

Scales and scale patterns

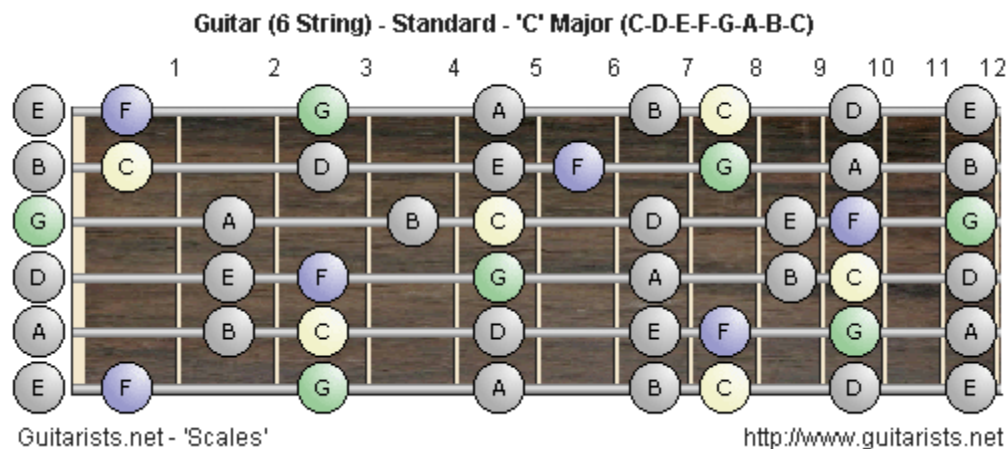
In this chart, the top row is what's known as the 'number' system indicators, so you can see that in the key of C, the 'root' or 1 is C; 2 is D, 3 is E, etc. C is the only scale that doesn't include flats (b) or sharps (#).

I "Root"	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	I "Root"
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
C# (Db)	D# (Eb)	E# (F)	F# (Gb)	G# (Ab)	A# (Bb)	B# (C)	C# (Db)
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
Eb	F	G	Ab	Bb	C	D	Eb
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#	E
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F
F# (Gb)	G# (Ab)	A# (Bb)	B (Cb)	C# (Db)	D# (Eb)	E# (F)	F# (Gb)
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
Ab	Bb	C	Db	Eb	F	G	Ab
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A
Bb	C	D	Eb	F	G	A	Bb
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#	B

Work from left to right on one row at a time until you can play each succession without moving your hand or changing chord position. Each one-octave scale should be able to be played in one 4-5 fret position. There is almost always (depending on your guitar) one position where the two-octave scale can be played without moving your hand. Example: This occurs in C starting with the 6th string on the 8th fret. It also occurs in G starting on the 6th string in the 3rd fret. It occurs one place in every key somewhere on the neck

After you have these down in one position each, move to a new position and learn them again. The scale patterns will change as you move your position to play a scale in a new chordal / hand position. Eventually you will see that you are using the same patterns for different chords at different places. See the two-octave scale example above.

Here's an example of a series of scale notes in C. Find a pattern of notes beginning and ending with C, the root note for the C chord, and the key of C.



**Thanks to 'Guitarists.net' website for the diagram above. Their website is a fantastic resource for us guitarists, go have a look.*

This diagram illustrates all the notes for the C Major scale, and where they are found on the fingerboard, from open to the 12th fret. This also occurs in every key, but the notes will vary depending upon key and type scale (i.e. Major, Minor, etc.). Work to find these different scales and practice them with precision, timing and tone in mind. Change the patterns to challenge yourself to be dexterous while limiting the tendency to be pattern oriented.