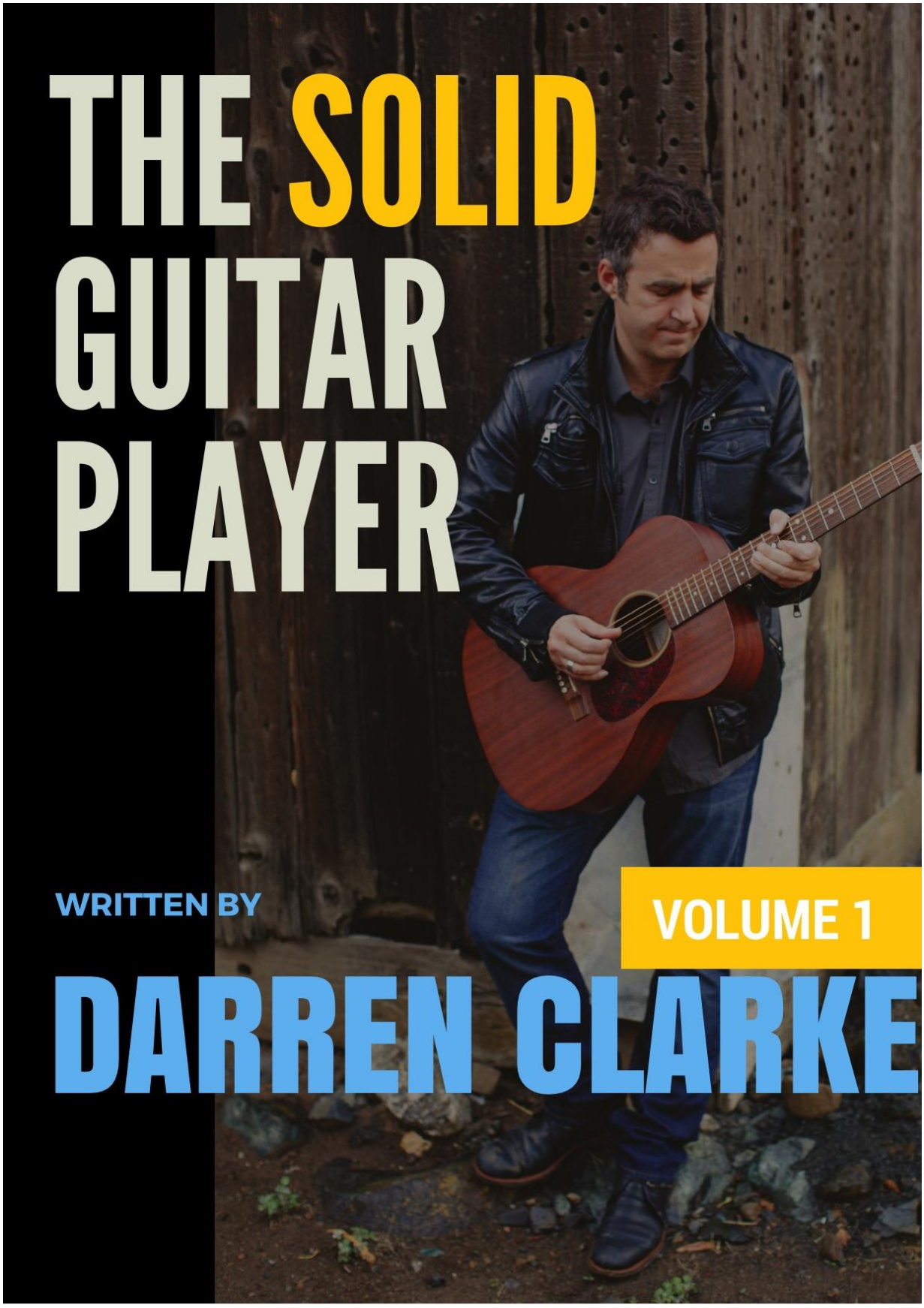

THE SOLID GUITAR PLAYER
WRITTEN BY
VOLUME 1
DARREN CLARKE

Darren Clarke has pulled this simple lesson together for every worship leader, band member and budding songwriter that wants to be a Solid Guitar Player. We all want the short cuts and the latest sounds but in order to be free to lead and enjoy the music there are some essentials you need under your belt, so that you can both FEEL and SOUND SOLID.

Who's this for?

Intermediate level guitar players & beginner lead guitar players who want to

- **Write songs**
- **Understand which chords and scales fit together**
- **Come up with parts to play in a band**

Contents

- **The Major Scale**
- **Chords in the Key**
- **Scale Fingerings**
- **Composing a Song**

*** Dazza's Cheat Sheet**

Don't be afraid of a bit of music theory, it makes most sense for most people as you get stuck in and apply it.

