

How To Read The Major, 7th & Basic Minor Scale Charts

This is intended to give pedal steel guitar players some examples of where to find some harmony scales on the neck of their guitar.

To play any of the following harmony scales, you need to have a 10 string pedal steel guitar in standard E9 tuning, and only need 3 foot pedals.

No knee levers are necessary or used in any of these examples.

Even if you have knee levers on your guitar, for the examples used, please make believe they don't exist. It will be easy enough to add them back into the mix at a later point.

The scales themselves would not be considered "licks" or "riffs" and admittedly, would be difficult to find many songs that use these scales in their exact order, but don't underestimate their value. Just about every song ever written incorporates some or all of the variations based on the music theory these scales are associated with. After playing the scale as written, do it in reverse, starting at the end and going backwards. You can play both notes of the harmony scale together at the same time, or as a variation, try an alternating string picking pattern. This is probably better understood when watching and listening to an instructor.

If pedals says "o" - no pedals are engaged

If pedals says "a" - you only engage the "a pedal"

If pedals says "ab" - you engage both the "a & b pedals" together

If pedals says "b" - you engage only the "b pedal"

If pedals says "bc" - you engage both the "b & c pedals" together

"A pedal" is the one that raises your 5th & 10th strings a whole tone / B - C#

"B pedal" is the one that raises your 3rd & 6th strings a half tone / G# - A

"C pedal" raises your 4th & 5th string a whole tone each / E & B - F# & C#

As a reference, I've indicated the names of each note you'll be playing on the various strings. This may be helpful as an overview of music theory, but you don't need to know that information to actually play any of the material.

Additionally, you can change which string to use, as long as you exchange it for another string that has the same name and note value.

For example, if it says to use the 4th & 6th strings, you can play the 3rd & 4th strings together instead, because both the 3rd & 6th strings are G#, just an octave apart, and both are affected identically by the same pedal.

For the same reason, if it says 3rd & 5th string, you can substitute the 6th string for the 3rd string, and the scale will still work and sound fine. If this seems too complex, feel free to ignore it, and maybe revisit it at another time.