Major Scale

<-------- eight notes = one octave --->

"doh" "ray" "mi" "fah" "so" "la" "ti" "doh"

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 <note #

whole whole half whole whole whole half <steps between

1 2 3 5 6 <notes in pentatonic scale

Minor Scale V - - - - relative minor starts on sixth note of major*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 <note #

whole half whole whole half whole whole <steps between

1 3 4 5 7 <notes in pentatonic scale

*example: A minor is the relative minor of C major C major: C D E F G A B C

A minor: A B C D E F G

The Pentatonic Scale is a 5 note subset of the full scale. The five notes tend to avoid any dissonance with the chords of the associated full scale, which is why it is so commonly used when playing lead improvisations.

Major Pentatonic

1 2 3 4 5

1 - 2 - 3 - 5 – 6 <notes from the full major scale

1 1 1½ 1 <whole steps between

Minor Pentatonic

1 2 3 4 5

1 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 7 <notes from the full minor scale

1½ 1 1 1½ <whole steps between