A Note from Darren

Thanks for taking a chance and downloading this installment of A Guitar Players Tool Box. These tools are well thought out and transferrable whether you are a novice worship leader, guitarist or a budding artist. I would just say to remember these critical tips when learning independently.

1) Always practice to a beat, a click, along with a song or a friend. Music comes alive inside the beat and rhythm can be learned if you're not born with it. Not many people are really born with excellent rhythm.

2) Practice a little every day as opposed to once a week for a couple of hours. You'll improve so much more quickly.

3) Nothing replaces playing with other people. Whenever you get the chance to play with other people, take it. You'll learn from people who are better than you, and there's always someone better than you. That's okay. Music is an art not a sport.

4) Record yourself playing to get a more objective take on what you need to work on. Even if it's just on your phone, use that as a tool to grow.

5) Have fun. Don't be too hard on yourself. Playing guitar is really hard. The more you learn, the more you realize there is to learn. But don't let that inhibit you. The best players are the ones that put in the time and patience and had the drive to make something beautiful and put it out into the world. Just keep playing.

OK let's go. Dive in.

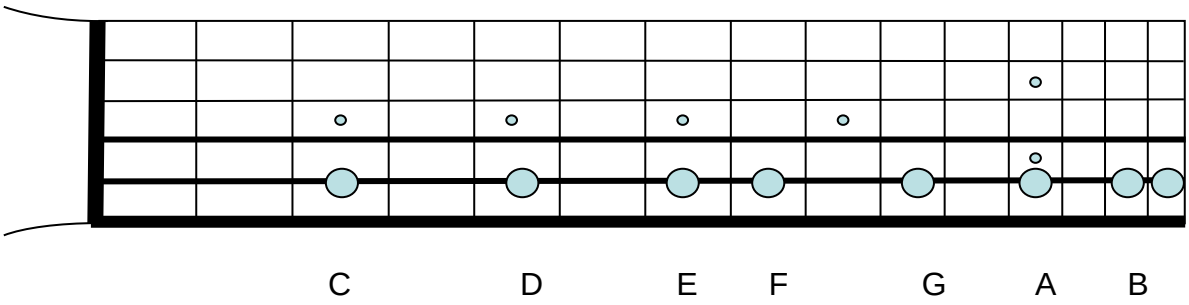
The Major Scale

Music is organized into **Key Signatures** or Keys. Keys are where the scales and chords are related to a Key note. This note is called the Root. In order to find the notes in a key, we use a scale: A scale is a ladder of notes starting on the root.

The starting point for understanding scales is the Major scale. To determine the notes in the scale we use a combination of whole and half steps.

The formula for the steps is, **Whole, Whole, Half, Whole, Whole, Whole, Half**.

Why? When you play that combination of notes, you create a scale that has a consonant (stable) pleasing sound.



You can start on any root note and the above formula will produce a major scale.

Here are the notes of the Major Scale in all the basic keys:

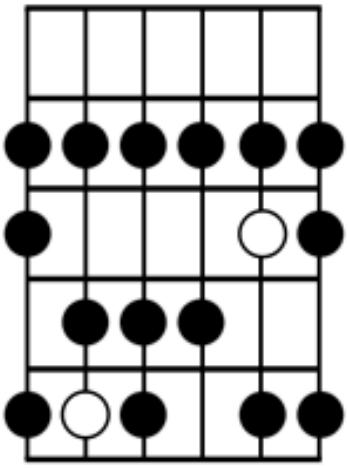
Root	**Whole**	**Whole**	**Half**	**Whole**	**Whole**	**Whole**	**Half**
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#	E
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#	B

MAJOR SCALES

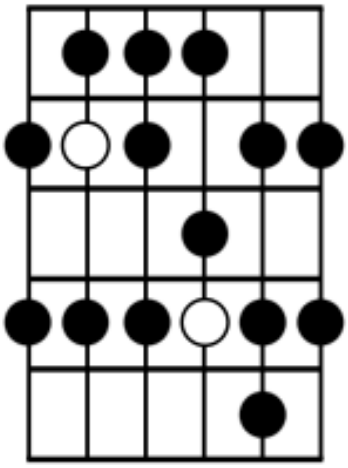
Here are the five fingering patterns for the major scale. The white notes indicate the root. The 3rd and 4th patterns are the most commonly used. These patterns are the basis for modern contemporary lead guitar. These charts stack all the way up the neck.

Try starting on the second fret and playing all the way up. That would be the key of D.

