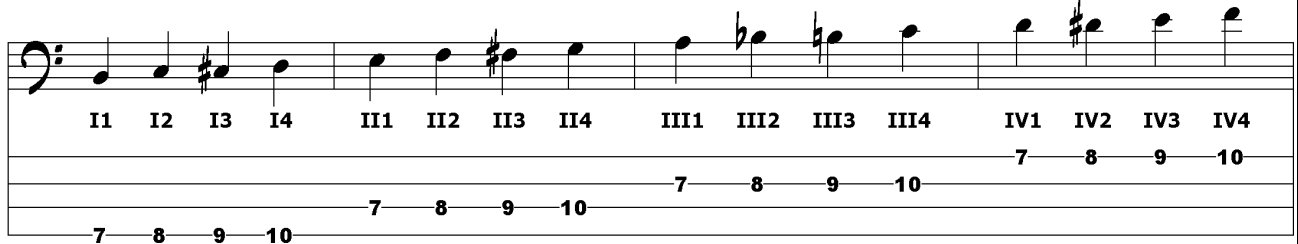


3.3. Starting points

Let's return to the C major scale for a minute. If we look at the scale from the first playable note in this position to the last one of the 4th string, 16 starting points for our licks emerge, in theory – if we choose not to start outside the 4FS.

Fig. 20

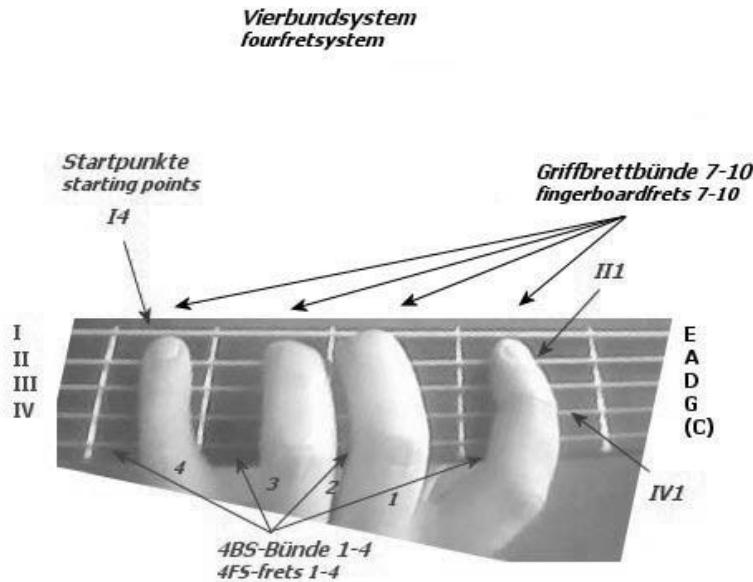


For the numbering of frets in the 4FS I resort to arabic numbers, the strings are numbered roman style, since the improvisation can start out on any string.

That means the A string could also become the 1st string (I) of our system?

Absolutely. Namely, when we jump to the 5th or 17th fret of the A string with the 4th finger, over Dm7. However, in doing so, we severely restrict our improvisational headroom upwards, if we are not prepared to shift position.

Fig. 21



This picture illustrates the difference between 4FS frets and actual fingerboard frets

Here's a small example to better comprehend the structure of the 4FS:

For the progression Dm7-G7 to Cma7, the actual frets 7-10 serve as starting points, on the 4 string bass.

Thus, the 7th fret on the fingerboard represents the 1st fret of the 4FS (Dm7-G7 to Cma7). The 8th fret becomes the second, the 9th the third and the 10th becomes the fourth.