

**Learning Fundamentals  
with Little Wing**

**Session 4**

**Exploring Pentatonics  
and Blues Scales**

**RandyAdamsMusic.com**

# Little Wing Session 4

## Pentatonics and Blues

Lets's use our song structure to get flowing with some pentatonic and blues sounds. I'm going to include some layouts that show these as pairs.

E minor/Gmajor, A minor/C major etc.

As a convenience we usually learn that these sounds share the same general fingerings.

However, I'd like to encourage you to not accept that the application of the sound is the same.

The intervallic structure of minor and major pentatonic scales are unique .

Minor Pentatonic = R, m3, P4, P5, m7

Major Pentatonic = R, M2, M3, P5, M6

Pentatonic scales are not bound by key. Not being bound by key pentatonic scales are more harmonically ambiguous. Melodically they can have some commonality in a wider range of harmonic situations than 7 note scales can.

Pentatonics can also be a sub structure for creating 6 note scales. A major pentatonic can become a 6 note major blues scale by adding a minor 3rd. A minor blues scale is a minor pentatonic with the addition of a flat 5. A major hexatonic is a major pentatonic with the addition of a perfect 4th.

Major Blues = R, M3, m3, M3, P5, M6

Minor Blues = R, m3, P4, b5, P5, m7

Major Hexatonic = R, M2, M3, P4, P5, M6

As you explore you'll find that pentatonics provide a melodically diverse shell for adding intervals and layering tones from related 7 note scales. Microtonal bends are also something you are going to want to get in tune with!

Your continued practice will give you what you need in it's own time.

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# Pentatonic Vertical Positions

## E-1/G MAJOR

~~03 02 02 02 03 03~~  
03 02 02 02 03 03

~~57 57 57 47 58 57~~  
57 57 57 47 58 57

~~10 12 10 12 9 12 9 12 10 12 10 12~~  
10 12 10 12 9 12 9 12 10 12 10 12

~~35 25 25 24 35 35~~  
35 25 25 24 35 35

~~7 10 7 10 7 9 7 9 8 10 7 10~~  
7 10 7 10 7 9 7 9 8 10 7 10

~~12 15 12 14 12 14 12 14 12 15 12 15~~  
12 15 12 14 12 14 12 14 12 15 12 15

## A-1/C MAJOR

~~03 03 02 02 13 03~~  
03 03 02 02 13 03

~~58 57 57 57 58 58~~  
58 57 57 57 58 58

~~10 12 10 12 10 12 9 12 10 13 10 12~~  
10 12 10 12 10 12 9 12 10 13 10 12

~~35 35 25 25 35 35~~  
35 35 25 25 35 35

~~8 10 7 10 7 10 7 9 8 10 8 10~~  
8 10 7 10 7 10 7 9 8 10 8 10

~~12 15 12 15 12 14 12 14 13 15 12 15~~  
12 15 12 15 12 14 12 14 13 15 12 15

## B-1/D MAJOR

~~2 5 2 5 2 4 2 4 3 5 2 5~~  
2 5 2 5 2 4 2 4 3 5 2 5

~~5 7 5 7 4 7 4 7 5 7 5 7~~  
5 7 5 7 4 7 4 7 5 7 5 7

~~7 10 7 9 7 9 7 9 7 10 7 10~~  
7 10 7 9 7 9 7 9 7 10 7 10

~~10 12 9 12 9 12 9 11 10 12 10 12~~  
10 12 9 12 9 12 9 11 10 12 10 12

~~12 14 12 14 12 14 11 14 12 15 12 14~~  
12 14 12 14 12 14 11 14 12 15 12 14

# Pentatonic Vertical Positions

~~D- / F major~~

The first staff contains the following fingerings: 1 3, 0 3, 0 3, 0 2, 1 3, 1 3, followed by a diagonal slash, then 3 5, 3 5, 3 5, 2 5, 3 6, 3 5.

The second staff contains: 5 8, 5 8, 5 7, 5 7, 6 8, 5 8, followed by a diagonal slash, then 8 10, 8 10, 7 10, 7 10, 8 10, 8 10.

The third staff contains: 10 13, 10 12, 10 12, 10 12, 10 13, 10 13, followed by a diagonal slash, then 13 15, 12 15, 12 15, 12 14, 13 15, 13 15.

A series of ten blank musical staves, each consisting of five lines, provided for practice.

# E minor/G Major Pentatonic

E G A B D

0 3 0 (1) 2 0 2 0 2 (3) 0 3 0 3

0 3 0 (1) 2 0 2 0 2-4 3 5 3 5-7

0 3 5-7 } 5 7 5 7-9 7 9 8 10 7 10-12

10 12 10 12-14 12 14 12 14 12 15 12 15

0 3 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 3

3 5 2 5 2 5 2 4 3 5 3 5

5 7 5 7 5 7 4 7 5 8 5 7

7 10 7 10 7 9 7 9 8 10 7 10

10 12 10 12 9 12 9 12 10 12 10 12

# A minor / C Major Pentatonic

A C D E G

0 3 } 0 3 0 (4) 2 0 2 1 3 0 3 - 5

3 5 3 5 - 7 5 7 5 7 5 8 5 8

3 5 3 5 - 7 5 7 5 7 - 9 8 10 8 10 - 12

8 10 - 12 } 10 12 10 12 - 14 12 14 13 15 12 15 - 17

★ 3 5 3 5 - 7 5 7 5 7 5 (6) 8 5 8 - 10

# B minor / D Major Pentatonic

B D E F# A

0 2 } 0 2 0 2 4 2 4 3 5 2 5 - 7

0 2 5 2 4 2 4 3 5 2 5 - 7

5 7 5 7 - 9 7 9 7 9 7 10 7 10

5 7 5 7 - 9 7 9 7 9 - 11 10 R 10 12 - 14

10 12 14 } 12 14 12 14 - 16 14 16 15 17 14 17 - 19

A 5 7 5 7 - 9 7 9 7 9 7 (8) 10 7 10 - R



# D minor / F Major Pentatonic

D F G A C

1 3 0 3 } 0 3 0 (1) 2 1 3 1 3-5

1 3-5 } 3 5 3 5-7 5 7 6 8 5 8-10

8 10 8 10-12 10 12 10 12 10 13 10 13

8 10 8 10-12 10 12 10 12-14 13 15 13 15-17

\* 8 10 8 10-12 10 12 10 12 10 (1) 13 10 13