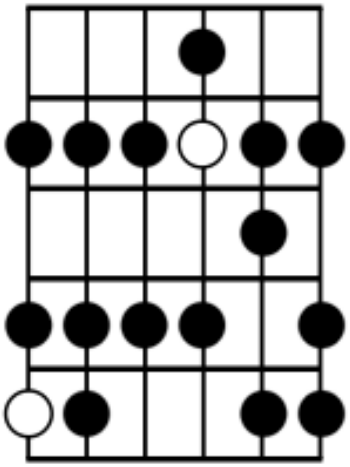
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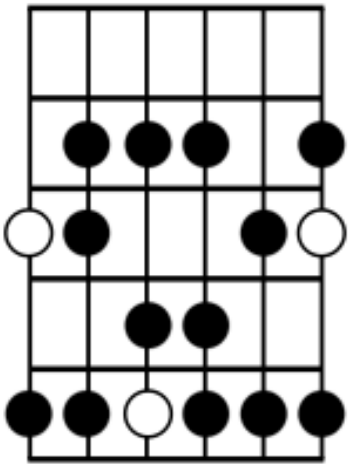
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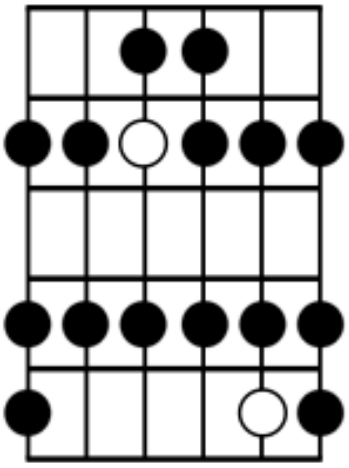
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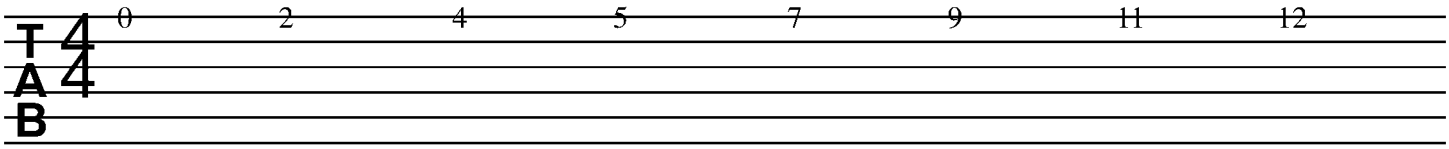


Applying the Major Scale

Here are some ways to play a major scale in the Key of E.

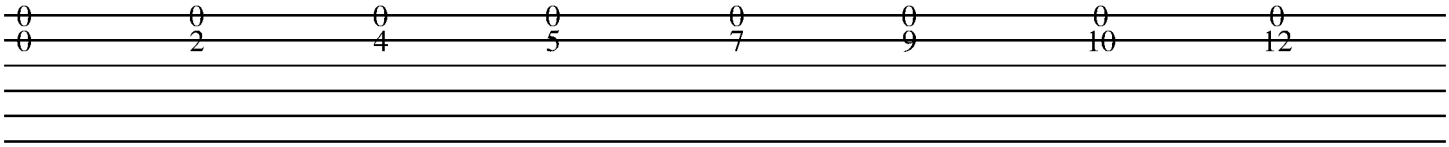
1. Major scale on a single string.

Playing a major scale on one stringis a great wat to find melodies.
Try pulling off to the open string for some cool licks



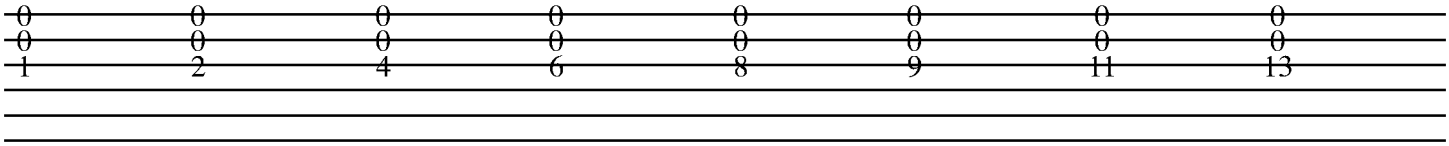
2. Pedal tone scale

A pedal tone scale is where you play the notes of the scale on a string and use an open string as a drone note. THis is a technique that was often used by George Harrison of the Beatles.



3. Open String Licks

This is the same principle as Ex.2, but using both the E and B strings as a drone.

