Guitar Scales Dictionary in TAB & Notation

Please find all of the guitar scale fingering charts for all of the types of scales covered in this guide:

- Major Scale Shape
- Natural Minor Scale Shape
- Melodic Minor Scale Shape (ascending)
- Melodic Minor Scale Shape (descending)
- Harmonic Minor Scale Shape
- Major Pentatonic Scale Shape
- Minor Pentatonic Scale Shape
- Blues Scale Shape
The major (or Ionian) scale is the most popular scale. See the diagram in the top right to see the frets/fingering for the major scale. All major scales use this shape - on some of the scale fingering charts there is a number with an → to indicate the fret.
Major Scale

F

F#

Gb

G

Ab

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Natural Minor Scale

The natural minor is also known as the ‘Aeolian’ scale.

See the diagram in the top right to see the frets/fingering for the natural minor scale. All natural minor scales use this shape - on some of the scale fingering charts there is a number with an ➔ to indicate the fret.

Natural Minor Scale Shape

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Natural Minor Scale

```
\[\text{f} \quad \text{f}# \quad \text{g} \quad \text{g}# \quad \text{ab}\]
```

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Harmonic Minor Scale

In the harmonic minor scale we always raise the 7th note by a semitone (half a step) both ascending and descending.

See the diagram in the top right to see the frets/fingering for the harmonic minor scale. All harmonic minor scales use this shape - on some of the scale fingering charts there is a number with an → to indicate the fret.
Harmonic Minor Scale

C#

D

D#

E♭

E

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Melodic Minor Scale

The melodic minor scale is very similar to the natural minor scale, apart from when you ascend you raise the 6th and 7th notes by a semitone (half a step), and then when you descend you lower them back to their original pitch (lower the 6th and 7th by a semitone (half a step)) back to the natural minor.

See the diagrams in the top right to see the frets/fingering for the melodic minor scale. There is one shape ascending and another descending. All melodic minor scales use these shapes - on some of the scale fingering charts there is a number with an ➔ to indicate the fret.

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**Melodic Minor Scale Shape**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ascending</th>
<th>descending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 1 1</td>
<td>1 1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 2 2</td>
<td>2 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 3 4 4 4</td>
<td>3 3 3 4 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Melodic Minor Scale
Melodic Minor Scale

C

C#
Melodic Minor Scale

D

D#
Melodic Minor Scale
Melodic Minor Scale

G

G#

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Melodic Minor Scale
The major pentatonic scale is made up of 5 notes and is the same as the major scale but leaving out the 4th and 7th notes.

See the diagram in the top right to see the frets/fingering for the major pentatonic scale. All major pentatonic scales use this shape - on some of the scale fingering charts there is a number with an → to indicate the fret.
Major Pentatonic Scale

C#

Db

D

Eb

E
Major Pentatonic Scale

**F**

**F#**

**Gb**

**G**

**Ab**
Minor Pentatonic Scale

The minor pentatonic scale is made up of 5 notes and is the same as the natural minor scale but leaving out the 2nd and 6th notes.

See the diagram in the top right to see the frets/fingering for the minor pentatonic scale. All minor pentatonic scales use this shape - on some of the scale fingering charts there is a number with an → to indicate the fret.
Minor Pentatonic Scale
Minor Pentatonic Scale

F

F#

Gb

G

Ab
The blues scale is made up of 6 notes. It includes the same notes as the minor pentatonic scale but with an extra lowered 5th (lowered by a semitone (half a step)).

See the diagram in the top right to see the frets/fingering for the blues scale. All blues scales use this shape - on some of the scale fingering charts there is a number with an → to indicate the fret.
Blues Scale