



## A Minor Scale for Beginners: Lesson 2

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Remember, the minor scale is formed by using this formula:

1st note, whole step, 2nd note, half step, 3rd note, whole step, 4th note, whole step, 5th note, half step, 6th note, whole step, 7th note, whole step, 8th note (which is one octave higher than the first note).

In the first lesson we put it all on one string to see it in a linear pattern: all on one string. We did this in order to more easily see the intervals of the minor scale on the guitar.

A - whole step - B - half step - C - whole step - D - whole step - E - half step - F - whole step - G - whole step - A

This is similar to how the notes of a scale are arranged on a piano: in a straight line from the left to the right. But on the guitar we can play these same notes in different physical locations. So, we take the scale degrees 4, 5, and 6 and move them one string over and five frets back and they are conveniently on the same frets as the scale degrees 1, 2, and 3. We do this twice with the 7 and octave, one string over and five frets back, and we arrive at a patterns that makes it much easier to play in one position using open strings and without having to move our hand all the way up and down the neck!

**A Minor Scale Pattern**  
"Open Position"

← 1st Fret

WS = Whole Step  
HS = Half Step

1 WS 2 HS 3 WS 4 WS 5 HS 6 WS 7 WS 1

The diagram illustrates the A minor scale pattern in open position on a guitar fretboard. The fretboard is shown with six strings and five frets. The notes are indicated by red circles with numbers: 1 (open), 4 (1st fret), 7 (2nd fret) on the top string; 2 (1st fret), 5 (2nd fret), 1 (3rd fret) on the second string; 3 (1st fret), 6 (2nd fret) on the third string; and 3 (1st fret), 6 (2nd fret) on the fourth string. The fifth and sixth strings are open. A legend defines WS as Whole Step and HS as Half Step. A bracket on the right side of the diagram groups the intervals between notes: 1 to 2 is WS, 2 to 3 is HS, 3 to 4 is WS, 4 to 5 is WS, 5 to 6 is HS, 6 to 7 is WS, and 7 to 1 is WS. An arrow points to the 1st fret.



# A Minor Scale

## Linear Pattern

1

T  
A  
B

0 2 3 5 7 8 10 12

## "Open Position"

2

3

0 2 3 0 2 3 0 2 | 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0

## A Minor Scale Formula

① WS ② HS ③ WS ④ WS ⑤ HS ⑥ WS ⑦ WS ①

## A Minor Scale Notes

A B C D E F G A