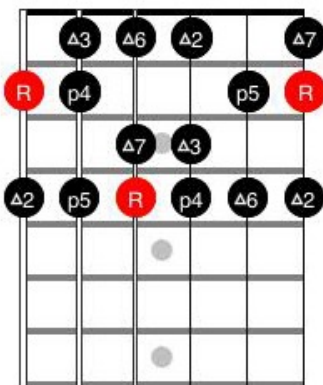


Practising Major Scales

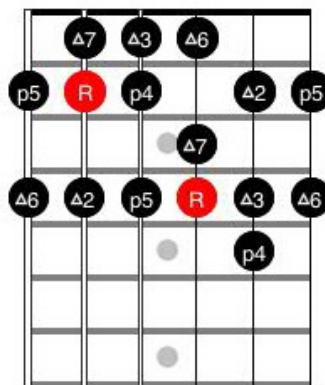
Major scales form the basis of most western music and to be technically and musically proficient, it is a good idea to know how to play them in as many different positions as you can. I personally think you should be able to play **any** major scale in all positions on the guitar's fingerboard.

Here are seven shapes. I personally don't think of them as *position 1, 2, 3 and 4* etc, I think of them purely from their root notes. The labelling was devised for this article.

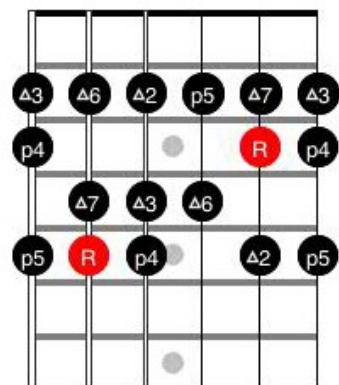
position 1



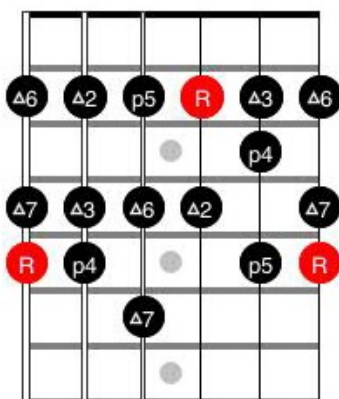
position 2



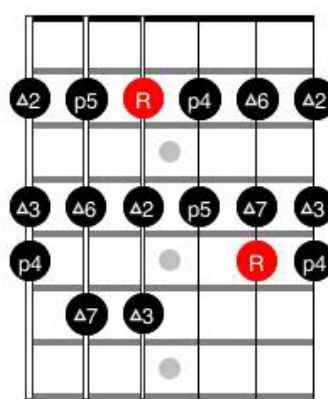
position 3



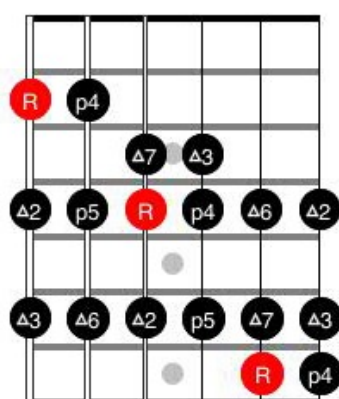
position 4



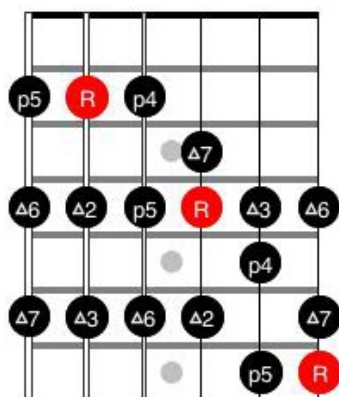
position 5



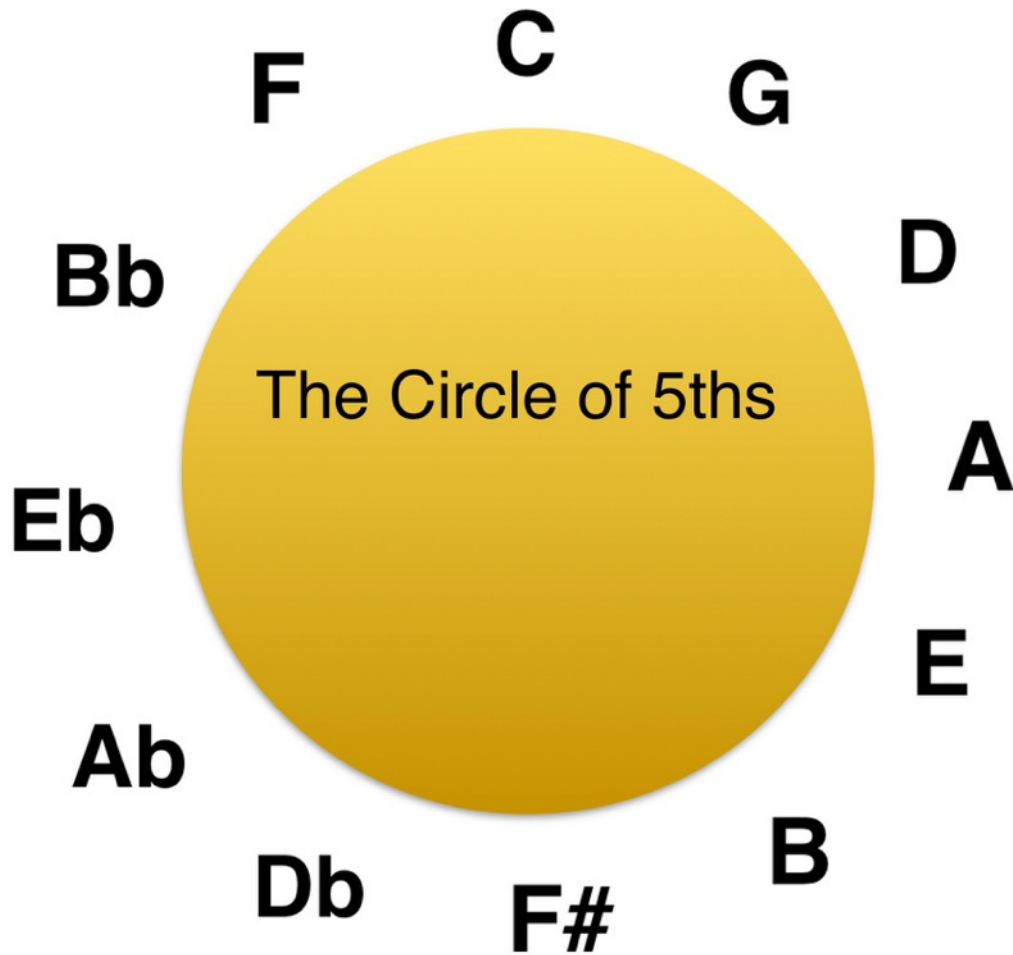
position 6



position 7



A very useful and challenging exercise is to play through **all** the major scales around the keys of the *circle of 5ths* without moving from the area from where you begin. It should be possible (and a goal) to do this in virtually every position on the guitar.



For example starting on the C major scale using *position 1* with the root note on the 8th fret on the E string.

C major scale

position 1

Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The scale is written on a single staff. The bottom staff shows the fretboard with fingerings for the strings: Treble (T), A, and Bass (B). The fingerings are: 8 10, 7 8 10, 7 9 10, 7 9 10, 8 10, 7 8 10, 8 7, 10 8, 10 9 7, 10, 9 7, 10 8 7, 10 8 7.

G major could then be played using shape 3 in the same position.

5 G major scale position 3

D major could be played with *position 4*

9 D major scale position 4

A major could be played using *position 5*.

13 A major scale position 5 etc.

Continue with E major, B major, F# major, Db major etc until you get back to C major again. It is possible to play all these scales without moving out of that particular area of the fingerboard. Do

this as a continuous exercise in quavers (1/8th notes). I like to do this with a metronome. Try the same playing C major in position 4 with the root note on the 8th fret of the E string played with the little finger and continue with G, D, A, E etc in the same position.

Run this exercise in as many different positions as you can, after a few weeks I guarantee you'll notice a big difference in your playing.

Darren Dutson Bromley