

Major Scales & Related Chords

By Dr. Keith Cooper, guitar professor

The major scale patterns presented include proper fingerings underneath the tablature and are in C major. All five major scale patterns are taught at multiple universities as they cover the fretboard, provide more territory in a single key, and are movable - meaning the patterns can be transposed anywhere on the fretboard leading to an application of all 12 primary keys. When practicing the scale fingerings, it is critical to make connections with the relevant chord shapes, taking note of proper fingering positions and related chord inversions.

2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 | 2 4 1 2 4

C
x 1 3 3 3 3fr.

C/G
x x 1 3 3 3 1 3fr.

1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 | 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 | 3 1 2 4 1 3 4

C
1 1 1 3 4 5fr.

C/E
x 1 1 3 4 5fr.

C

8fr.

C

10fr.

C/E

10fr.

C

12fr.

Major Triads on the Top-Three Strings

C

C

3fr.

C

8fr.

C

12fr.