

# Minor Pentatonic Drills

This lesson is designed to drill pattern 4 of the Minor Pentatonic Scale (some people call this the "home" position). Be sure to **ALWAYS** practice these exercises with a metronome. This lesson assumes that you can read and understand basic rhythmic notation. If you do not, it might be a good idea to review my lesson on **Time and Rhythm**. We are going to emphasize "Alternate Picking". You should alternate the pick strokes no matter what string you are on. You can work each exercise starting with a down pick, and then try it backwards starting with an up pick to even out your picking.

All of these exercises are in A minor pentatonic. The open circle on the scale diagram is the "Root" of the scale, so if you know the notes on your fretboard and you know how to play moveable shapes like power chords and barre chords you should be able to move these exercises into any key!

**Pattern 4**

▣ - Pick Down  
 ▽ - Pick up

## Ex. 1

## Ex. 2 Eighth notes - two notes per metronome click - count 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

▣ ▽ ▣ ▽

**Ex. 3** Triplets - Count 1 trip-let 2 trip-let 3 trip-let 4 trip-let

1 trip-let 2 trip-let 3 trip-let 4 trip-let

Musical notation for Exercise 3, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line of eighth notes and triplets, and a bass clef staff with a bass line of eighth notes and triplets. Above the treble staff, there are four groups of notes, each with a 'V' above it and a '3' below it, indicating triplets. The bass staff contains a sequence of notes with '3' above them, indicating triplets. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

**Ex. 4** You can play any of these exercises backwards - we want to be flexible with our technique.  
Exercises 4 and 5 are just exercises 1 and 2 played backwards

Musical notation for Exercise 4, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line of eighth notes and triplets, and a bass clef staff with a bass line of eighth notes and triplets. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

**Ex. 5**

Musical notation for Exercise 5, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line of eighth notes and triplets, and a bass clef staff with a bass line of eighth notes and triplets. Above the treble staff, there are four groups of notes, each with a 'V' above it and a '3' below it, indicating triplets. The bass staff contains a sequence of notes with '3' above them, indicating triplets. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.



**Ex. 9** Sequence of 3's in Triplets

Musical notation for Ex. 9: Sequence of 3's in Triplets. The exercise is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth notes with triplet markings (3) above them. The bass line consists of eighth notes with fret numbers (8, 5, 8, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 8, 5, 8, 5) written below the staff.

**Ex. 10**

Musical notation for Ex. 10. The exercise is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth notes with triplet markings (3) above them. The bass line consists of eighth notes with fret numbers (5, 8, 5, 7, 8, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 8, 7, 5, 8, 5, 5, 8, 5, 8, 5) written below the staff.

**Ex. 11** Ascending 4ths

Musical notation for Ex. 11: Ascending 4ths. The exercise is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth notes with triplet markings (3) above them. The bass line consists of eighth notes with fret numbers (5, 5, 8, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 7, 5, 7, 8, 5, 5, 8, 8, 8, 5, 5, 8, 7, 5, 5, 7, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 8, 5) written below the staff.

**Ex. 12** String Skipping

Musical notation for Ex. 12: String Skipping. The exercise is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth notes with triplet markings (3) above them. The bass line consists of eighth notes with fret numbers (5, 8, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 8, 5, 7, 5, 7, 7, 5, 8, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 5, 8, 5) written below the staff.