

Basic Music Theory

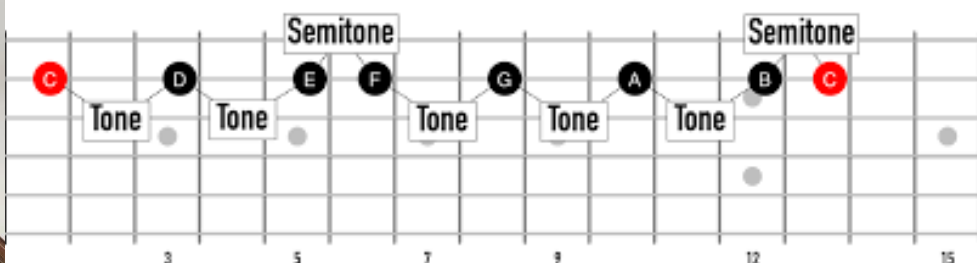
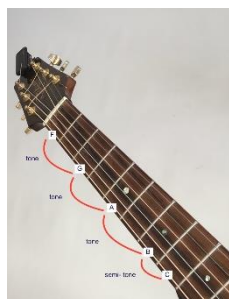
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The basic of music theory you ABSOLUTELY NEED TO KNOW, in a very simplified way. With what is written here, you can play in any major/minor keys, improvise over and identify the key to any song, and know how to do any major/minor chord you want, with just 6 things.

1. First, the concept of tone and semi tones (full step and half step), and what are sharps/flats. Basically, know all the 14 notes and how they are related.

I.e.: B and C are separated by a half step, C and D by a full step.



Know this and what are the notes of the open Strings, you will always know what note you are playing on the guitar.

2. learn all the basic chord shapes, major, minor and dominant seven. It is only a few shapes, (A, C, D, E, G - The minors and 7ths are only slight variations).

Get these 2 things together, you know How to play in ANY fret position of the guitar and change keys easily. If you take an E chord and slide up 2 frets, you have F#.

3. Learn the C major scale. It is easy - C, D, E, F, G, A, B. The C oaths 1rs or root, the D is the 2nd and so on. It is the basis of ALL scales. Also, use the same concept - one full tone up, you have the D Major scale. Just move your hand up and down on the guitar and you are changing keys.

Learn now that the major/minor chord is basically the 1st, 3rd and 5th note of the Major/minor scale played together.

4. Learn how the major and Minor scales relate - newsflash, they are the SAME, in different positions. The major scale has the same notes and intervals of the Minor scale of the 6th note - e.g.: Am and C major have the same scale, as the same in G and Em. Look at this in the fretboard and becomes VERY CLEAR. NOW, in 4 basic things, you know all the major and all the Minor chords and scales.

5. Learn the major harmonic fields - it is just the chords on each note of the scale (that you already know). Basically, the 4th and 5th are major, the 7th is diminished, the rest is minor. So, C major is:

C, Dm, Em, F, G, Am, Bdim.

Use what you learned before - you can get to any harmonic fields now. The D is the same intervals, a full step above (D, Em, F#m, G, A, Bm, C#dim). The Am has the same notes as the C, beginning in Am (Am, Bdim, C, Dm, Em, F, G). Easy, no?

6. Learn the pentatonic scale. The same concepts apply here, so with one you can get all the others. I would learn the Em, the most used one. Then, you can slide it up and down.

