



Pentatonic Scale in Five Positions

In this lesson we will learn how to use our "CAGED" system to discover the E pentatonic scale in five different positions. Before heading over to your fretboard, make sure that you can confidently answer the following questions:

1) What is the Pentatonic Scale?

Answer: Any five-note scale. Pentatonic commonly refers to a simplified major or minor scale. The major pentatonic omits the 4th and 7th scale degrees of the major scale, while the minor pentatonic omits the 2nd, and 6th scale degrees of the natural minor scale. Let's focus on the minor variety, which follows this series of intervals: 1, b3, W, W, b3, W and the notes E, G, A, B, D, E

2) What is the CAGED system?

Answer: A method of visualizing scale patterns across the fretboard. CAGED System shows a guitarist that a single chord, Emaj for example, can be played using the five types of open chords; C, A, G, E, and D. Finding these versions of the E chord reveals all five positions of the major and minor scales, and their reduced pentatonic versions.

E major Chord in five positions (CAGED)

	(C)	(A)	(G)	(E)	(D)
E	-4----	7---	12----	0----	4-
B	-5----	9---	9-----	0----	5-
G	-4----	9---	9-----	1----	4-
D	-6----	9---	9-----	2----	2-
A	-7----	7---	11----	2----	x-
E	-x----	x---	12----	0----	x-

C shape position of E minor pentatonic

E	-----	-----	-----	-----	5-7-
B	-----	-----	-----	-----	5-8-
G	-----	-----	-----	4-7-	-----
D	-----	-----	5-7-	-----	-----
A	-----	5-7-	-----	-----	-----
E	-0-3-5-7-	-----	-----	-----	-----



A shape position of E minor pentatonic

E		-----7-10-12-	
B		-----8-10-----	
G		-----7-9-----	
D		-----7-9-----	
A		-----7-10-----	
E		-7-10-----	

G shape position of E minor pentatonic

E		-----10-12-	
B		-----10-12-----	
G		-----9-12-----	
D		-----9-12-----	
A		-----10-12-----	
E		-12-----	

E shape position of E minor pentatonic and its octave

E		-----0-3-		-----12-15-	
B		-----0-3-----		-----12-15-----	
G		-----0-2-----		-----12-14-----	
D		-----0-2-----		-----12-14-----	
A		-----0-2-----		-----12-14-----	
E		-0-3-----		-12-15-----	

D shape position of E minor pentatonic

E		-----3-5-	
B		-----3-5-----	
G		-----2-4-----	
D		-----2-5-----	
A		-----2-5-----	
E		-0-3-5-----	



Now that you have learned the five positions of the minor Em pentatonic scale, continue on to the "Command the Fretboard - Cascading Pentatonics in 5 Positions" video.