

Jazz Guitar

SCALES, ARPEGGIOS & CHORDS

By Victor Saumarez

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INTRODUCTION

This book is a companion to the Fast Track ebook, and fills in some of the gaps that were deliberately left out. It is primarily aimed at those who wish for an introduction to scales and arpeggios as they relate to jazz. To cover every scale and playing position would be a momentous task, and not necessarily useful to players. Instead, I have presented the most fundamental and frequently used scales in classic jazz, which is all that is needed to understand where much of the jazz language is derived. Arpeggios are a very useful device for understanding how improvisation relates to harmony at the most basic level.

It is important to stress that although scales and arpeggios are used in jazz, they represent the alphabet, rather than the syntax. The music or language of jazz is created by creating melodic content out of scales and arpeggios, and this is achieved by listening and learning from the masters.

There is quite a lot of duplication of notes on the guitar but fortunately, scale and arpeggio patterns are moveable so it is easy to find and play them in other keys.

Victor Saumarez

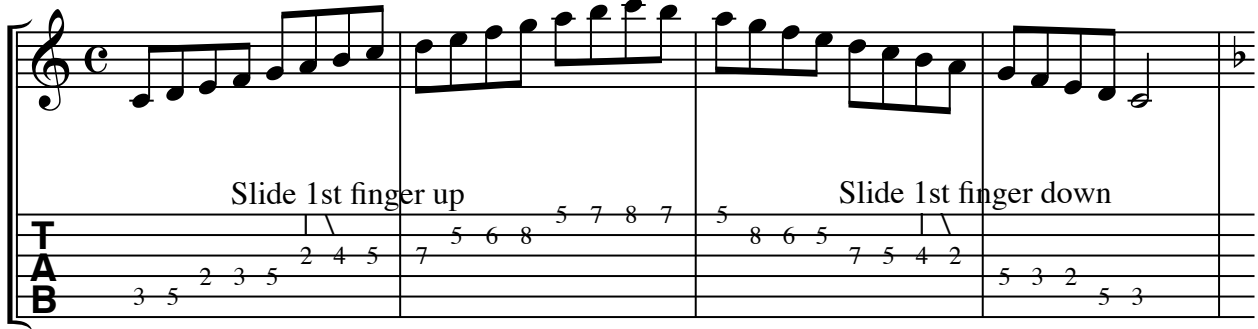
Major Scale

The mother of all scales, the major scale is probably the most important scale to learn first. Many of the other scales, or *modes* such as the dorian or mixolydian are derived directly from it. In fact, the *jazz minor* scale which is discussed in more detail is also closely related.

The most important thing, is to learn to recognise the major scale by its sound which is determined by the intervals between the notes. This comes with repetition and singing the notes as you play them. The next most important thing is to be able to find the notes in any position on the neck. You do not need to learn the major scale all over the neck, as that will be acquired over the course of your journey into jazz, but by learning the two most common positions, you'll see how they relate to arpeggios, and chords, and ultimately how they relate to improvisation.

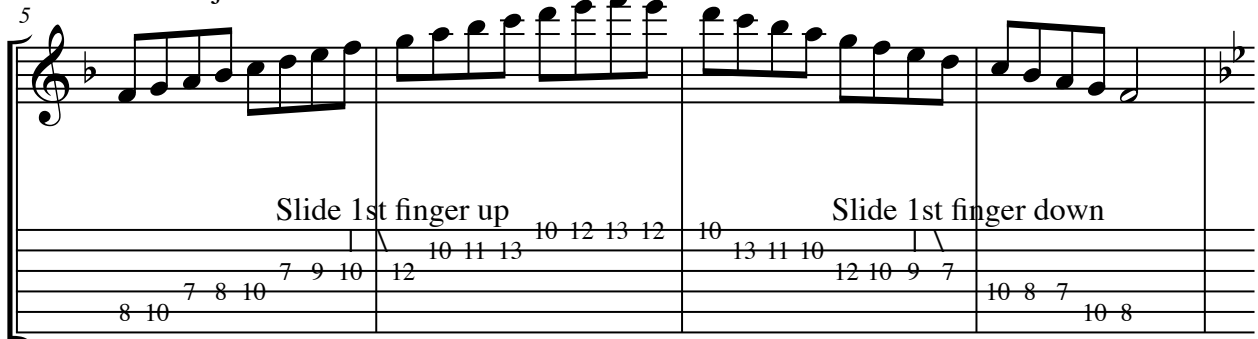
Play each scale slowly, using a metronome, and then create a backing track using the related major chord. For example, If you are learning the C major scale, create backing track using the Cmaj7 chord.

