

The C Minor Scale Pattern across All Four Strings

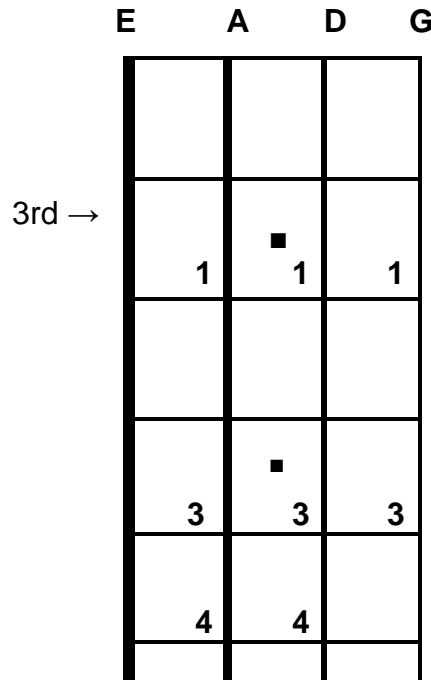


Fig: 1 shows a section of a bass guitar fretboard from the third fret to the sixth. The diagram above illustrates the name of the strings, the degrees of the scale and the positioning of fingers. Read each string downwards, starting with the A and ending on the G, notice a pattern of; 1-3-4, 1-3-4, and 1-3, learn this. You should be as confident in your understanding of this minor scale pattern as you are with the major scale pattern.

Next, we will learn how to play this scale in thirds.

The table below has three columns. The first column has a list of questions from 1 to 8. The second shows the workings, and specific answers are listed in the third. So, for your information the answer displayed at number 1 is: Fingers used are: 2 and 1, and the notes found are; C and D. Look at the table below and study it.

| Question | Workings | Answer (fingers and notes) |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. What is first the movement? | 1, 3, 4 | 1 – 4; C and D# |
| 2. What is the second movement? | 3, 4, 1 | 3 – 1; D and F |
| 3. What is the third movement? | 4, 1, 3 | 4 – 3; D# and G |
| 4. What is the fourth movement? | 1, 3, 4 | 1 – 4; F and G# |
| 5. What is the fifth movement? | 3, 4, 1 | 3 – 1; G and A# |
| 6. What is the sixth movement? | 4, 1, 3 | 4 – 3; G# and C |
| 7. What is the seventh movement? | 1, 3, 4 | 1 – 4; A# and D |
| 8. What is the eighth movement? | 2 end. | 2, C |

Okay, knowing only the answer does not prove your understanding. In a maths exam for example, you are required to show your workings of a sum and not just the answer, the same principle is applied here. Demonstrate your understanding with workings by playing the first three notes of the C Minor scale; **C**, D, **D#** notice that **C** and **D#** are in bold text. This indicates that C and D# are notes 1 and 4, represented by the pattern on the fretboard; hence identifying the 1st and the 3rd notes of the C minor scale. This is called a **movement of a third**.