

How to Connect The Pentatonic Scale Shapes



Tenthumbspro.com
For educational purposes only

Key: Am

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLzWzrRgxn4>

A good solo is articulate, in time and tells a story. The more notes you have, the more you can tell your story in detail, that is why when you use the entire fretboard you can really make something nice. To be able to do that you need to be able connect pentatonic shapes, so that is what we are going to look at today.

Technique 1 - The slide

Musical notation for Technique 1 - The slide. The notation is in 4/4 time and Am key. It shows a sequence of notes on a single string, with a slide from the 2nd fret to the 3rd fret. The notes are: 1 (quarter), sl. (quarter), 3 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 4 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 1 (quarter). The bridge from shape 1 to shape 2 is indicated by a slide from the 2nd fret to the 3rd fret. The notes for Shape 1 are: 0 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter). The notes for Shape 2 are: 2 (quarter), 5 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 4 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 5 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 5 (quarter).

1 sl. 3 2 3 4 3 2 1

sl. 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 3

2 5 2 4 3 5 3 5

- Here we have a basic lick that connects Shape 1 and Shape 2
- The bridge from shape on two shape two here is 2nd fret to the 3rd fret.
- In this specific example you use your middle finger to slide up the fretboard.
- The pentatonic scale only has whole steps (two frets) and a step and a half (3 frets) when you are looking to go from one shape to another it is easier to target the whole step.
- If you are looking to go from one step to another look for the whole steps.

Choose the finger you use to slide wisely

Musical notation for Index Finger Lead and Ring Finger Lead. The notation is in 4/4 time and Am key. It shows two examples of slides. The first example is labeled "Index Finger Lead" and shows a slide from the 2nd fret to the 3rd fret. The notes are: 5 (quarter), sl. (quarter), 6 (quarter), 5 (quarter), 4 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 1 (quarter). The second example is labeled "Ring Finger Lead" and shows a slide from the 2nd fret to the 3rd fret. The notes are: 0 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter).

5 sl. 6 5 4 3 2 1

sl. sl. 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 3

- In the first example we slide with your index finger, that sets up your hand position for double stop with your index finger on the 4th fret of the C string and your middle finger on the 5th fret of the E string.
- If you slid with your ring finger you'll see your middle finger is in a position to fret the 3rd fret of the E string.
- The finger you choose to slide with will determine how easy the next lick will be so choose wisely and experiment with all the different ideas.

Move up multiple shapes with the "Tap'n'slide" technique

- Here we start in shape 1 and move up to the A string of shape 2.
- By playing the 5th fret with your ring finger, then going back to the 3rd fret of the A string and sliding up to the 5th fret with your index finger you are now in position to use shape 3.
- After a little lick in shape 3 we slide up with your index finger on to the 7th fret and now you are in position to take advantage of the 4th position.
- You can use this technique on different strings and you can also slide a step and a half, not just a whole step.

Lateral Ideas

- You can play the entire pentatonic scale on one string, this is a great way for you to move up and down the fretboard as well as get through full shapes quickly.
- In the tab we have our target note, where would like to finish our phrase, on the 8th fret of the E string
- Setting a target note and improvising there is a great way to explore the fretboard and all the different ways you can move around the neck of your Ukulele.
- Here we target a note further down the fretboard and work our way to E string in the 2nd shape, from there we play laterally up the fretboard all the way to the 4th shape.

Call and Response

Call Note Response Note Call (D Note) Response (C N)

- Call and response could use its own lesson, for sure.
- The idea here is that the call is a phrase that finishes on a note that doesn't feel resolved, and the response is phrase that finishes on a note that does feel resolved.
- Basically, one phrase asks a music question and the other gives a musical answer.
- For the first phrase we will land on a D note, when played over an A minor the D note is the 4th interval and loves to resolve up a whole step to the E (5th interval of A minor) or down to a C note (the b3rd of A minor)
- Our second phrase ends on the C note, so we decided to resolve the idea down a whole step.
- As you can see an understanding of intervals and resolution is very important for call and response.
- With respect to playing all over the fretboard, you can just start the 2nd phrase where you want. We didn't connect the 2nd shape to the 4th shape but rather played a phrase in the 2nd shape, rested then played a phrase in the 4th shape. This is a great way to incorporate leaps into your soloing.

Double Stops

- High energy double stops are a great way to move down the fretboard.
- Here we can see that each is ascending, and the triplets give it a powerful level of energy.
- After this idea you can jump back into any shape you want, push more double stops further up the fretboard or just jump inot a shuffle rhythm.
- You can see that these ideas also benefit from a lateral understanding of the scale shapes as well.