

Basic Lead Pattern Extensions

By using the basic fifth and sixth string lead patterns, the guitarist is able to create solos in at least in two fret board ranges. Using octave patterns (twelve fret positions higher) available with the electric guitar, it is easy to gain mobility to a third area.

To change from the sixth string root basic pattern to the same key's fifth string pattern, you must shift seven positions. For example, the basic "Am" blues sixth string pattern is played in fifth position and the fifth string pattern is at the twelfth fret. Changing from the basic fifth string pattern to a higher sixth pattern requires a movement of five frets.

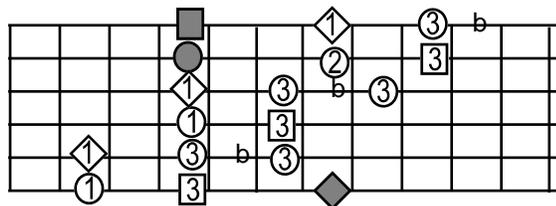
Another way to gain fretboard mobility is to use higher and lower extensions of the basic patterns. The extensions can be used to change position more gradually than the leaps described above. Mixing the extensions with the basic patterns allows even more options.

Because of the change in structure of the pattern, the extensions also create different tonalities and options for additional riffs such as slides.

The extensions that follow are most popular and take advantage of the blue note as the point to change positions. The fingerings are "suggested" based on the direction of the position change.

Suggested "ascending" fingering for extending the basic sixth string root lead pattern. The gray notes show the relative position of the basic pattern.

Start with the sixth string and practice the sequence of tones as they get higher.

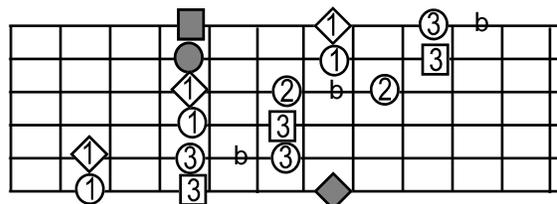


The third finger is used to change positions by sliding up a whole step through the blue note. You can either slide over or through it.

The "major" root note is on the fifth string. Beginning with the fifth string root, the five tones plus the octave (next diamond) form a basic pentatonic major scale. This relationship of tones is one of the most often used lead patterns in contemporary guitar music.

Suggested fingering for the descending extensions. The positional change uses a downward slide through the blue note.

Start with the first string and practice the sequence of tones as they get lower.



Although these fingerings make sense for continuing sequences, you can combine different variations based on usage or preference. If you change positions with a slide, the blue note path offers an excellent choice.