

GUITAR & KEYBOARD SCALES POSTER

NOTE

MAJOR

MINOR

MAJOR		RELATIVE MINOR		BLUES	
KEY	SCALE	KEY	SCALE	KEY	SCALE
C	C D E F G A B C	A	A B C D E F G A	A	A B C D E F G A
C#	C# D# E F# G# A# B C#	B	B C# D# E F# G# A# B	Bb	Bb Cb Db Eb Fb Gb Ab Bb
D	D E F G A B C D	Bb	Bb Cb Db Eb Fb Gb Ab Bb	B	B C# D# E F# G# A# B
D#	D# E# F# G# A# B# C#	C	C D E F G A B C	C	C D E F G A B C
E	E F G A B C D E	C#	C# D# E F# G# A# B# C#	C#	C# D# E F# G# A# B# C#
F	F G A B C D E F	D	D E F G A B C D	D	D E F G A B C D
F#	F# G# A# B# C# D#	D#	D# E# F# G# A# B# C#	D#	D# E# F# G# A# B# C#
G	G A B C D E F G	E	E F G A B C D E	E	E F G A B C D E
A	A B C D E F G A	F	F G A B C D E F	F	F G A B C D E F
A#	A# B# C# D# E# F# G#	F#	F# G# A# B# C# D#	F#	F# G# A# B# C# D#
B	B C D E F G A B	G	G A B C D E F G	G	G A B C D E F G
B#	B# C# D# E# F# G# A#	A	A B C D E F G A	A	A B C D E F G A



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1.

How to Read the Scale Diagrams

If you're unsure of the meaning of any of the numbers and symbols on the *Guitar & Keyboard Scales Poster*, refer to the example below.

Note that each scale type for each key has either 5 or 7 guitar scale diagrams (depending on the scale type) but only one keyboard scale diagram. That's because the interval arrangement of strings on a guitar is irregular, unlike the interval arrangement on a piano, which repeats exactly, from octave to octave. On a guitar, the fingering patterns for the same scale type keep changing from octave to octave as you proceed up the fingerboard. So, for any given scale type, several diagrams are needed to show all the fingering patterns at different locations along the fingerboard.

On the guitar scale diagrams, a "bulls-eye" symbol (circle with a dot in the middle) represents the *tonic note* of the scale. Most of the guitar scale diagrams show a few notes below (leading up to) the lowest tonic note, plus a few notes above (higher than) the highest tonic note.

This "bulls-eye" symbol is the tonic note of the scale. In this example, it's the note "A" (open A-string). Each "bulls-eye" symbol in all 7 of these diagrams is the note "A". The black dots are the other notes of the scale - in this example, the notes B, C#, D, E, F#, and G#.

Name of this scale

This scale is comprised of these notes

Scale degree of each note in this scale

This scale is comprised of these keyboard notes (red dots)

Guitar fret number: 10th fret in this diagram

o = Play this string open

A MAJOR

A 1 B 2 C# 3 D 4 E 5 F# 6 G# 7 A 8/1

o = Play this string open

10

2.

About the *Guitar & Keyboard Scales Poster*

The *Guitar & Keyboard Scales Poster* shows five popular types of scales in all major and minor keys at a glance for both guitar and keyboard.

2.1

Related Scales in the Same Row

Major scales appear in the same row with related minor scales. For example, C Major and C Major Pentatonic scales appear in a yellowish-brown color band. In the same row, to the right, are three related scales in a blue band: A Minor, A Minor Pentatonic, and A Blues. Color-coding by key on the *Guitar & Keyboard Scales Poster* is the same as it is on the [*Complete Guitar Chord Poster*](#) and the [*Complete Keyboard Chord Poster*](#).

Because all the scales in any given row are musically related, the scale degrees and scale fingering associated with each scale type within the same row are similar.

2.2

5 Popular Scale Types

The *Guitar & Keyboard Scales Poster* displays the following five different popular scale types for both guitar and keyboard:

- Major
- Major Pentatonic
- Minor
- Minor Pentatonic
- Blues

On the left side of the poster, the major scales begin with scales in the key of C Major and continue alphabetically down the chart from row to row (C, C#, D, etc.).

On the right side of the poster, the minor and blues scales begin with scales in the key of A Minor (the relative minor of C Major) and continue alphabetically down the chart (A, B \flat , B, etc.).

2.3

Guitar-Keyboard Crossover Learning

You can use the *Guitar & Keyboard Scales Poster* to learn to play the same scales on the keyboard that you play on the guitar, or vice-versa, without having to look up scales elsewhere. Guitar and keyboard scales of the same type are located above/below each other on the poster. Keyboard scale diagrams are located just above the guitar chord diagrams for the same scale type in each key.

For more information on scales and how they work, see Chapters 4 and 5 of *How Music REALLY Works!*, 2nd Edition, available at www.howmusicreallyworks.com.

2.4

Transposing a Scale

Key-specific color bands make it visually easy to transpose a scale from one key to another.

For example, suppose you are starting with the scale D Minor Pentatonic:

D, F, G, A, C, D

And suppose you would like to transpose this scale to the equivalent scale in a different key, such as the scale G Minor Pentatonic. Here's how:

- You will find the D Minor Pentatonic scale located in the red horizontal bar towards the right side of the poster:

D, F, G, A, C, D

- You will find the G Minor Pentatonic scale located in the grey horizontal bar towards the right side of the poster (near the bottom):

G, B \flat , C, D, F, G

- Wherever any scale appears in the red bar, just play whichever scale appears in the *same column* in the grey bar.

Both of these scales, D Minor Pentatonic and G Minor Pentatonic, are located in the same column, the “Minor Pentatonic” column.

2.5 Related Charts

The *Guitar & Keyboard Scales Poster* is related to two other reference charts: the *Complete Guitar Chord Poster* and its twin, the *Complete Keyboard Chord Poster*. All three charts match each other in color and layout. All are available at www.roedyblack.com.