3 I, IV, V Progressions

Click on the following image to hear about this page. You can make the control panel larger by right clicking for PCs or Control-clicking for a Mac and selecting "View in Floating Window".

Pentatonic Scales within I, IV, V Progressions

A chord progression is a group of chords played in succession.

Chord progressions typically have a beginning and an end — they are a cycle.

Chord progressions usually move between tension and resolution.

The most basic chord progression is the I, IV, V.

The Roman numerals are used to simplify transposition.

The Roman numeral “I” always names the key.

Example:

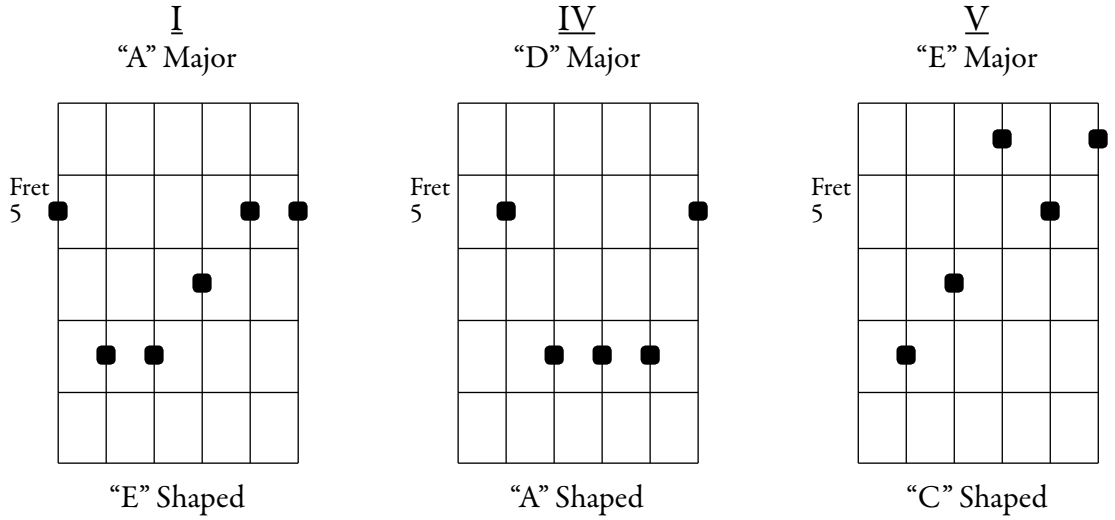
The I, IV, V Progression in the Key of “A” Major

I = “A” Major

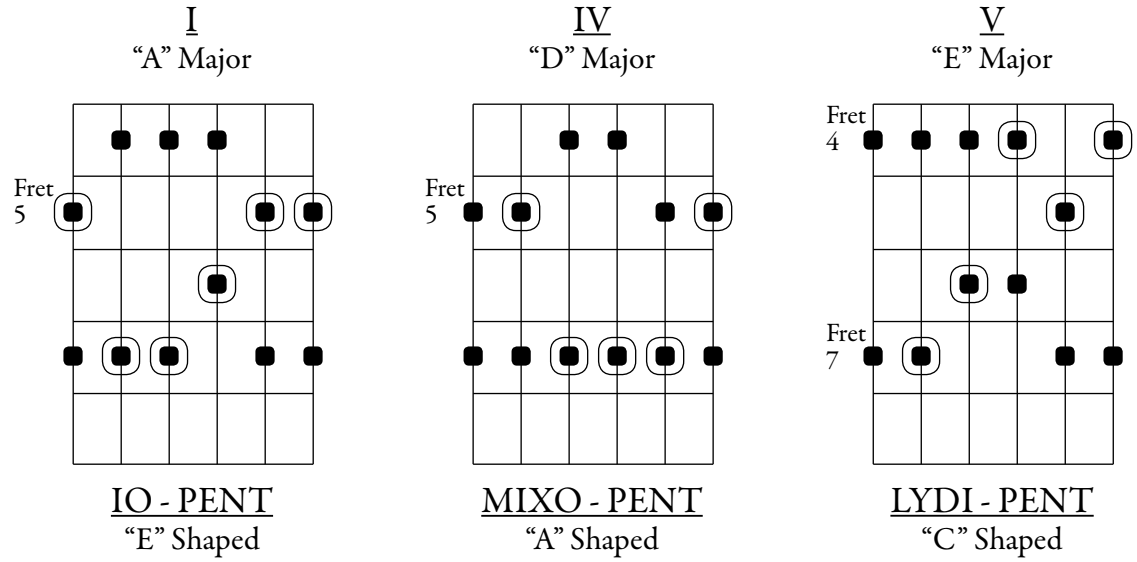
IV = “D” Major

V = “E” Major

Observe what occurs at the fifth fret when the "A", "D", and "E" chords are played. *Notice all three chords can be easily played without ever leaving the fifth fret area of the neck.*



