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Why should I bother learning my scales?



Scales can be fun and they help you to learn pieces. If you really look and listen hard you will see that lots of your favourite songs contain scales.



## note to teachers and parents

*Guitar Basics Workouts* provides players and teachers with a fun introduction to many of the scales found in the major examination boards' grade 1 exams, as well as a selection from grade 2. While we hope this book will help students to improve performance of scales in their exams, our aim is also to develop their understanding of the connection between scales and the rest of their musical experience. With focused and proper application, skills such as sight-reading, aural perception, recognition of melodic patterns and technical proficiency can be enhanced. In short, a thorough knowledge of scales and arpeggios facilitates all aspects of playing an instrument.

Unfortunately the process of learning these can be painful and laborious for students and teachers alike. It is with this in mind that we have approached this subject with the same outlook and format as the other *Guitar Basics* books:

- introducing a wide variety of musical styles
- taking very slow and logical steps to make the process less painful and arduous
- providing lots of fun backing tracks for a more musical experience
- providing chords/accompaniments for teachers and/or fellow players
- including improvisation and other creative activities.

Most of the backing tracks present the tunes twice through, first with a guide melody and then with the accompaniment alone. Listen out for where this happens, and on the repeat see if you can play the tune on your own or improvise.

We hope you enjoy!

*Nick and James*

# unit 6 A natural minor

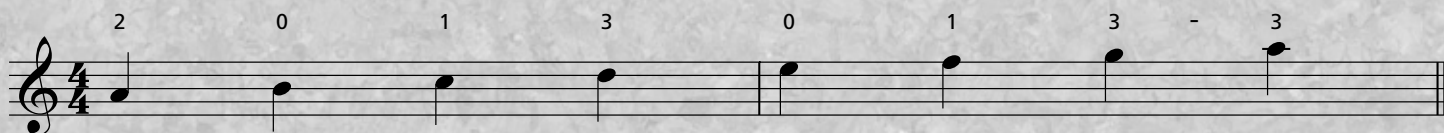
Have a look at your other Guitar Basics books: there are some great songs to practise the A natural minor scale. Do you remember 'Swing the Cat' and 'High in the Rockies' from the tutor book and 'Heart Strings' from Guitar Basics Repertoire?



## A natural minor scale

Can you put the A natural minor trail on your guitar? Here are the notes written on the stave with the left-hand fingering.

High A is at fret 5 on string 1. You can play it by moving your 3rd finger up from G.



Can you write the pattern of tones (T) and semitones (S) between the notes?

## Workout warm-up

First, go up and down the whole scale, playing each note four times, then three times, then twice, then once. Now see how smoothly you can play this exercise.

# unit 10 Scale trail checklist

• Can you stick to the trail by walking your fingers?  
(You should always start and end on the same finger.)

• Where are you most likely to fall off the trail?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• Which scales have sharps? \_\_\_\_\_

• Which scale has a flat? \_\_\_\_\_

• Can you name the notes of all of the scales?  
Ask your teacher or a friend to test you!

• How many frets = a tone (whole step)? \_\_\_\_\_

• How many frets = a semitone (half step)? \_\_\_\_\_

• Can you write out your favourite scale with the correct clef  
and key signature?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• When you play with your thumb, should you play  
*apoyando* or *tirando*? \_\_\_\_\_

• Can you play all the scales at  $\text{♩} = 100$ , smoothly without any gaps?  
Do all the notes have the same volume and tone?

• When you play arpeggios, does every note ring out and  
not sound 'dead'?

**Congratulations!** If you can tick the whole list, you have nailed your scales and are ready to explore new trails with confidence.

