



C Minor Exercises: Lesson 1

By Christopher Schlegel

Now that we know what the C minor scale is, we will practice it in order to make it useful.

Scale practice can be tedious. But without doing it, it can be very difficult to build the skills necessary to play many other things on the guitar; for example leads or solos. What we are aiming for here is a systematic way of approaching scale practice.

First we pick a specific scale to work on. In this case the C minor scale. Next we pick a location to practice the scale. In this case, we are going to use the first position of the C minor scale in the first octave. Next we decide on how to approach the scale. In this case we are going to play each note 4 times evenly, resulting in a pattern of sixteenth notes. We will play the scale up and then down.

Go slowly, go evenly. A metronome is a great tool for this purpose. Don't rush or try to go faster than you can while maintaining an even spacing of the notes. You don't want to play sloppy or unevenly, because then you are literally teaching your hands and fingers to play scales sloppy and unevenly! Be patient and gradually build speed. Only after you can play the notes slowly and evenly should you attempt to build speed.

C Minor Scale Exercise

Open Position

1

T
A
B

3-3-3-3 0-0-0-0 1-1-1-1 3-3-3-3

2

1-1-1-1 3-3-3-3 1-1-1-1 0-0-0-0

3-3-3-3 1-1-1-1 0-0-0-0 3-3-3-3

Pattern 2

3

3-3-3-3 5-5-5-5 1-1-1-1 3-3-3-3

5-5-5-5 1-1-1-1 3-3-3-3 5-5-5-5

4

5-5-5-5 3-3-3-3 1-1-1-1 5-5-5-5

3-3-3-3 1-1-1-1 5-5-5-5 3-3-3-3

C Minor Exercises: Lesson 1

By Christopher Schlegel

Pattern 1

9

10

3-3-3-3-5-5-5-5-6-6-6-6 3-3-3-3 5-5-5-5-6-6-6-6 3-3-3-3-5-5-5-5

11

12

5-5-5-5-3-3-3-3 6-6-6-6-5-5-5-5 3-3-3-3 6-6-6-6-5-5-5-5-3-3-3-3