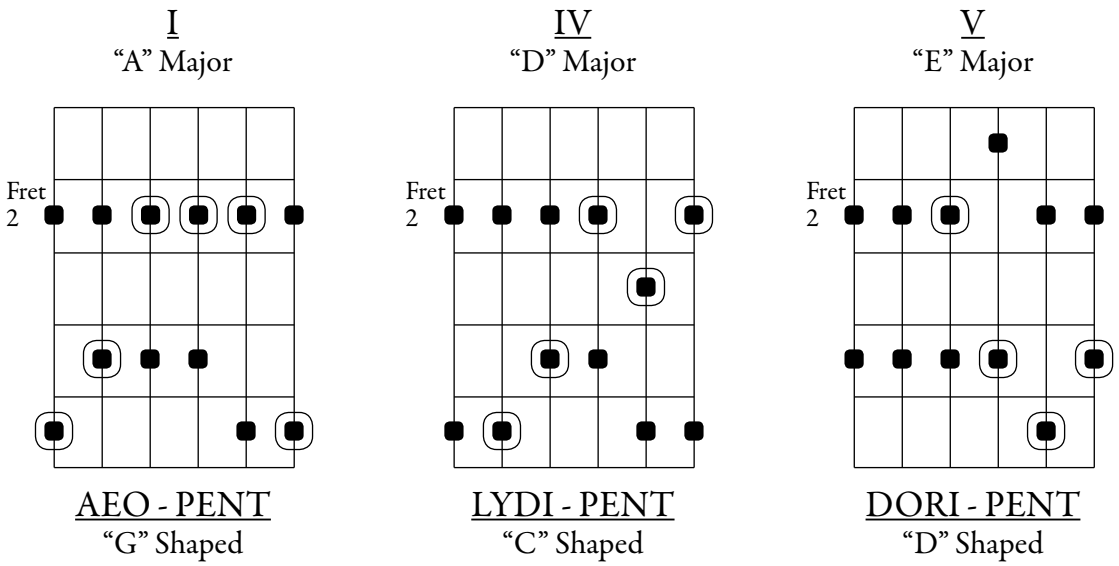
Associating the learned pentatonic scale pattern for each of the *five basic chord shapes* produces the following I, IV, V Progression in the key of "A" Major, at the fifth fret:



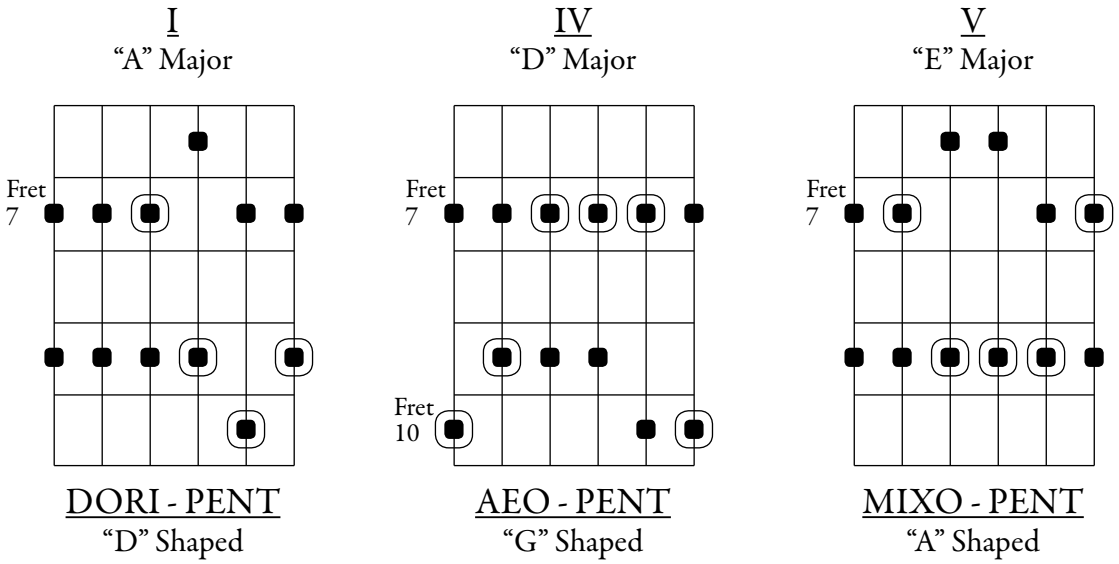
Exercises

Using workbook pages 178 through 180, complete the I, IV, V Progressions.

