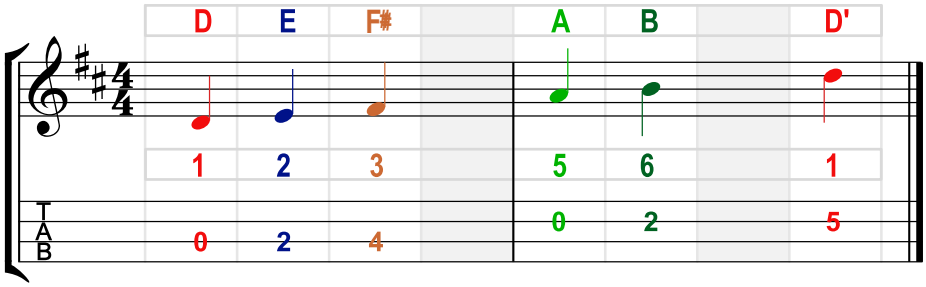
Theory and Application

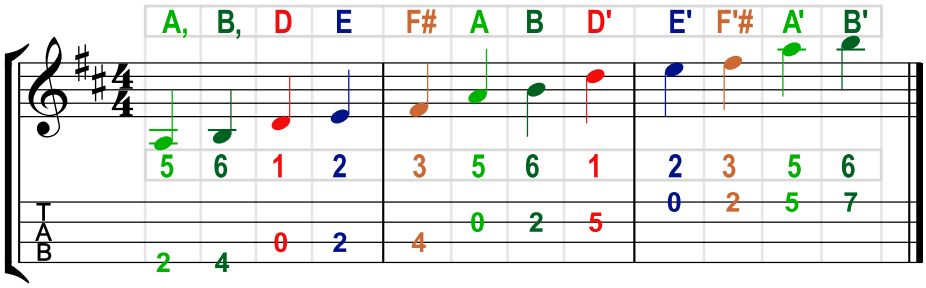
Pentatonic Scales: D Major

Like all pentatonic scales we're looking at, the D major pentatonic scale does not use the 4th or 7th steps of the major scale.



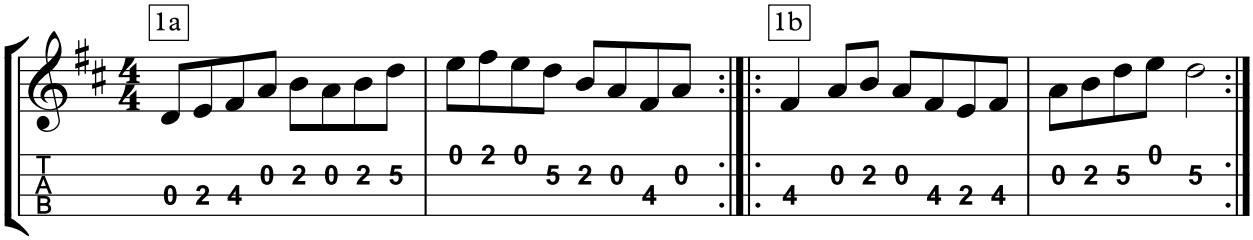
The Expanded Scale

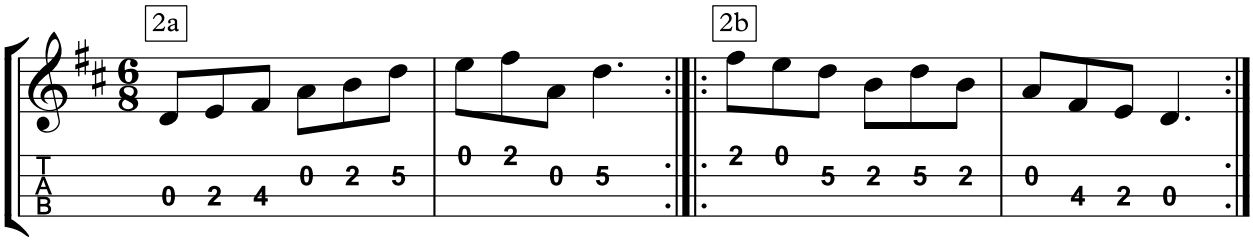
Like all scales we can expand the D major pentatonic scale to more than one octave. There are now three **A**s in the expanded scale.



D Major Pentatonic Exercises

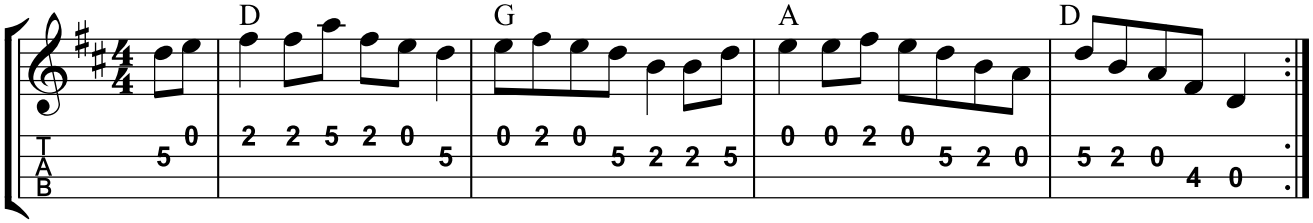
Once you start practising the pentatonic scale it doesn't take long for you to get into the way of, and your brain and fingers can click into the pentatonic "mode." Here are some exercises to help the process:

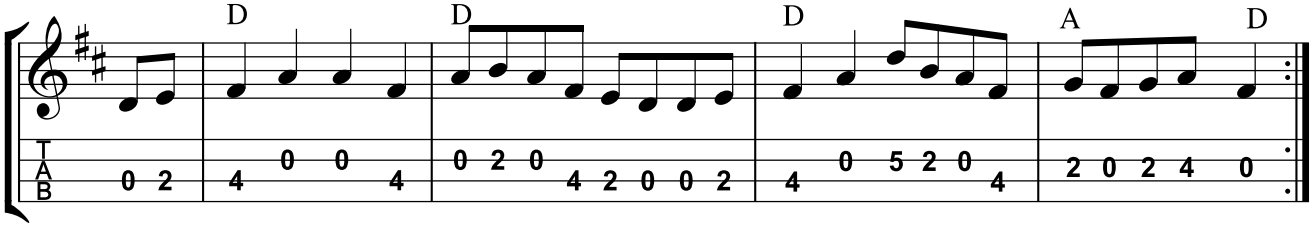




There are quite a few tunes which use pentatonic scales, and if you know your scales, they're easier to learn. Here's a good one:

The Eighth of January (traditional)





© Nigel Gatherer 2021