

## LESSON 4

# OPEN STRING PENTATONICS

Hi again. Here's something you may find interesting. and that is the concept of employing open strings with scales, in this case the E minor pentatonic.

It's a simple yet effective idea where all you're doing is playing as many notes as possible within the scale that exist as open strings. The most obvious candidates for the minor pentatonic are E and A.

### E minor pentatonic notes = E G A B D E

Notice how every note of this scale can be played as an open string.

fingering      1      2      1      2      1      1      2      1      2      1

The 1st example shows a one octave scale ascending then descending. It's best to memorise the ascending pattern first and then the descending pattern .

If you're a pick player try alternating between pick and 2nd finger [m]. For non pick players the best option is to alternate between thumb [p] and index [i] or thumb [p] and 2nd finger [m].

Try to keep the fretted notes ringing on for as long as possible to create that harp like legato effect.

The 2nd example combines both the ascending and descending pattern together in one run.

This approach can regularly be heard in country, and to a lesser extent classical and folk music. It gives a new dimension to a familiar series of notes so why not incorporate it in music you like.