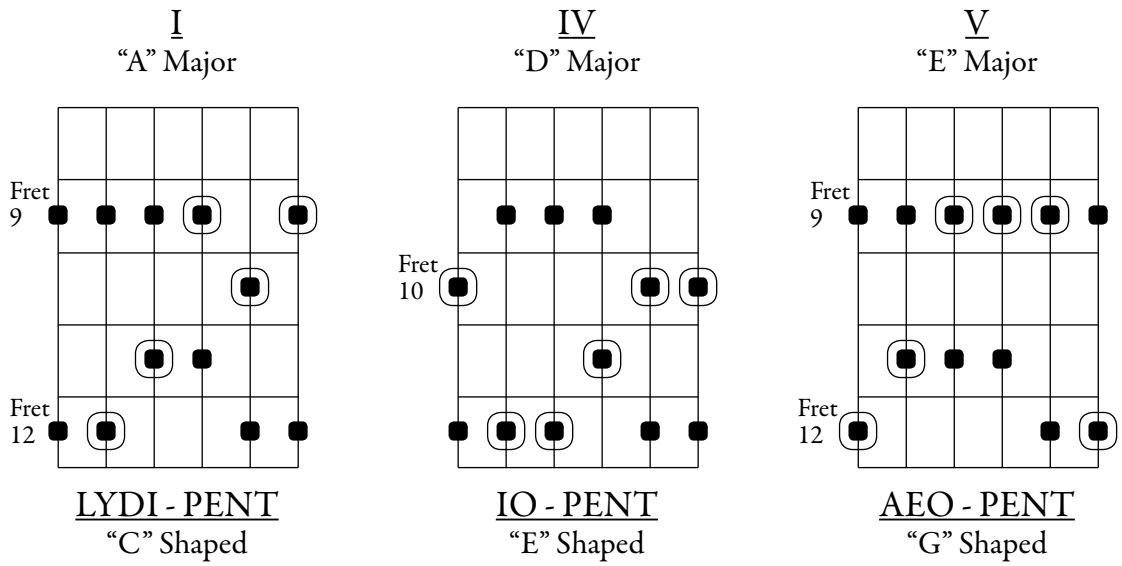
Observe a similar occurrence at the second fret:



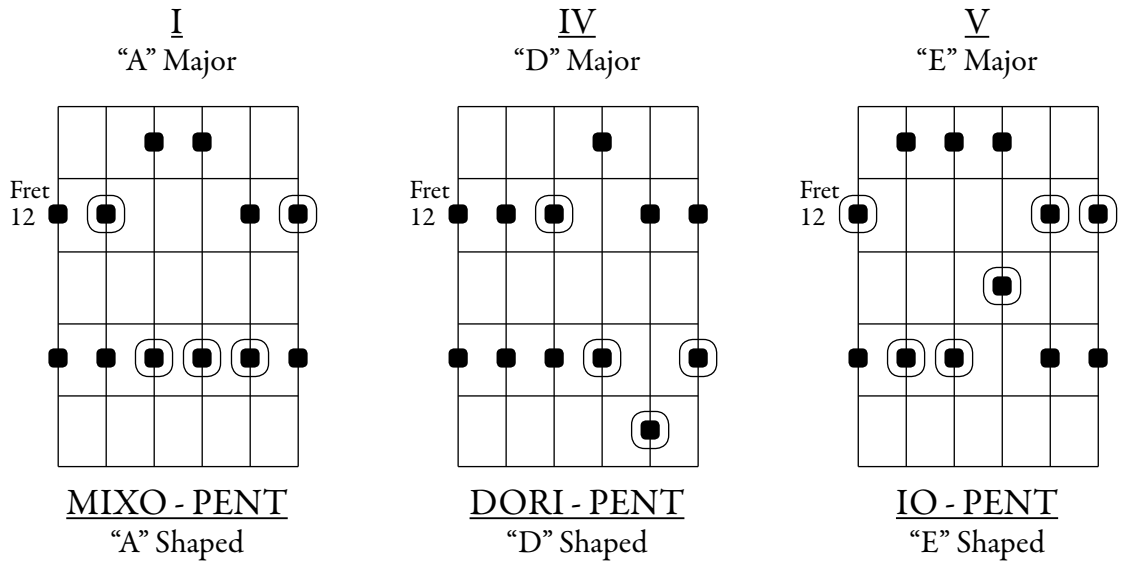
At the seventh fret:



At the ninth fret:



At the twelfth fret:



Exercises

Using workbook pages 181 through 186, complete the pattern movement exercises.

Remember that each chord in the I, IV, V Progression has a corresponding *relative minor* chord.

