The major pentatonic scale has five notes before it begins to repeat itself. The notes of this scale are a subset of the major scale. The pentatonic scale is the first, second, third, fifth and sixth scale degrees of the major scale. As an example the C major pentatonic scale notes are C, D, E, G and A. Then the scale begins to repeat itself with the octave note C.

The major pentatonic scale played over major chords will produce a very sweet sounding country style melodic line. It is also associated with many of the traditional Asian folk melodies. It can be an excellent foundation and launching pad for improvisational guitar solos.

Below and on the next pages are some of those scales as they can be associated with the various major chord forms. The chord shape will be on the left and then the pentatonic scale that lays over the chord. The scales, where possible will be presented in one octave bites and then in combination. Learn the one octave forms and then the combined form. Try to think of and relate the chord shape to the scale as you learn it.

A major (notes A, C# and E) Ε В G 1 D Α Ε A Major Pentatonic Scale, one octave Ε В G D 3 Α A major barred at 5th fret 5th fret Ε В G D 5th fret A Major Pentatonic Scale, one octave

Ε

В

G

D

Α Ε