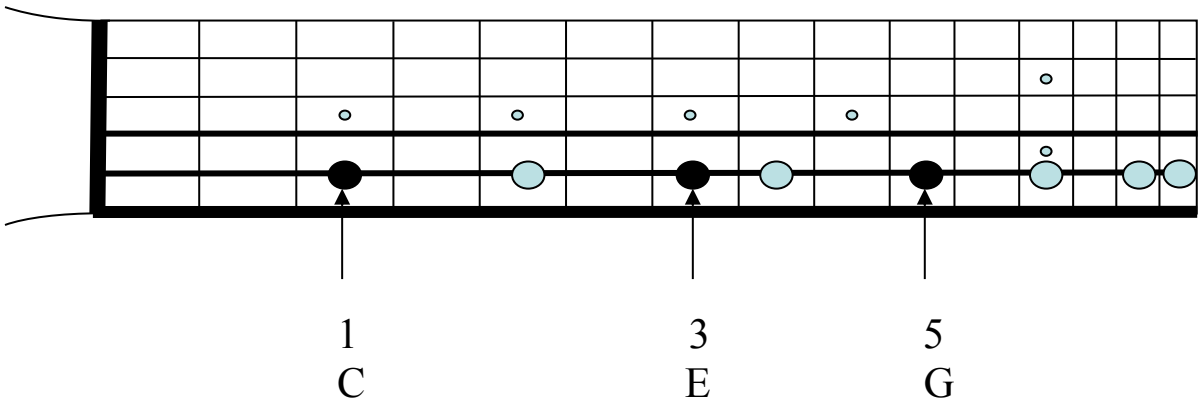


Chords

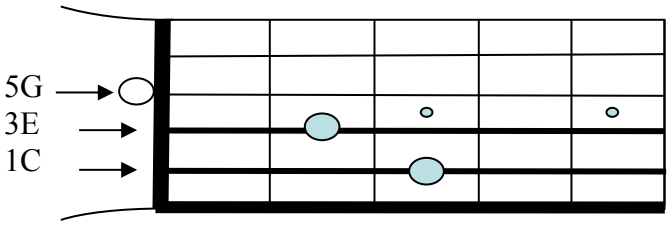
When you play several notes together it forms a chord. The simplest chord form is called a Triad; a triad contains three notes.

An easy way to visualize a triad is that they skip every other note in the scale.

C D E F G A B
C E G



These notes are referred to as the ‘1 3 5’ or the root, the third and the fifth.



Here is a chart of the ‘1 3 5’, the Root, Third and Fifth starting on each note in a C Major Scale:

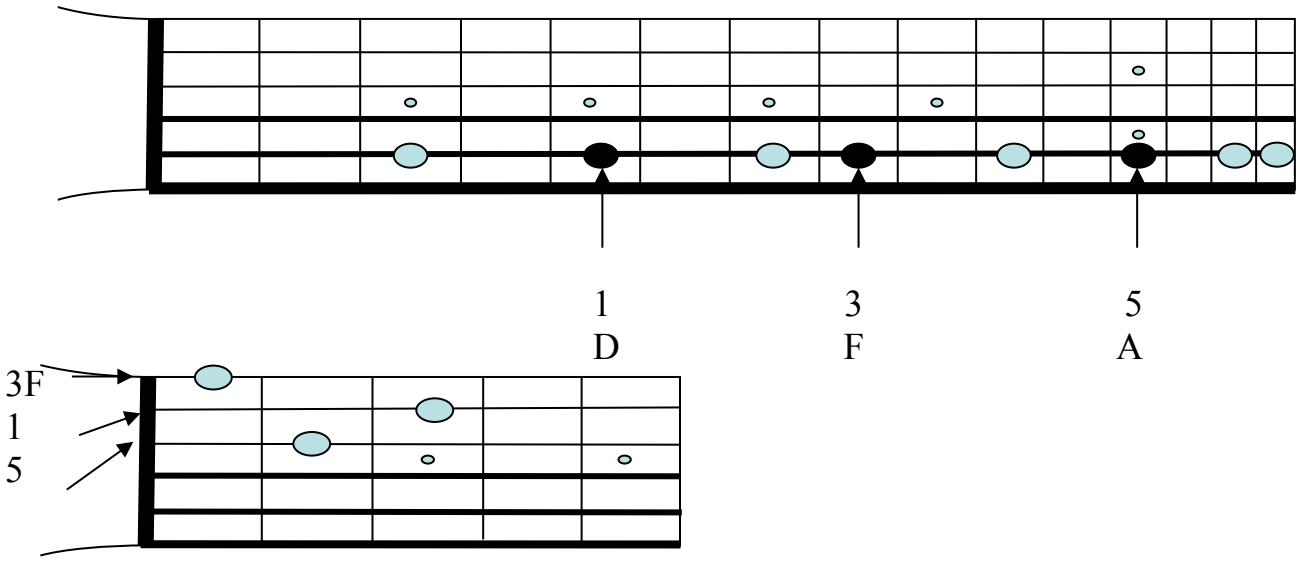
C	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**A**	**B**	**C**			
C		E		G						
	D		F		A					
		E		G		B				
			F		A		C			
				G		B		D		
					A		C		E	
						B		D		F

When you play these **Triad Chords**, some of them have the stable sound of a major chord and some have the more melancholy sound of a minor chord.

