

E MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE — POSITION 1

Level 2

Blues

Position 1 of the E minor pentatonic is the first scale almost every blues and rock guitarist learns, for a simple reason: played open (frets 0 to 3), it has only two notes per string, one fingering to memorise, and its root sits on the low E string. It removes from the natural minor scale the two notes hardest to pitch accurately by ear (the half-steps), which is why you can improvise over it almost anywhere with no glaring wrong note. The diagram below highlights the E notes in colour.

TIPS

Go up and down slowly with alternate picking (one downstroke, one upstroke) from the start: that's the habit to build now.
One finger per fret, each finger staying close to its fret even when it isn't playing.
Name the root (E) out loud every time you play it - it's what resolves a phrase.

FRETBOARD POSITION

Pentatonique Mi mineur — pos. 1