C Major Scale



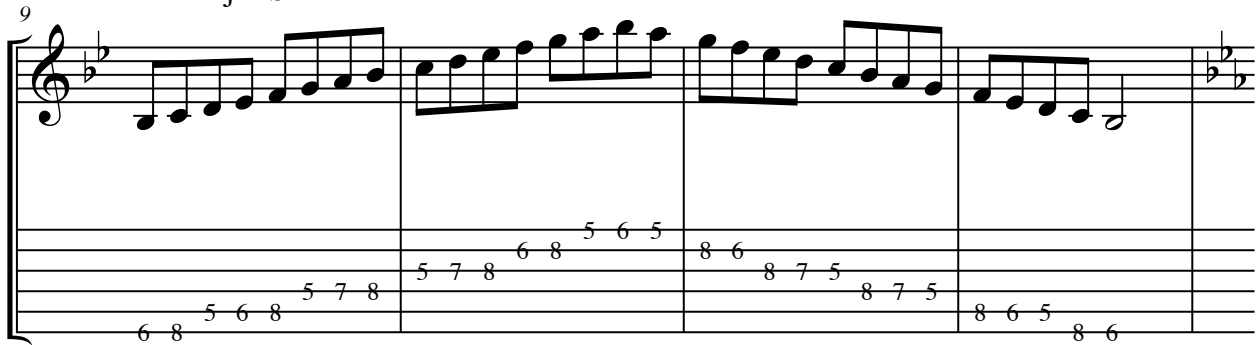
Musical notation for the C Major Scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The scale is played in four measures: ascending, descending, ascending, and descending. The bottom two staves are labeled 'T' (Treble) and 'B' (Bass). The bass staff contains the following fret numbers: 3 5, 2 3 5, 2 4 5, 7, 5 6 8, 5 7 8 7, 5, 8 6 5, 7 5 4 2, 5 3 2, 5 3.

F Major Scale



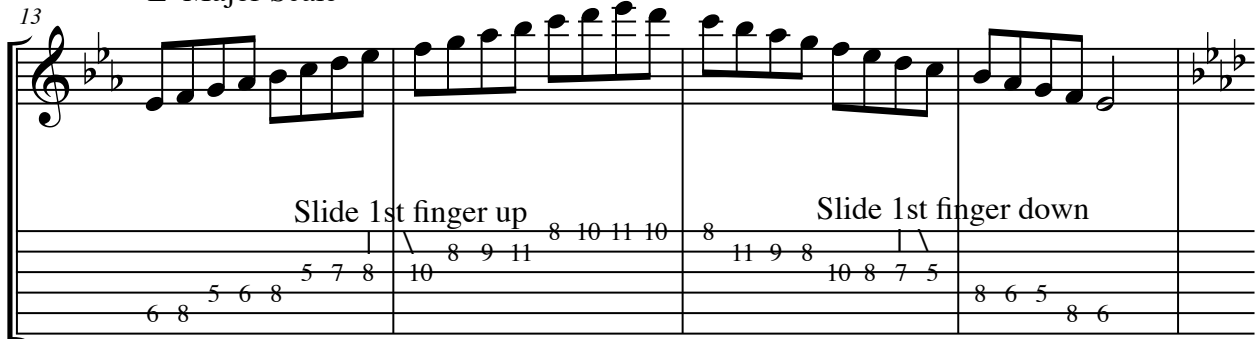
Musical notation for the F Major Scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a common time signature (C). The scale is played in four measures: ascending, descending, ascending, and descending. The bottom two staves are labeled 'T' (Treble) and 'B' (Bass). The bass staff contains the following fret numbers: 8 10, 7 8 10, 7 9 10, 12, 10 11 13, 10 12 13 12, 10, 13 11 10, 12 10 9 7, 10 8 7, 10 8.

Bb Major Scale



Musical notation for the Bb Major Scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a common time signature (C). The scale is played in four measures: ascending, descending, ascending, and descending. The bottom two staves are labeled 'T' (Treble) and 'B' (Bass). The bass staff contains the following fret numbers: 6 8, 5 6 8, 5 7 8, 5 7 8, 6 8, 5 6 5, 8 6, 8 7 5, 8 7 5, 8 6 5, 8 6.

Eb Major Scale



Musical notation for the Eb Major Scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a common time signature (C). The scale is played in four measures: ascending, descending, ascending, and descending. The bottom two staves are labeled 'T' (Treble) and 'B' (Bass). The bass staff contains the following fret numbers: 6 8, 5 6 8, 5 7 8, 10, 8 9 11, 8 10 11 10, 8, 11 9 8, 10 8 7 5, 8 6 5, 8 6.