

How to Create Your Own Music Without Being an Expert

(Live Webcast – September 23rd)

With Erich Andreas

<http://www.YourGuitarSage.com/LIVE>

Many people believe that creating or writing music is something reserved for only a select few, that you have to be born of musical parents or “sell your soul to the devil” and a myriad of other myths that been proven wrong over and over again.

Creating music is something that ANYone can do IF they have the tool set.

True, a musician can walk up to a piano or another instrument without any knowledge of music whatsoever and create. There are no rules essentially. With that being said, there are expectations and some basic music theory will help explain to our eyes/mind what our ears/soul already know. There are many musicians who never learn music theory but yet string chords together. This is similar to how children learn to speak without having ever gone to school. They learn by mimicking their parents and peers. However, once the child goes to school, learns phonics and the alphabet, they're able to do so much more than merely mimic another. Song crafting is the same way.

Since everyone reading this has heard music, you've been indoctrinated. That is, just like that child who learns to speak by mimicking their parents, you have melodies and chord progressions within you that you consider “within the lines” or permissible.

For music genres like rock, blues, jazz, classical and just about any musical genre that we encounter often, 99.9% of everything that we here can be explained with basic diatonic harmony. Diatonic harmony is based off of what we refer to as the major scale. Again, your ear knows these rules because of all the music that you grew up listening to. The only way for your ears not to know this, is to have never heard music.

The following pages will include the most simple and condensed yet thorough explanation of how music works. Together, we are going to take these tools and start assembling music. Just like a mother birthing a child, creating a song can be very rewarding and fulfilling.

Are you ready to do this? Don't fear! I promise it's much easier than you think. We just need to put the pieces together!

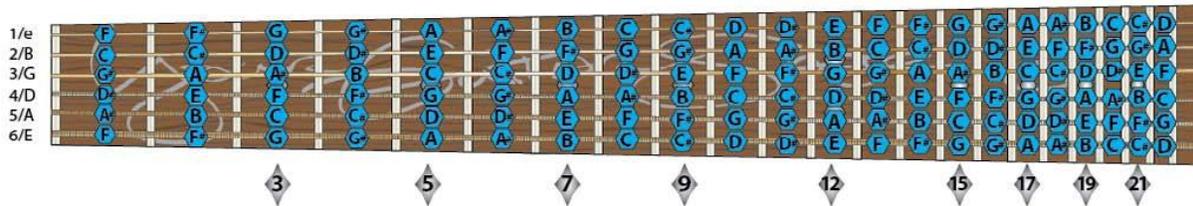
Diatonic Harmony

- The musical alphabet goes from A to G (there is no “H, I, J”, etc.)
- A half-step is the distance between 1 fret and the next on a guitar
- A whole step is equal to 2 half-steps or 2 frets distance
- A sharp (#) is when we raise a pitch by a half-step

- A flat (b) is when we lower a pitch by a half-step
- Every note has a sharp, except for **B** and **E**

So, the musical alphabet reads like this A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#...

... and all the notes on a 23 fret board look like this...



So, if W = whole step and H = half-step, then: Major Scale = W W H W W W H

Scale steps: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (or 1)

Distance between notes: W W H W W W H

Have you ever heard the vocal exercise, “Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do”? Those are the musical steps for the major scale. Or the “Do Re Mi” song Julie Andrews sings in “The Sound of Music?” That song is based on the steps of the major scale. It is VERY important to learn the major scale if you want a good foundation for learning everything else on the guitar. It is the basis of music theory, the field of study that deals with the mechanics of music and how music works.

Definitions To Know

Interval – The pitch distance between 2 notes.

Chords – 3 or more notes played together.

Arpeggio – “broken” chord, or notes from a chord played apart from each other.

Major Chord – 1st, 3rd and 5th scale steps (notes from the Major scale: 1, 3, 5).

Minor Chord – 1st, flat 3rd and 5th scale steps (notes) from the Major scale: 1, b3, 5.

The Major Scale

The major scale can be defined as a 7 note scale separated by the following intervallic distances: whole-step, whole-step, half-step, whole-step, whole-step, whole-step, half-step (W W H W W W H). The major scale is **the most important scale** that we will address. It's the benchmark scale that we compare all other scales and chords to. When you hear a musician describing a scale or chord with terms like "flat five", "sharp nine" etc. they're referring to adjustments of the major scale to create this other scale or chord. "Trust me now, believe me later"... learn the construction of the major scale and know how to use it to create chords and scales as I have and will continue to show you throughout my lessons.

