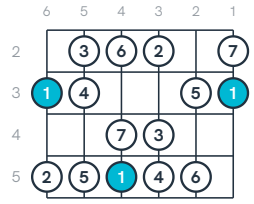
The Movable Major Scale Shape

One pattern of frets plays a major scale in **any key**. Put the **root** on string 6, find its fret, and the shape does the rest. Numbers inside the dots are **scale degrees**, not fingers; the filled dots are the root (1).

1 · TWO OCTAVES, ROOT ON STRING 6 — G MAJOR

G major · root at fret 3



strings 6 → 1, frets 2–5

Start on **string 6, fret 3** (G). Play up each string, lowest fret first, until **string 1, fret 3** (G again): 15 notes, 24 half steps.

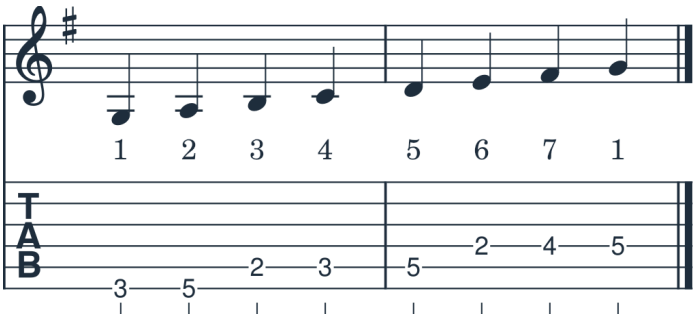
Count the frets from the root fret **r**. String 6: r, r+2. String 5: r−1, r, r+2. String 4: r−1, r+1, r+2. String 3: r−1, r+1, r+2. String 2: r, r+2. String 1: r−1, r.

Degree 1 shows up three times: string 6, string 4 (fret 5) and string 1 (fret 3). Degrees run 1–7, then 1–7, then 1.

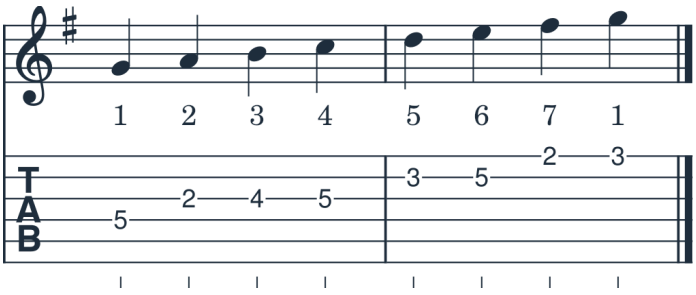
Fingers (1 index … 4 pinky): string 6: 2 4 · string 5: 1 2 4 · string 4: 1 3 4 · string 3: 1 3 4 · string 2: 2 4 · string 1: 1 2.

2 · THE SAME NOTES IN TAB AND NOTATION

Lower octave · G to G, strings 6–4



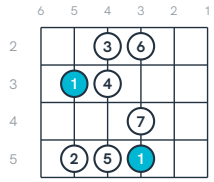
Upper octave · G to G, strings 4–1



Numbers under the staff are degrees; tab numbers are frets. Guitar music is written an octave above its sound.

3 · ONE OCTAVE, ROOT ON STRING 5 — C MAJOR

C major · fret 3



Same idea, shorter. Root on **string 5, fret 3** (C). Frets: string 5: r, r+2. String 4: r−1, r, r+2. String 3: r−1, r+1, r+2. The top C lands on string 3, fret 5.

Fingers: string 5: 2 4 · string 4: 1 2 4 · string 3: 1 3 4.



4 · WHERE IS THE ROOT? FRET ON STRING 6 FOR EACH NOTE NAME

E	F	G	A	B	C	D
0	1	3	5	7	8	10

One fret = one half step: slide the shape to change the key.

TRY IT Play the G shape slowly up and down, saying the degrees aloud: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1. Then slide the shape up two frets. Which key are you in?
Check: A major, root at fret 5 on string 6.

Listen: 1 · G major, two octaves. 2 · C major, one octave. Both at quarter = 76. Scan or visit tissimo.co/worksheets/guitar-major-scale-two-octave-shape

© 2026 Tissimo. All rights reserved.