start on the A on **string 1, fret 5**, walk down, circle around D, and land on the root at **string 4, fret 7**. Hold it for two beats.

Play it slowly first. Keep your index finger at fret 5 the whole time.



TRY IT **Find all the As.** Play shape 1 slowly up and down and stop on every A. Say its string and fret. Then play the three As one after another: same name, each an octave higher.
Check: string 6 fret 5, string 4 fret 7, string 1 fret 5.

Listen: 1 · Shape 1 up and down, quarter = 76. 2 · The lick, quarter = 72. Scan or visit tissimo.co/worksheets/guitar-a-minor-pentatonic-shape-1

© 2026 Tissimo. All rights reserved.