

Picking the Chromatic scale in C6 tuning.

PEBBLES found along the shores of the wiki wacki web.

Pickin' on one string.

Walking your fingers up the C major chromatic scale, or C string (3rd string)

Note: A whole step = 2 frets A half step = 1 fret

Pluck the open C string.

I - or root of your scale.

Move one whole step up to 2nd fret (**D**), hold.

II - of your scale.

Move up another whole step to 4th fret (**E**), hold.

III - of your scale.

Move up a half step to the 5th fret (**F**), hold

IV - of your scale.

Move up a whole step to the 7th fret (**G**), hold.

V - of your scale.

Move up one whole step to the 9th fret (**A**), hold.

VI - of your scale.

Move up a whole step to the 11th fret (**B**), hold.

VII - of your scale.

Move up a half step to the 12th fret (**C**), hold.

I - We're back to the **I**, but an octave higher.

This same: whole step, whole step, half step, whole step, whole step, whole step, half step pattern works on the **E** string (2), **G** string (4) and the **A** string (1) to play their scales.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	I
FULL STEP		FULL STEP	HALF STEP	FULL STEP	FULL STEP	FULL STEP	HALF STEP
= TWO HALF STEPS							
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#	E
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#	B

Did you notice that the **C** scale is the only one that doesn't have any b's or #'s?

Which scale has the most?

Note: In all of the scales, there are no #'s or b's between the **E** and **F**, and also between the **B** and the **C**. That is why we only step a half step between and not a whole step. Again, this is true in all the scales, remember those half steps.

< Looking at the column on the left, or Dia. A below. You can see that to pick out the **C** Chromatic scale on our fretboard, the most obvious way would be to just walk our way up that **C** string as described or shown.

The bad part of this method, is that's a lot of work and extra movement when you're trying to play or sing a song.

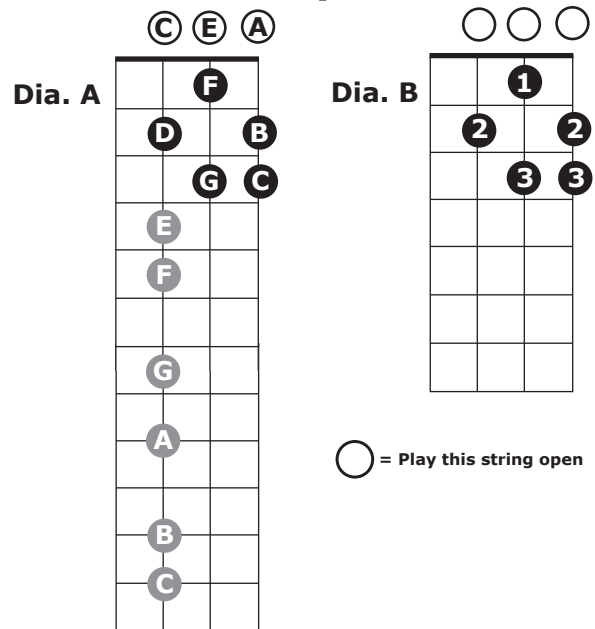
Here's a simpler method and it's a good finger exercise to boot. This is called a chord box.

Look at Dia. A below, we can find all the notes of the **C** scale within a simple pattern or box within 3 or 4 frets. This makes it easier to move from one note to another.

The numbers used in Dia. B on the right, show you which finger to use, 2=second finger, 3=third finger. Learn this pattern, we use this to play all the chromatic scales.

Let's play the C chromatic major scale. Now, can you do it in reverse?

Key of C

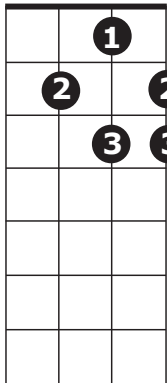


Now if you move that pattern up a whole step (two frets) to where the **D** is on the **C** string. This is the **D** scale or pattern.

You can play this with a barre across the 2nd fret, acting like the nut on the top of our fretboard, or play the chord box as shown in the numbered diagram.

Move it up two more frets you found the **E** scale, a half step more you have **F** and so-on and so-on.

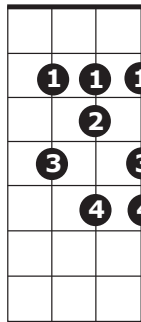
○ = Play this string open



Key of C:

- I = C
- II = D
- III = E
- IV = F
- V = G
- VI = A
- VII = B
- I = C higher octave

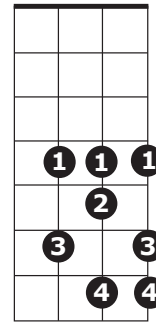
2



Key of D:

- I = D
- II = E
- III = F#
- IV = G
- V = A
- VI = B
- VII = C#
- I = D higher octave

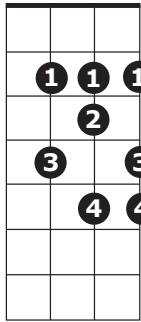
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Key of E:

- I = E
- II = F#
- III = G#
- IV = A
- V = B
- VI = C#
- VII = D#
- I = E higher octave

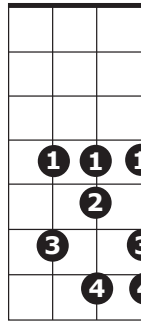
5



Key of F:

- I = F
- II = G
- III = A
- IV = Bb
- V = C
- VI = D
- VII = E
- I = F higher octave

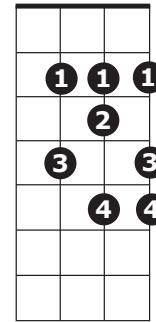
7



Key of G:

- I = G
- II = A
- III = B
- IV = C
- V = D
- VI = E
- VII = F#
- I = G higher octave

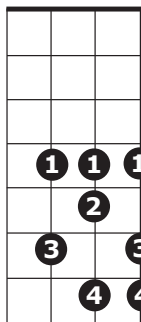
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Key of A:

- I = A
- II = B
- III = C#
- IV = D
- V = E
- VI = F#
- VII = G#
- I = A higher octave

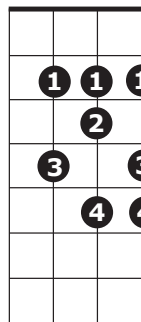
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Key of B:

- I = B
- II = C#
- III = D#
- IV = E
- V = F#
- VI = G#
- VII = A#
- I = B higher octave

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Key of C:

- I = C
- II = D
- III = E
- IV = F
- V = G
- VI = A
- VII = B
- I = C higher octave