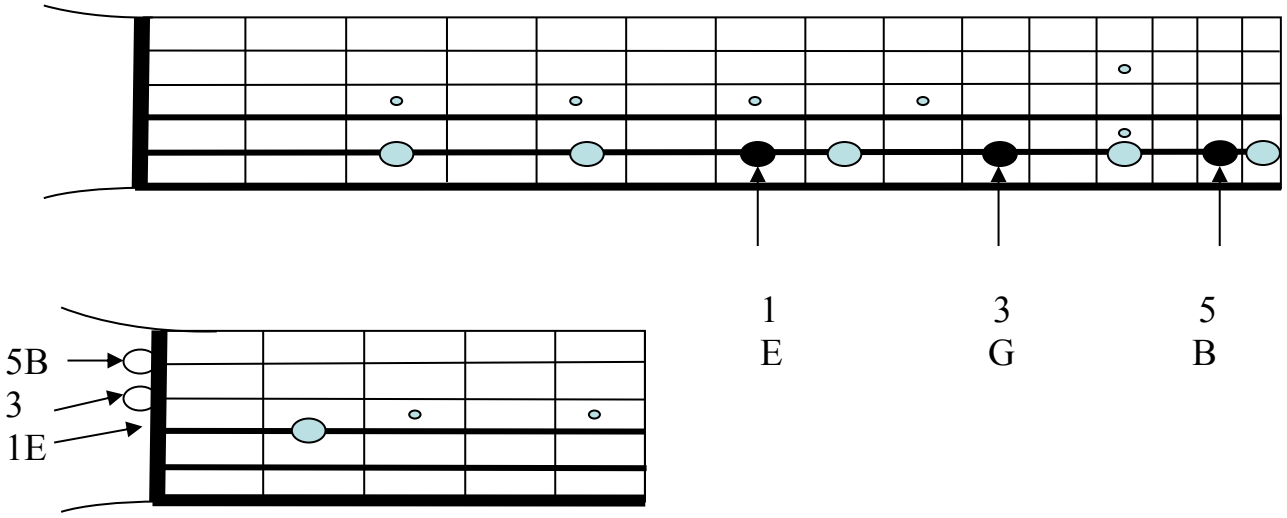
Why? The formula of whole and half steps in the major scale means that some chords have a larger interval between the Root and the Third - of two whole steps, and some will have the smaller interval of a whole step and a half step. Major Chords have the larger interval called a ‘Major third’ and minor chords have the smaller interval called a ‘Minor third’.

The first, fourth and fifth chords are major, all the others are minor.

D Minor

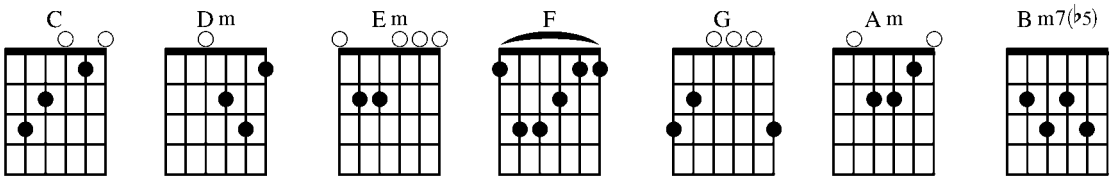


E Minor



Here are the chords for the Key of C:

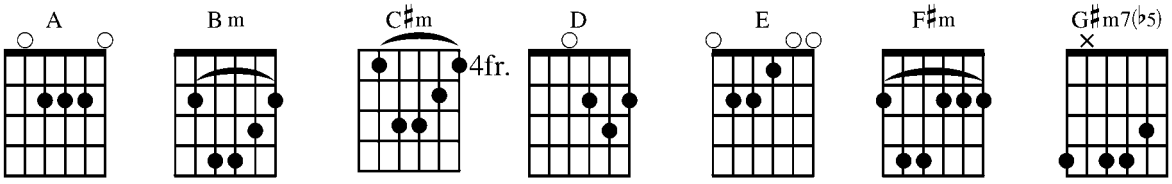
C major, D minor, E minor, F major, G major, A minor and B minor (b5)



