

EXERCISE 44

Here is a slap groove that uses the G major pentatonic scale and some of the box shapes derived from it. The first and third bars are based on the first box shape, the second bar takes notes from the second box shape, and the fourth bar uses notes from the second and fifth box shapes.

G
♩ = 112

While the pentatonic scale is common in most musical styles, its relative simplicity and symmetry make it popular for slap bass parts.

The Minor Pentatonic Scale

The natural minor scale also has a pentatonic scale derived from it. Again, two notes are omitted, this time the second and sixth degrees - in the case of A minor pentatonic, the missing notes are B and F. You'll notice that these are the same notes that were omitted from the C major pentatonic. This is because the keys of C major and A minor are related - they contain the same notes. The A minor pentatonic scale contains the notes A, C, D, E, G and the octave A. Here is the A minor pentatonic scale in all its glory:

Again, a series of box shapes can be applied in order to assist with learning the scale. These are illustrated below.

Shape 1

Shape 2

Shape 3

Shape 4

Shape 5

EXERCISE 45

Here is an exercise that uses the A minor pentatonic scale and its box shapes. The fill in bar 4 is reminiscent of the well-known slap fill from the disco classic 'Car Wash'.

♩ = 106 Am