It is important to be able to construct major scales across a single string. It's important to see this pattern and to be able to recreate it on any string and from any fret. If you have not done so already, it would behoove you to review that lesson and get that skill down. Knowing this construction is crucial. Only then should we graduate to more usable forms of the scale.

See the diagram on the following page for the first form of the major scale that I want you to learn.

I use this form all the time to determine the key of a particular song, to construct chords, to analyze chords and a myriad of other musical reasons. Another great thing about this scale, as with all scales on the guitar, is that it is completely mobile or movable. Unlike a lot of other instruments - like the piano or wind instruments - the guitar allows its player to transpose scales very easily by playing the same pattern lower or higher up on the fret board. That is to say that if you took the G major scale and move all the dots up one fret and play the same exact pattern one fret higher, you will now be playing the G#(sharp) major scale.

Move it up another fret and you will now be playing A major. Take that same G major scale and drop it down a half-step, or one fret towards the nut or tuning pegs and you will now be playing in the key of Gb(flat) or F#(sharp). For more advanced guitar players this concept is not new to you. For those that are just coming to understand these concepts, it's important to understand how the scales move. It will **save you a ton of energy and time** if you grasp this concept correctly now instead of skipping over it.

So again, all the dots within a specific scale will move up uniformly. For instance if you're moving the scale up 5 frets, every dot moves up 5 frets exactly. You will use the exact same fingering higher up the neck that you use in lower positions near the nut. This is a skill that can be developed with perseverance and detail. *Don't be a slacker!* Learn this scale and open up your playing. As we progress in our studies I'm going to show you that this is the most useful tool for a guitar player to know.

Practice makes perfect, and allowing your fingers to practice what your head just learned is a

surefire way to integrate this into your knowledge. So this is how I want you to practice the scale. Place your fretting hand in the 2nd position (this means to slide your hand up 1 fret from the open position so that your 1st finger is behind the 2nd fret. Your 2nd finger should be behind the 3rd fret and so on).

For this scale, keep your hand in this position. Don't move your hand up or down the guitar neck while you play the scale. Doing so will better ensure that you play the correct fingers on the correct fret. Now play through the scale slowly and systematically and say the scale step numbers for each note as you play it (for example 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (or 1)).

This will help with developing your ear and understanding the number system. This will also increase your finger dexterity and help to increase speed. Don't try to play the scales quickly, however. That will only slow your learning process. There is plenty of time, once you master the scales, to play them quickly.

Once you get G major down, slide the entire form up one fret. Remember that all the notes should move up 1 fret uniformly and that the fingering will be exactly the same as it just was for the G major scale. Before you play each scale, **audibly say the name of the scale** (for example, "G# major"). This will help you understand what you are playing. Continue to move the scale up the guitar fret board one fret at a time and naming the scale before you play it. Do this across the entire fret board until you get to the end.

Make sure that you play the same scale down the fret board towards the nut. It may take a little figuring out – which is good for your brain - but attempt to play the scale in the open position as well.

Notice on the second diagram how we can play this same form starting at the 5th string instead of the 6th string. This will save you time by allowing you to memorize one form and use it by starting from either the 6th or 5th string roots. To play the fifth string root form of this scale you will start in the same position (2nd) for C major. You will use the same exact fingering and still say the number of each scale step as you play it.

Also, *don't forget to audibly say the name of the scale before you play it.* The letter name of the scale is the first scale degree. Again, play this all the way up the fret board and play it down to the open position as well.

In regards to picking the scales, the beginner guitarist should probably stick with down strokes while the intermediate and advanced guitar players should incorporate alternate picking (strict up and down picking). Alternate picking can be frustrating and difficult in the beginning (and is for everybody who just first attempts it). So if you're attempting alternate picking, take it slowly.

The brain learns a lot faster when you do things slowly. Trying to do this quickly when you haven't done it systematically and slowly will only slow down your learning process. Don't fall

into the trap that says you have to practice fast to play fast.

