

Guitar Secrets – Symmetrical Scales Revealed

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Unit 3: Fingerings of the Diminished Scale

Probably the most popular pattern for a diminished scale is shown below. It's a vertical pattern using three notes per string that covers a little more than two octaves. On any string there's always a whole step followed by a half step or vice versa spanning three frets.

At this point, don't be concerned with the starting note. We will get into the "modes" of the scale later. For now, just think of this first pattern as C diminished starting on low C and ending on high D.

④ Example 3A: Diminished Scale

C Diminished Scale

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

T 7 8 10 8 7 10 9 7 10 8 7 10 9 7

A 7 9 10 7 8 10 7 9 10 10 8 7 10 9 7

B 8 10 11 8 9 11 7 9 10 10 9 7 11 9 8 11 10 8

The Whole-Tone Scale

UNIT 11: Fingerings of the Whole-Tone Scale

Let's start out by learning a good fingering for the whole-tone scale. "Only one pattern?" you may ask. Just as with the diminished scale, it's only practical to learn one movable pattern. If you already know a fingering or two, stick with them or feel free to modify this pattern to suit your technique and style. The ultimate goal is to be able to play the whole-tone scale anywhere on the guitar in any key.

This is an especially easy task for the whole-tone scale since patterns repeat up or down the fingerboard every two frets. Remember, any note in the scale can be the root, so this pattern is not only an A whole-tone but also the B, C#, D#, F, and G whole-tone scales.

43 **Example 41A: PATTERN #1**

This pattern gives you a range of two and one-third octaves and uses three-note-per-string moves on the 6th, 4th, and 1st strings. These can be a bit of a stretch if you're not used to them, especially lower on the fingerboard. Most players (including me) use their 1st, 3rd, and 4th fingers; however, some use their 1st, 2nd, and 4th.

A good picking pattern for this scale is to use alternating picking starting with a downstroke on the first low A.

A Whole-Tone Scale