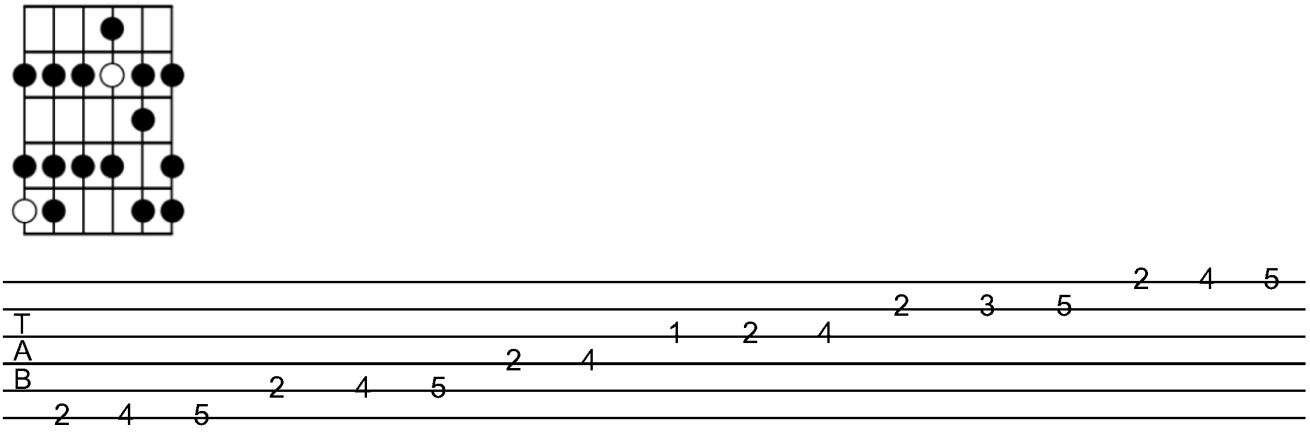
We identify each chord in Roman Numerals. In the key of C:
C Maj (I), D Min (II), E Min (III), F Maj (IV), G Maj (V), A Min (VI), B min (VII)

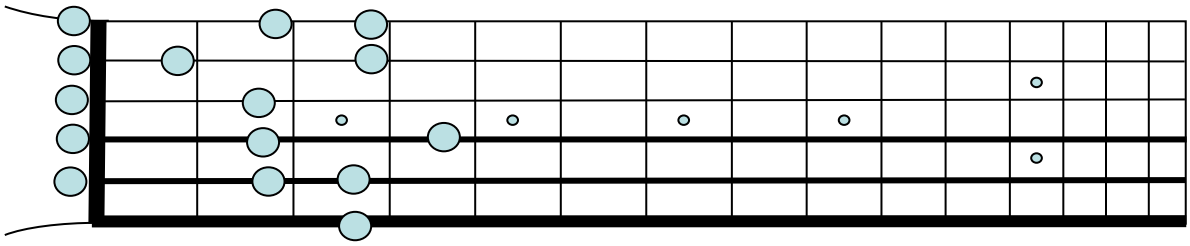
This formula of Major and Minor chords is the same in every key.

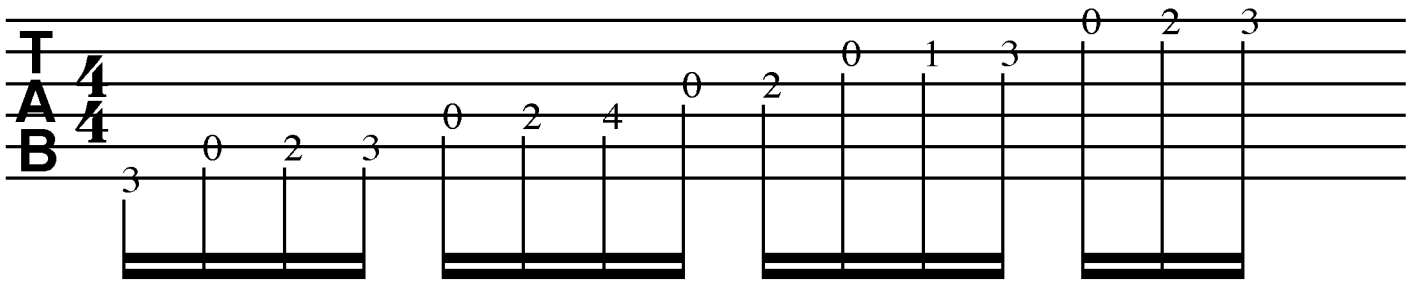
Here are the chords for the Key of A:



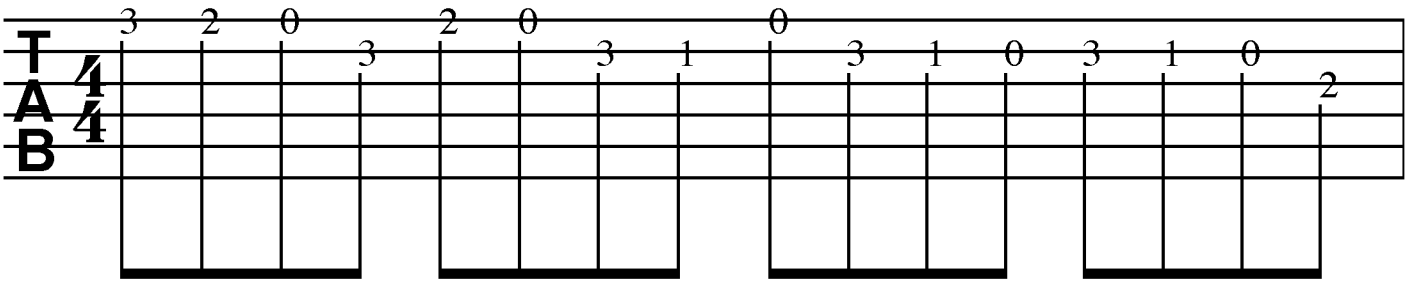
Here is the A Major scale.
Probably the easiest fingering pattern to use in the key of A, is the 3rd pattern.