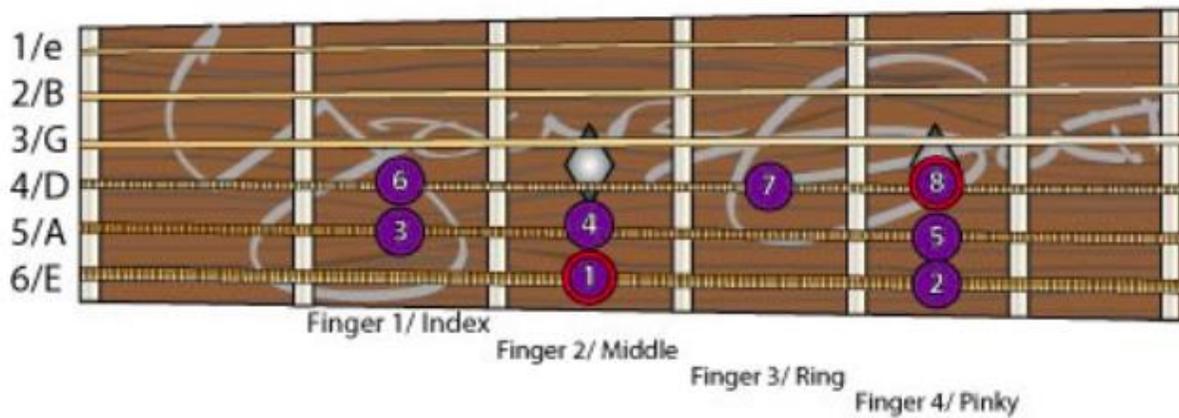
Now stop reading, and go get that guitar!!!

In the following diagrams, the finger I want you to use to fret the indicated note is marked right under the fret board. The tonic (root) note of the scale is indicated by the red circle around the note.

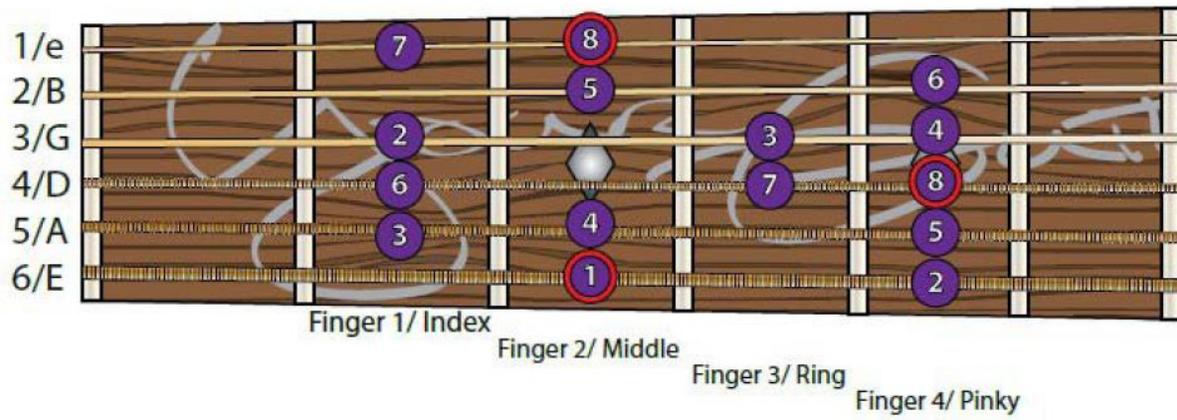
Single String Scale F Major Scale (1 octave)



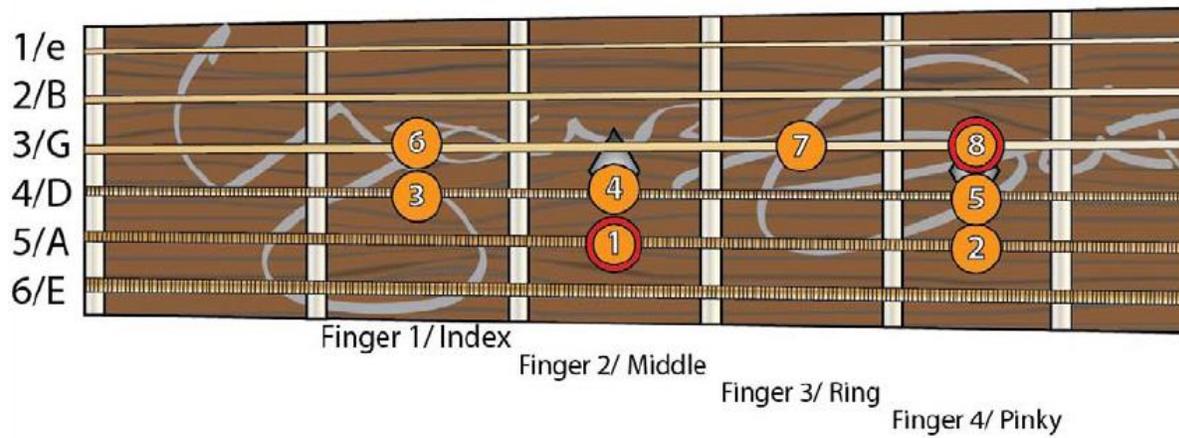
6th String Root G Major Scale Form (1 octave)



