

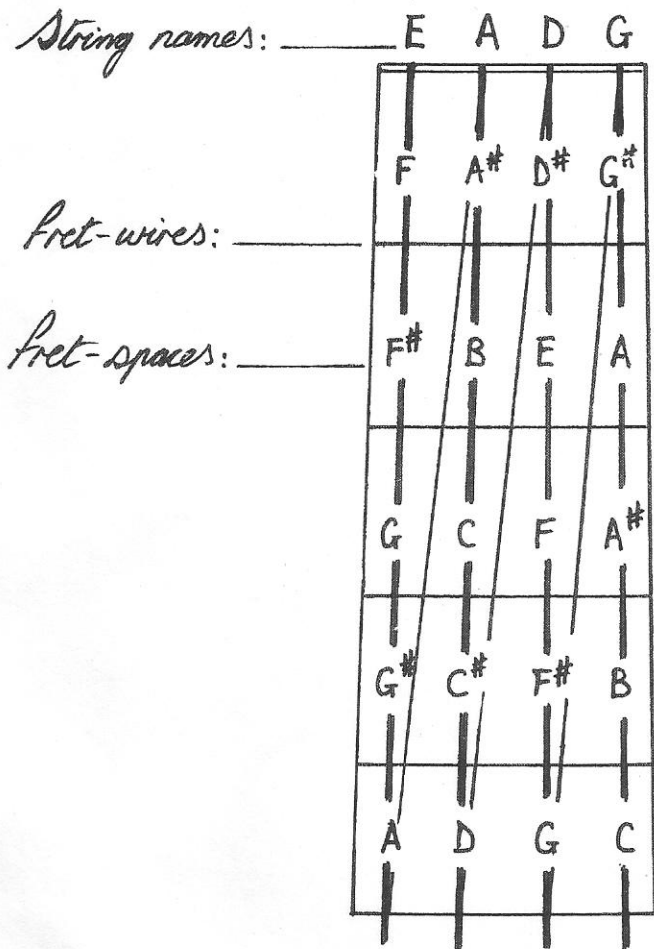
THE CHROMATIC SCALE AND FINGER EXERCISE

It is a good idea to learn the chromatic scale before learning any other scale.

The reason for this is simple, you need to get to know every note that exists on the first 5 frets on every string.

You will also learn where each finger will 'go' and the correct finger placing technique.

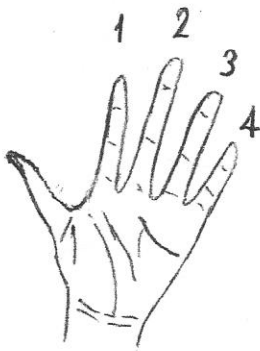
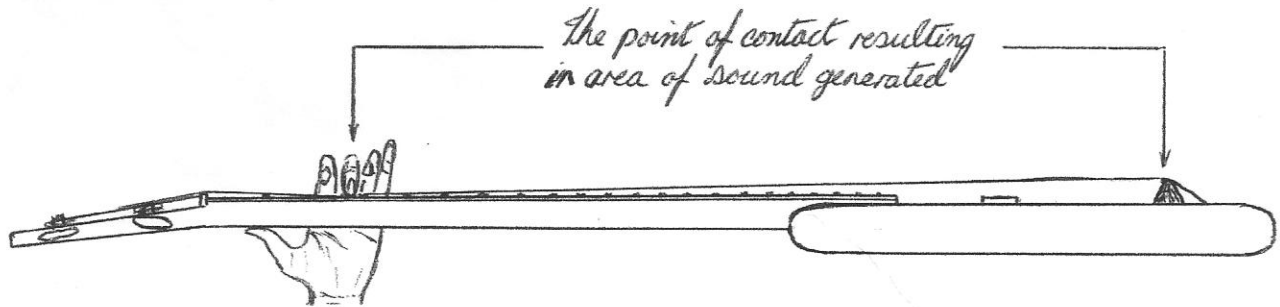
Below is a diagram of the first five frets of the bass guitar fret-board and the notes of each fret on each string.



This is a must and is very important to learn. You must be as familiar with this as you are with the alphabet; Memorise it.

This is the chromatic scale diagram. The diagonal lines show the notes which are the same and where they are repeated.

The bass guitar from the players point of view.

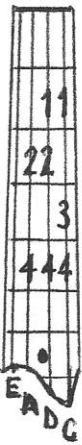


The diagram of the hand on the left, shows how the fingers of the left hand are numbered. Notice that the thumb is not numbered.

The major scale pattern according to finger placements is as follows:-

The C major scale is:-

A string = 2, 4
D string = 1, 2, 4
G string = 1, 3, 4



The diagram on the left shows the positions of where the fingers go according to the C major scale format.

THE MINOR SCALE

Every major scale has a minor scale side to it, which means that there must be two different patterns, or variations.

Let's change our first note of C, to A, and, make this our first note.

The 'A' minor scale is :

E string = 1, 3, 4
 A string = 1, 3, 4
 D string = 1, 3.



The diagram on the left now shows the positions of where the fingers go according to the 'A' minor scale format.

The variation between the major and minor scale is to do with the 3rd and 6th and 7th notes being 'flattened' in pitch. So to accommodate this and, to make it easier to play this with the left-hand in one position, the finger pattern needed to be changed.

Below is the note comparison of the two scales: C major & minor and, A major & minor: Now practice and compare these for the next 10 or 15 minutes:-

C major =	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
C minor =	C	D	E ^b	F	G	A ^b	B ^b
A major =	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
A minor =	A	B	C ^b	D	E	F ^b	G ^b
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
DEGREES =	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII

NOTE:

It is very important for me to stress at this stage, that it is vital to study, practice and therefore get to know, the major scale format and pattern in the first instance, then the minor scale format and pattern.