

# How to Solo to Any Song

## Baritone Tutorial



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Key: Any

Harmony: Any

BPM: Any

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnYMVbRhwa8>

Step 1: Find out the key of the song

- The key functions as your road map
- There are ways to use both your ears and the chords to find the key
- The easiest way however is to google "what key is \_\_\_\_\_" and they have got it right for me 99.999999% of the the time

Step 2: Find the scale (Major keys first)

- The major key root is on the G string
- If the song is in C major for example you need to find the C note on the G string
- The C note is on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret
- Once there you construct the scale.
- You play the root note and two frets up.
- The tabs are the exact same on the D string
- For the B and E strings it is one more fret

C MAJOR Pentatonic Scale - Shape 1

Root Note

Musical notation for the C Major Pentatonic Scale - Shape 1. The notation is written on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time. The scale is shown in two measures. The first measure starts with a root note C on the 5th fret of the G string, followed by D (7th fret), E (5th fret), F (7th fret), and G (5th fret). The second measure starts with a root note C on the 4th fret of the G string, followed by D (8th fret), E (5th fret), F (8th fret), and G (5th fret). Below the staff, the fret numbers for the strings are indicated: G string (5, 7, 5, 7), D string (5, 8, 5, 8), B string (5, 7, 5, 7), and E string (5, 8, 5, 8).

What if the root is the G?

- Then you just use the open string as the root and do the exact same formula

G MAJOR pentatonic scale - shape 1

Root Note

Musical notation for the G Major Pentatonic Scale - Shape 1. The notation is written on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time. The scale is shown in two measures. The first measure starts with a root note G on the open G string, followed by A (2nd fret), B (0th fret), C (2nd fret), and D (0th fret). The second measure starts with a root note G on the 2nd fret of the G string, followed by A (3rd fret), B (0th fret), C (3rd fret), and D (0th fret). Below the staff, the fret numbers for the strings are indicated: G string (0, 2, 0, 2), D string (0, 3, 0, 3), B string (0, 2, 0, 2), and E string (0, 3, 0, 3).

## Step 2: Minor keys

- If the song is a minor key it is the same approach, but a different string.
- For the minor keys we use the E string as the root, but it is the same shape.
- Find the root on the E string, play that note and then skip up 3 frets
- The tabs are the same for the B string
- For the G and D strings you will use the same starting point but you will only skip 2 frets.

B Minor Pentatonic

### Minor Root

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The scale consists of five notes: B7, D8, E8, F#9, and G9. Below the staff is a guitar tab with fret numbers: 7, 10, 7, 10, 7, 9, 7, 9.

- Here the root is a B note so we found the B note on the E string, the 7<sup>th</sup> fret
- From there we built the exact same shape.

### Why the pentatonic scale?

- The pentatonic scale is major or minor scale, minus two notes. The two notes that are removed are the most dissonant, making the minor scale musical bumper bowling, it is really hard to hit a bad note, the notes basically work over all the chords in all the key all the time, so it is very easy to make cool licks and solos on the fly.

### Can I use the full major and minor scales?

- Yes, you just need to be more careful with the removed intervals
- The major scale removes the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>
- The minor scale removes the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup>, which are more forgiving
- Improvising with the full minor scale is easier than the full major scale

### How do I make the scale sound like a solo?

- The word you want to study and practice here is "phrasing"
- The easiest way is to know how to end it, when you are ready to finish your solo you should land on the root note over the root chord
- So, let's say the song is in G, finish your solo on a G note over the G chord
- Minor keys are the same, if it is B minor finish your solo on a B note over the B chord.