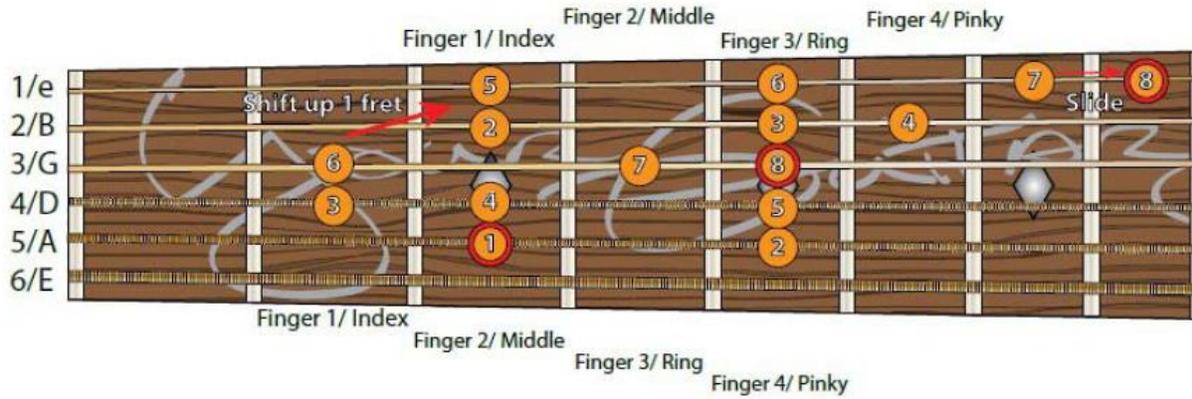
6th String Root G Major Scale Form (2 octave)



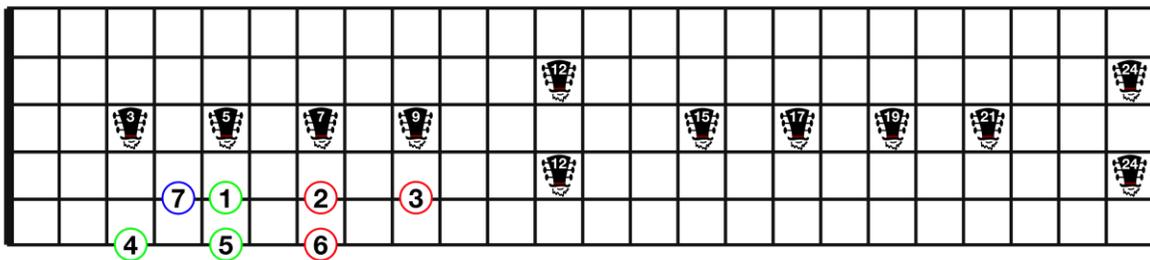
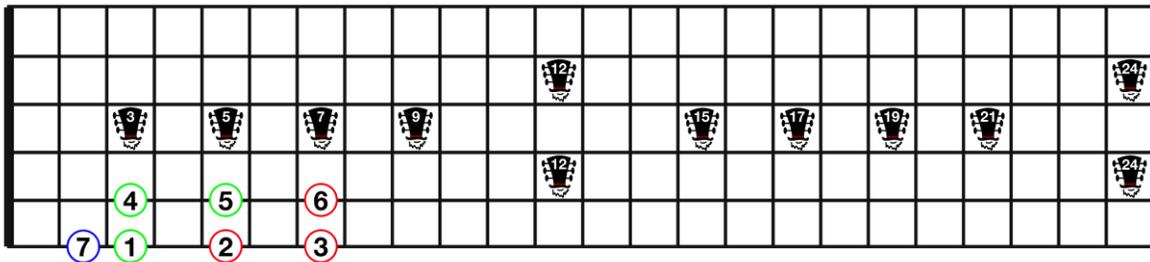
5th String Root C Major Scale Form (1 octave)



5th String Root C Major Scale Form (2 octave)



How to Easily Find the Chords For Any Key



The circles above represent the scale step for a major scale.

