

Theory and Application



Patterns in Music: Scale Patterns 2

Ex.4

Exercise 4 uses the same pattern as Ex.3, but we're now using it to descend the scale.

Ex.5

We could also make the four notes descend instead of ascend:



Ex.6

Or make the descending pattern go up the scale instead of down:

You should now be beginning to understand what a scale pattern is. They are very good exercises for increasing your technical proficiency, but they also increase your vocabulary of patterns, and when you recognise such patterns within tunes, your mind clicks in and instead of thinking about strings of individual notes, you see groups of recognisable patterns. Your capacity for learning tunes improves also, and if you're interested in Bluegrass, such patterns can help you to play solos.

So far the exercises have dealt with four-note groupings. Let's try similar exercises with three-note groupings, as in jigs (see Ex.7-10).

Ex.7

Ex.8

Ex.9

Ex.10