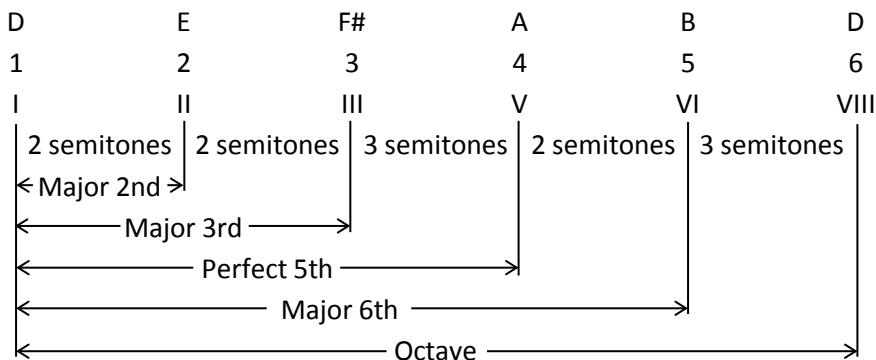


The Major and Minor Pentatonic Scales and Pentatonic Modes

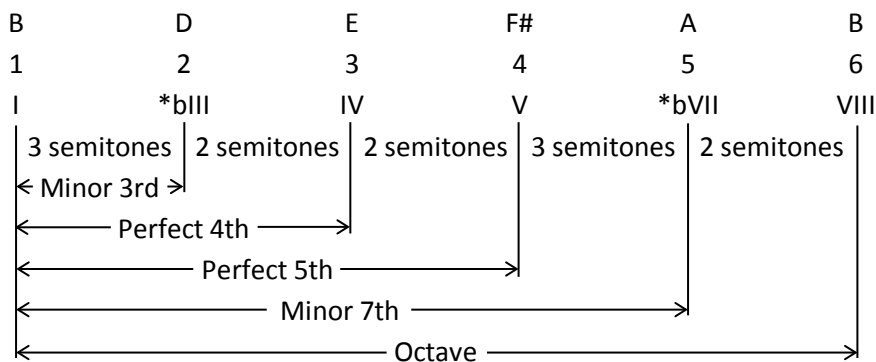
The Major and Minor Pentatonic Scales are composed of five of the Major Scale Degrees. They are the I, II, III, V, and VI Degrees (leaving out the IV and VII Degrees), with the Major Pentatonic Scale starting on the I Degree, and the Minor Pentatonic Scale starting on the VI Degree. Since the Major Pentatonic and Minor Pentatonic Scales contain the same notes but are played from different starting notes, they are Modes of each other in the same way that the Major Scale and its Relative Minor Scale are Modes of each other. The Minor Pentatonic Scale can be thought of as the Relative Minor Pentatonic Scale of the Major Pentatonic Scale. Also, in the manner that the Major Scale is identical to its Ionian Mode and the Relative Minor Scale is identical to its Major Scale's Aeolian Mode, the Major Pentatonic Scale can be thought of as the Ionian Pentatonic Mode and the Minor Pentatonic Scale can be thought of as the Aeolian Pentatonic Mode. In other words, the Major and Minor Pentatonic Scales have a similar Major/Minor/Mode relationship to one another as their seven-note Major and Minor scale counterparts.

To view the Major and Minor Pentatonic Scales as free-standing Scales independent from the Major Scale that they come from, their Tone numbers, Degrees, and Intervals from their starting notes are shown in the two illustrations below. To serve as an example, notes are shown at the top which are based on the notes derived from the D Major Scale.

Major Pentatonic Scale Degrees



Minor Pentatonic Scale Degrees



* The flatted Degree name is due to the non-major Interval from the starting note