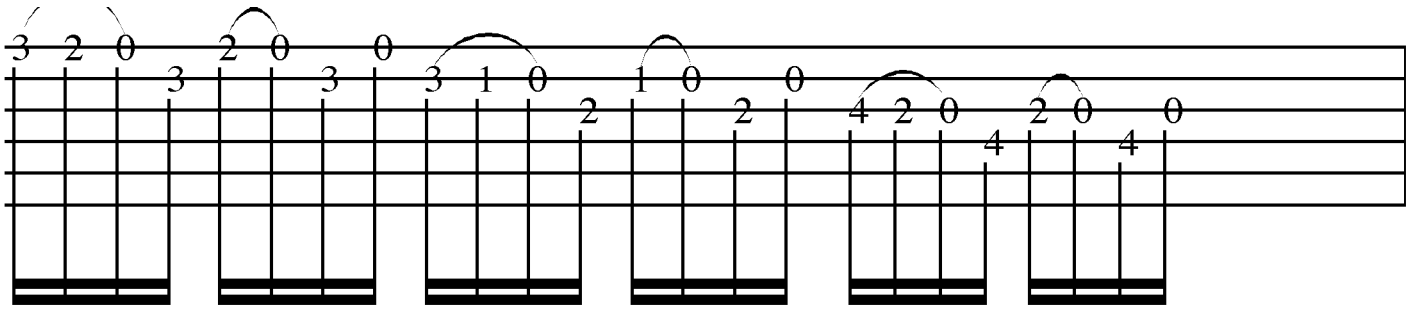



T
A
B
4
4
3
0 2 3
0 2 4
0 2
0 1 3
0 2 3

Lick 1


T
A
B
4
4
3 2 0 3
2 0 3 1
0 3 1 0 3 1 0 2

Lick 2


3 2 0 3
2 0 3
0 3 1 0 2
1 0 2
0 4 2 0 4
2 0 4
0

Composing a Song

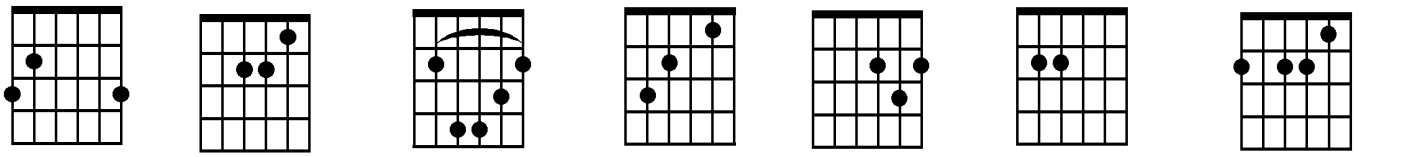
Below are the notes in a G major scale

G A B C D E F# G

You can form a **chord** on each note of the **Major scale**, but because a major scale is made up of whole and half steps, some of the chords will be **Major** and some will be **Minor**
The formula is:

Major ***minor*** ***minor*** **Major** **Major** ***minor*** ***minor (b 5)***

G Am Bm C D Em F#m (b 5)



Each Chord will be given a number

G Am Bm C D Em F#m (b5)
I ii iii IV V vi vii

To compose songs you can put these chords in any order you like

For example the most common chord progression is a I, IV,V progression
That would be G, C, D.

Other common progressions are
I, vi, IV, V or I, vi, ii, V

G, Em , C, D G, Em, Am ,D

You don't necessarily need to start on the I chord.
It is common to start on the ii chords or the vi chord.

