

Pentatonic Scales

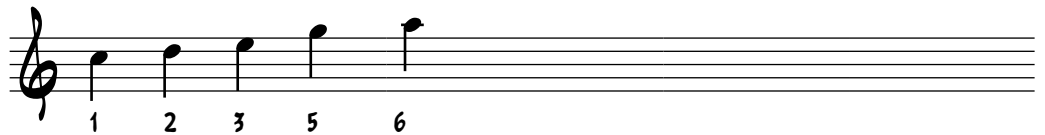
AEGriffiths

Pentatonic scales have only 5 different notes – this makes them more flexible and gives them more harmonic freedom than complete major and minor scales which have 7 different notes.

There are major pentatonic scales and minor pentatonic scales (and they are related in a very convenient way, as you'll see below).

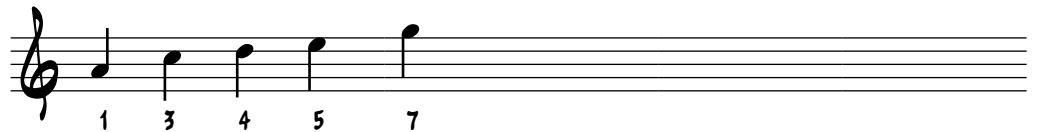
The **Major Pentatonic Scale** is made of scale degrees 1 2 3 5 6 from the major scale.

Here is a C Major pentatonic scale:



The **Minor Pentatonic Scale** is made of scale degrees 1 3 4 5 7 from the minor scale.

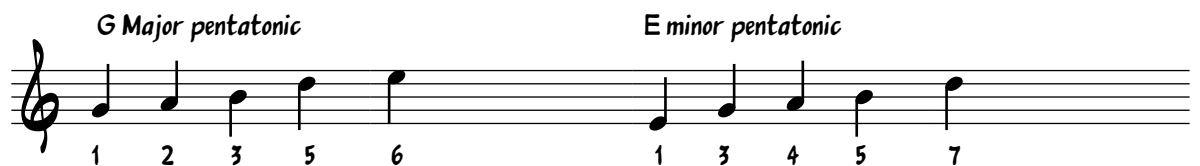
Here is an A minor pentatonic scale:



The keys of C Major and A minor are *relative* to one another.

This means that they share the same key signature (which is no sharps or flats) and have the exact same notes.

Any Major pentatonic scale and its *relative* minor pentatonic scale share the exact same notes.



The keys of D Major and B minor are *related* to one another.

So their pentatonic scales share the same notes:

