

## UNIT THREE - PENTATONIC SCALES

The *Major* Pentatonic Scale is a simplified version of the Major Scale. You take out the 4th and 7th scale degrees.

Thus, **the Major Pentatonic Scale is the 1 2 3 5 and 6 of the Major Scale.**

The *Minor* Pentatonic Scale is a simplified version of the Minor Scale. You take out the 2nd and 6th scale degrees.

Thus, **the Minor Pentatonic Scale is the 1 3 4 5 and 7 of the Minor Scale.**

Because you are simplifying the scale by taking some notes out, the pentatonic scales tend to be more generic sounding.

\*This can be a *negative*, because they won't give you a wide variety of sound choices (Remember the "Vanilla Ice Cream" analogy).

\*This can also be a *positive*, because they can be used in a wider variety of situations than other, more specific scales.

Out of the 7 modes you learned in Unit One, three of them are "Major-sounding" and three of them are "Minor-sounding".

**The Major Pentatonic scale can be found in ALL THREE "Major-sounding" modes.**

Since the Major Pentatonic scale has the 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6th scale degrees, the only difference between the three major-sounding modes will be the *4th and/or 7th scale degrees*.

Likewise, **the Minor Pentatonic scale can be found in ALL THREE "Minor-sounding" modes.**

Since the Minor Pentatonic scale has the 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7th scale degrees, the only difference between the three minor-sounding modes will be the *2nd and/or 6th scale degrees*.

If you can understand, even on a conceptual level, what is written on this page, then you will be ready for how we can use this knowledge in future lessons. Practice or review those pentatonic scales!