Green circles represent major chords. Red circles represent minor chords.

Blue circles represent diminished chords.

Number System Chart

Major	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Quality	Maj	Min	Min	Maj	Maj	Min	Dim
Key of A	A	B-	C#-	D	E	F#-	G#°
Key of B	B	C#-	D#-	E	F#	G#-	A#°
Key of C	C	D-	E-	F	G	A-	B°
Key of D	D	E-	F#-	G	A	B-	C#°
Key of E	E	F#-	G#-	A	B	C#-	D#°
Key of F	F	G-	A-	Bb	C	D-	E°
Key of G	G	A-	B-	C	D	E-	F#°
Minor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Quality	Min	Dim	Maj	Min	Min	Maj	Maj
Key of A-	A-	B°	C	D-	E-	F	G
Key of B-	B-	C#°	D	E-	F#-	G	A
Key of C-	C-	D°	Eb	F-	G-	Ab	Bb
Key of D-	D-	E°	F	G-	A-	Bb	C
Key of E-	E-	F#°	G	A-	B-	C	D
Key of F-	F-	G°	Ab	Bb-	C-	Db	Eb
Key of G-	G-	A°	Bb	C-	D-	Eb	F

How to Master Strumming Quickly and Easily

Strumming the guitar can be frustrating if you are not shown the proper way to think and if you don't allow yourself some time to master some basic guitar rhythm skills. Here are some fundamental concepts that I want you to think about when practicing strumming.

1. Mute the guitar strings with your fretting hand (if you are a "righty," this would be your left hand). This will allow you to focus all of your attention on your strum.
2. *For the following exercises*, the numbers will **ALWAYS** be "down strums" (strumming towards the floor), while the "+" symbol (also known as the "and" of the beat) will **ALWAYS** be an "up strum." This is the KEY to good strumming. Be diligent with this basic principle.
3. Each strum should be equal distance from the last. If you are counting 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +, the count should be smooth and even like a watch or clock ticking (unless you are "swinging the beat," which is not recommended before learning a basic straight strum).
4. Say the rhythm out loud, slowly. Once you get the idea, try to say that same rhythm in a seam less "loop"(meaning, don't stop at the end of the 4+). Once you get the hang of this, it should stream together like 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
5. Once you can count it smoothly like this, strum it slowly and steadily. If you are new to strumming, try the very first strum, which is 4 down strums on the down beats.
6. When the strum calls for a space or void like 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 or 1 + 2 + 3 4+, your hand should **STILL** move as if it were going to hit the strings. This way your down strums will always be where your down beats are and your up strums will be where your up beats are. Get it?

For a video representation of this technique, check out:

[Guitar Strumming Method](#)

NOW for the exercises! For this study, take it slow and go through ALL levels in order.

Level 1

1		2		3		4	
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	
1	+	2	+	3		4	+
1	+	2		3	+	4	+
1		2	+	3	+	4	+

Level 2

1	+	2		3	+	4	
1		2		3	+	4	+
1	+	2	+	3		4	
1		2	+	3	+	4	
1	+	2		3		4	+
1		2	+	3		4	+

Level 3

1	+	2	+	3	+		+
1	+	2	+		+	4	+
1	+		+	3	+	4	+
	+	2	+	3	+	4	+

Level 4

1	+	2	+		+		+
1	+		+		+	4	+
	+		+	3	+	4	+
1	+		+	3	+		+
	+	2	+		+	4	+

Level 5

1		2	+		+		+
1	+		+		+		+
	+		+		+		+
1		2	+	3			+
1		2	+		+	4	+

If you find that you are having trouble with a rhythm or two, check out this video which will teach you a couple of ninja guitar tricks and will help you through the rough patches and allow you to master any rhythm:

[Master ANY Guitar Strumming Rhythm With This Secret Technique.](#)

Remember to TAKE IT SLOW and don't get the fretting hand involved until you feel consistent about the strumming hand. With diligent time and practice you will get REALLY good at this.

e

:)