

Ten Minute Tech

C Major scale- other ideas/approaches

C Major (on one string)

Playing a scale on one string helps us both visualise the steps and intervals of the scale as well as learn our way around the fretboard better.

iii viii xiv

1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2

T 3/4
A 4
B 3 5 7 8 10 12 14 15

C Major (in thirds)

One of the great things about the guitar is that unlike saxophones, trumpets, flutes and the human voice for example, we can play more than one note at the same time. The scale below is built by playing the C major scale, but with a note that is 3 notes above it (from the same scale!) at the same time.

In music we include the notes that we start and finish on when counting intervals. So we start with C and count C, D, E, - E is the third note above C so we play C and E together. The next step in the scale is D so we count D, E, F - and play D and F together. This goes on for the whole scale and sounds very cool.

This approach can be used for other scales too (eg the Minor scale).

4

T
A
B 2 3 5 7 8 9 10 12 14 15

Bare in mind, that on the guitar, there are often multiple ways of doing the same thing, as seen by the various different ways we have looked at the C major scale (there are even more ways to play the same scale, but we will keep it relatively simple for now!).

Below is another way of playing the C Major scale in Thirds.

Experiment and find which ways work best for you.

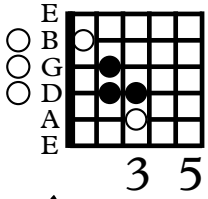
7

T
A
B

2	3	5	2	4	5	3	5
3	5	7	3	5	7	4	5

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The C Major scale



C Major (with open strings)

C Major (3 notes per string)

This shape is useful as it can be moved around the fretboard to play different major scales- (e.g. if you move the whole pattern up 2 frets you have D major)

