

# CHAPTER 2

## Tools of the Blues

### MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE

A pentatonic scale is a five-note scale. "Penta" is a Greek word meaning "five." The major pentatonic scale is often used in blues, rock, country and country-flavored music. The Allman Brothers Band, among many others, have always made great use of the major pentatonic scale. Since the major pentatonic scale is used to play over major chords, it can be used to create blues bass lines as well as to solo over the blues.

The major pentatonic scale consists of the tonic or root (R, first note, the namesake of the scale), 2, 3, 5, and 6 of a major scale (page 9).

#### C MAJOR PENTATONIC

#### FINGERINGS FOR THE MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE

Here are three more ways to play the scale. The numbers inside the circles are left-hand fingerings. These can be moved to any key by placing the root on the desired note.

#1

#2

Two-Octave Fingering

○ = Root, or tonic, of the scale

→ = Shift the finger to a new position