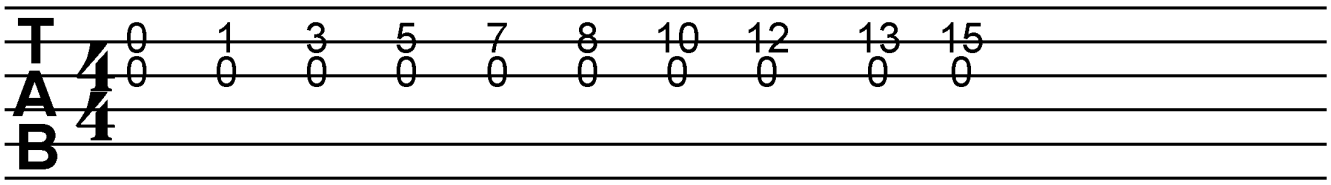
Ii, V, I vi, I, IV, V

Am, D, G Em G C D

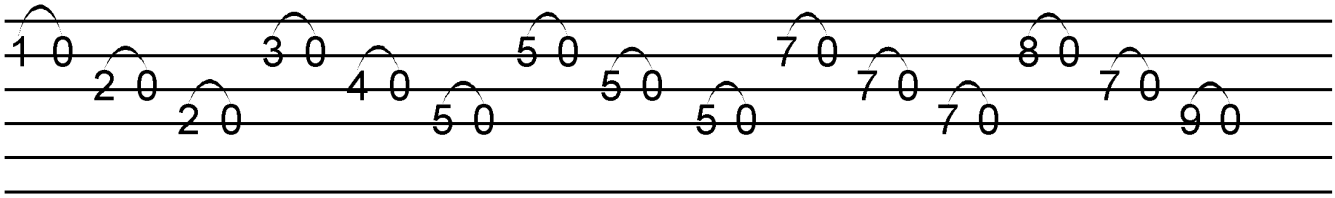
Techniques For Creating a melody in the Key of G

Sometimes a few ideas or exercises like these will give you ideas for your own arrangements.

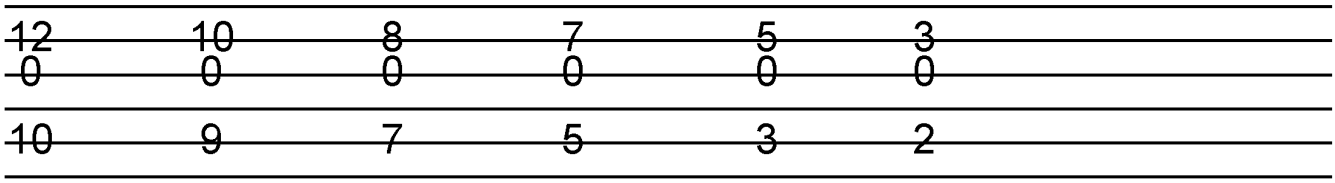
Pedaling



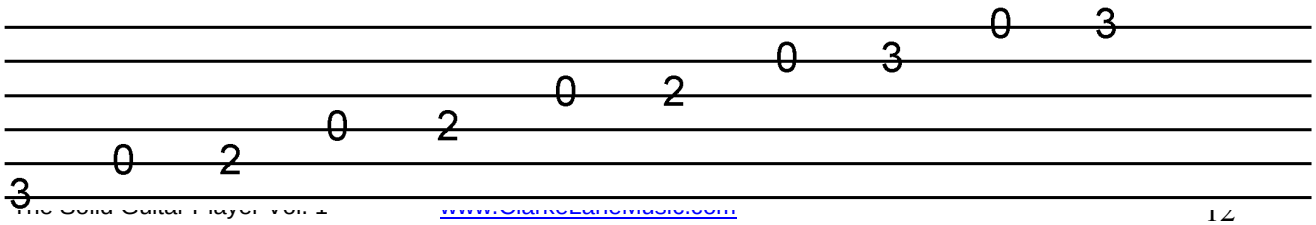
Pull offs



Thirds



Major Pentatonic scale



Dazza's Cheat Sheet - *Chords in a Key*

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii
C Major	**D** minor	**E** minor	**F** Major	**G** Major	**A** minor	**B** min*b*5
Db Major	Eb minor	F minor	Gb Major	Ab Major	Bb minor	C min*b*5
D Major	**E** minor	**F#** Minor	**G** Major	**A** Major	**B** minor	**C#** min*b*5
Eb Major	F Minor	G minor	Ab Major	Bb Major	C minor	D min*b*5
E Major	**F#** Minor	**G#** minor	**A** Major	**B** Major	**C#** minor	**D#** min*b*5
F Major	G minor	A minor	Bb Major	C Major	D minor	E min*b*5
F# Major	G# minor	A# minor	B Major	C# Major	D# minor	E# min*b*5
G Major	**A** minor	**B** minor	**C** Major	**D** Major	**E** Minor	**F#** min*b*5
Ab Major	Bb minor	C minor	Db Major	Eb Major	F minor	Gb min*b*5
A Major	**B** minor	**C#** minor	**D** Major	**E** Major	**F#** minor	**G#** min*b*5
Bb Major	C minor	D minor	Eb Major	F Major	G minor	A min*b*5
B Major	C# minor	D# minor	E Major	F# Major	G# minor	A# min*b*5