

Master Ukulele Scales

With 9 Exercises



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Key: A minor

Tempo: All

Chords needed: None

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7hEbKjgNe4>

There are elements you should know that will compliment this video.

First is all five shapes of the pentatonic scale:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBURg0RYij4>

Next is how to transpose that scale shape, so you know all 5 pentatonic scale shapes in all 5 keys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ehtXuK9dY8>

That covers the minor keys, lastly if you can identify the relative majors and minors you know all 5 pentatonic shapes in all 12 major and all 12 minor keys. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DOvU2-TTTA>

Now this is where the problem comes in. Because we are always practicing the scale in order we have three problems. One, making the scale sound musical. Two, playing the notes in any order other than the order of the scale. Three, mixing the timing.

A minor pentatonic shape 1 review

A minor Pentatonic - Shape 1

The image shows a musical staff for a ukulele in 4/4 time. The title is "A minor Pentatonic - Shape 1". The staff contains a single melodic line with five notes: A2 (open), C3 (open), E3 (open), G3 (open), and A3 (open). Below the staff, the fretboard is shown with fingerings: 0 for the open strings, 2 for the second fret, and 3 for the third fret. The notes are: 0-2-0-2-0-3-0-3.

Exercise 1 - Using Hammer On and Pull Offs

Hammer on/Pull Off

The image shows a musical staff for a ukulele in 4/4 time. The title is "Hammer on/Pull Off". The staff contains a melodic line with eight notes: A2 (open), C3 (open), E3 (open), G3 (open), A3 (open), C4 (open), E4 (open), and G4 (open). Below the staff, the fretboard is shown with fingerings and techniques: 0-2-0-2-0-3-0-3 for the first four notes, and 3-0-3-0-2-0-2-0 for the last four notes. The notes are marked with "H" for hammer on and "P" for pull off.

Exercise 2 - Skipping a Note

Skip a Note Exercise

4 5

Exercise 3 - Skipping a String

Skip a String Exercise

6 7

Exercise 4 - Triplet Time

Triplet Exercise

8 9

Exercise 5 - Leaps up and runs down

Leaps up, Runs Down

10 11

Exercise 6 - Triplets and Straight Time

Mixing Straight and Swing Rhythm

12 13

Exercise 7 - Working Outside to In

Outside In

8 9

Exercise 8 - Working Inside to Out

10 Inside Out

11

0 2 3 0 0 2 3 0

Exercise 9 - 16th Notes

12 16th Note Action

13

0-2 0-2 0-3 0-3 3-0 3-0 2-0 2-0 0-2 0-2 0-2 0-2 0-3 0-3 0-3 0-3

And there you have it, nine different exercises dedicated to the same scale to help you really take it to the next level. If you use these exercises as a warm up you will not only improve your scale knowledge, but you will also improve your timing and your ability to improvise drastically because you will be able to approach and play all the notes in the scale with different timing and you will be able to arrive at any note from any note, giving your solos timing and variety.

These nine exercises are designed to help you with all three of those dilemmas, they are all designed with the first shape A minor pentatonic, but the ideas can be applied to all shapes, in fact once you have mastered these nine exercises you should recreate them with the other four shapes of the A minor pentatonic and later with the other pentatonic shapes in the other keys as well.

What time is it? It's shred'o'clock! Daylight savings you say? Well, it's half past shred.