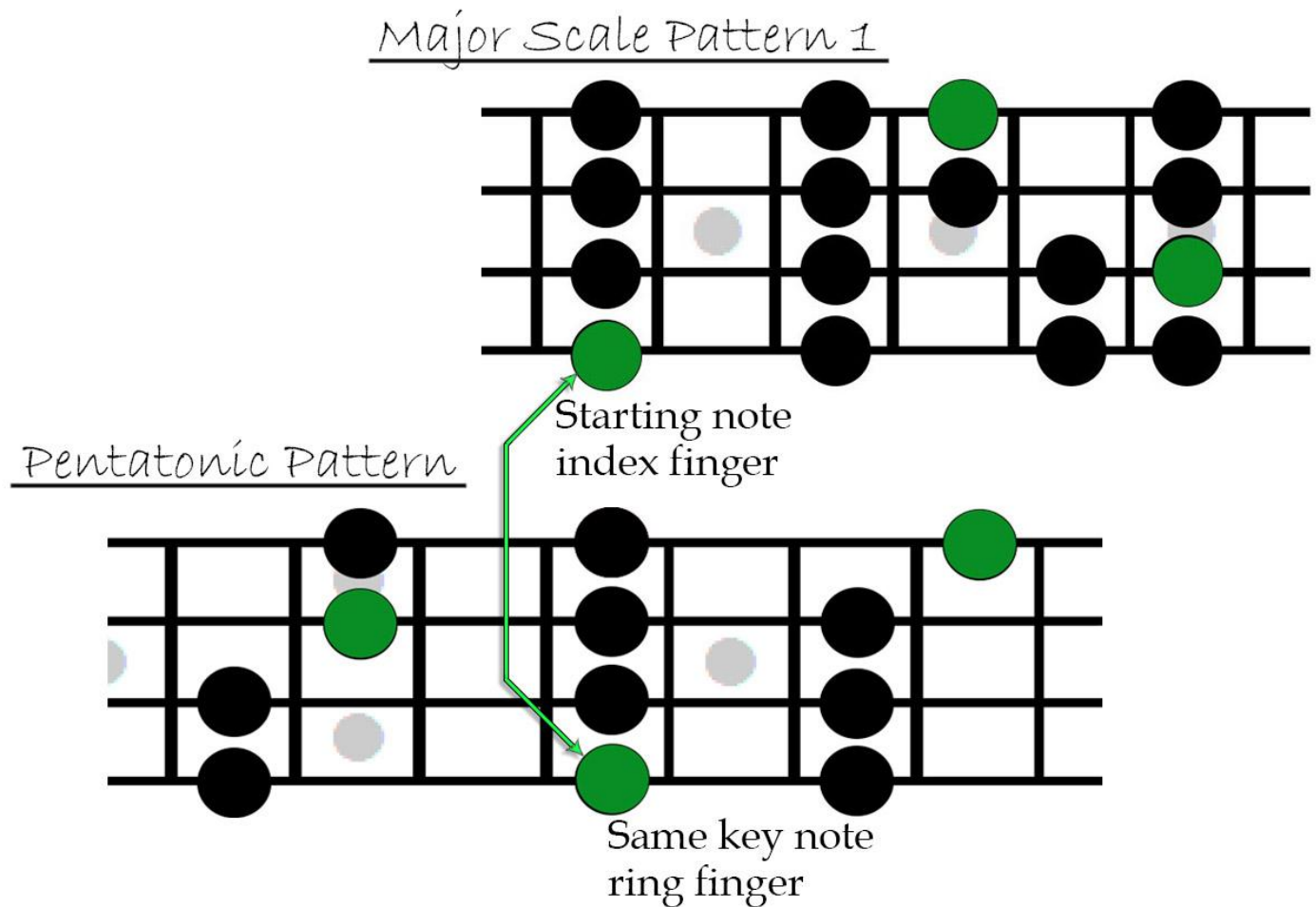


CONNECTING SCALES

PENTATONIC SCALE & MAJOR SCALE PATTERN I



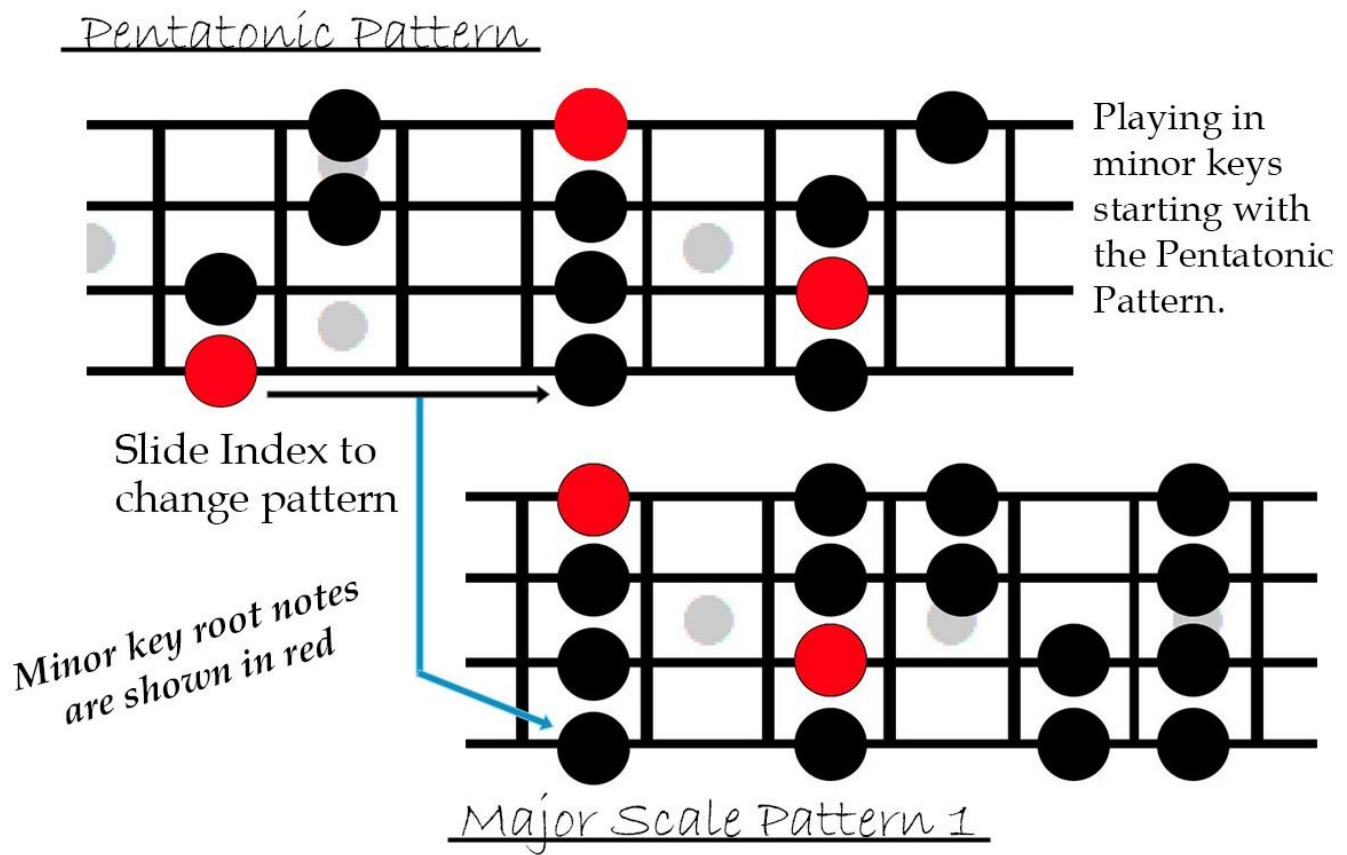
PLAYING IN MAJOR KEYS



Use the image above as a guide while you improvise. The arrows show how the pentatonic and major-scale patterns line up on the mandolin fretboard, pointing to the same note in each pattern.

- All green notes mark the roots, or keynotes.
- Notice that both patterns cover two octaves of the root note. In each pattern, the root appears three times.
- Compare the two patterns and notice that the pentatonic pattern uses fewer notes than Major Scale Pattern 1.
 - The pentatonic scale is derived from the major scale, also called the diatonic scale.
 - The pentatonic scale has five unique notes, while the major scale has seven.
- When you connect these patterns and improvise through them, you can play across nine full frets of the mandolin.
- Take your time with these patterns. Learn where the major-scale keynotes appear and listen closely to the sound and feeling they create as you practice.

PLAYING IN MINOR KEYS



In the FMF studies, I do not name this pentatonic pattern at first because it is the only pentatonic pattern introduced in the course. In this section on minor keys, however, I will identify it as *Pentatonic Scale Pattern 5*, which is also commonly called the *minor pentatonic scale pattern*.

- The pentatonic pattern begins with your index finger on the minor root, or keynote, on the G string.
- To extend the pattern, slide your index finger up three frets and play Major Scale Pattern I.
- As noted in an earlier lesson, you can move any major-scale pattern upward three frets to play in the parallel minor key.
- A *parallel minor key* is the minor key that shares the same letter name as its major key. Examples:
 - A minor is the *parallel minor* of A major.
 - C minor is the *parallel minor* of C major.
- *Parallel keys* and *relative keys* are different. We will study both terms as we continue through the *Foundational Study Courses* at [the amateur mandolinist website](http://theamateurmandolinist.com).
- For now, remember this simple distinction: *parallel keys* share the same letter name, while *relative keys* have different names but use the same notes. This will become clearer as you continue practicing.