Example:

I = "A" Major and "F♯" minor
IV = "D" Major and "B" minor
V = "E" Major and "C♯" minor

A I, IV, V Minor Progression can be built using *relative minor* chords:

I minor = "F♯" minor
IV minor = "B" minor
V minor = "C♯" minor

This would be called the key of "F♯" minor.

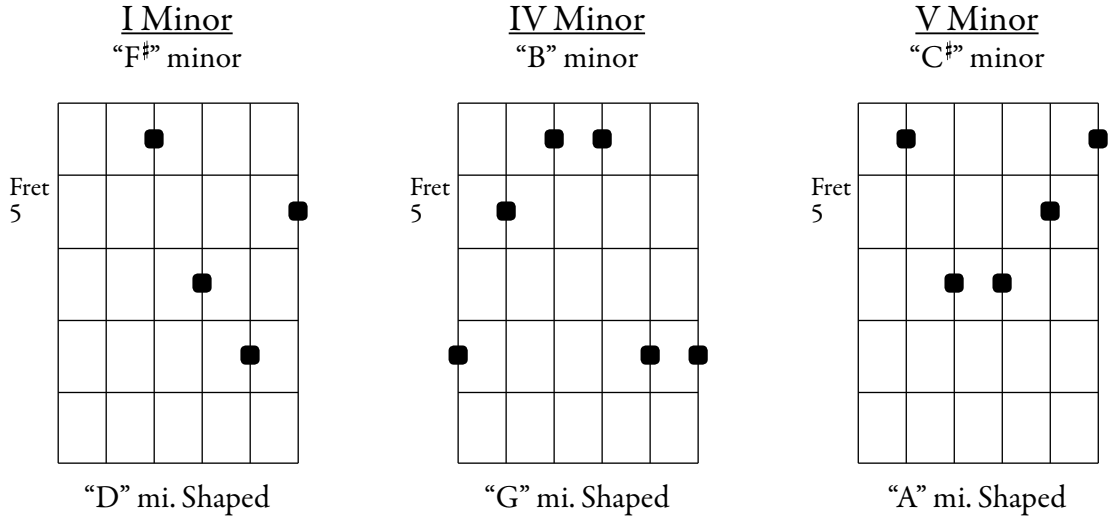
The learned pentatonic scale patterns are exactly the same for the:

I ("A" Major), IV ("D" Major), V ("E" Major) Progression in "A"

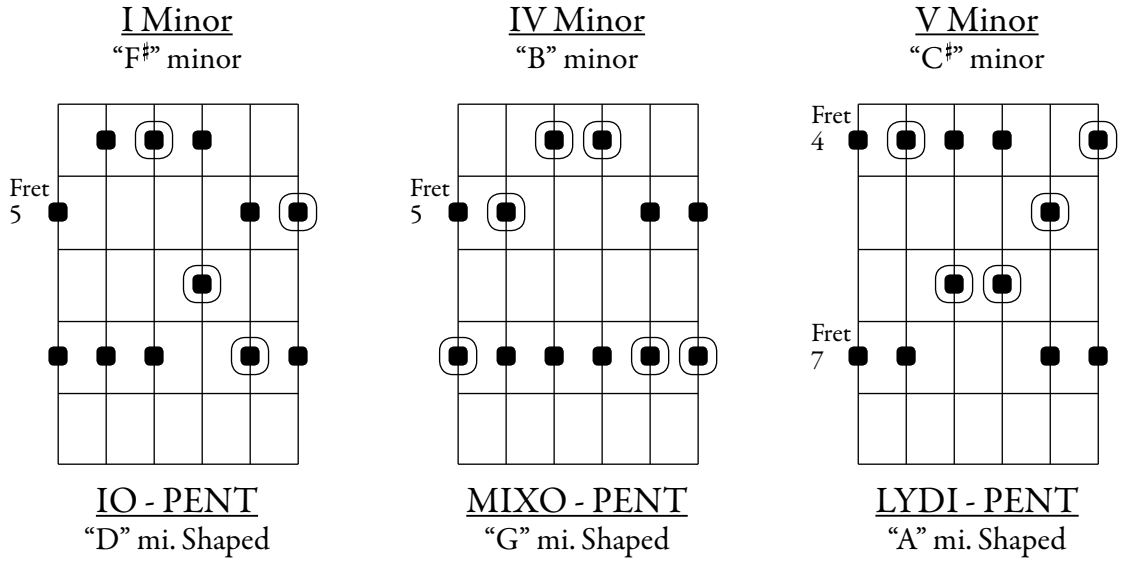
and the

I ("F♯" minor), IV ("B" minor), V ("C♯" minor) Progression in "F♯" minor

Observe what occurs at the fifth fret when the "F♯" minor, "B" minor, and "C♯" minor chords are played. *Notice all three chords can be played easily without ever leaving the fifth fret area of the neck.*

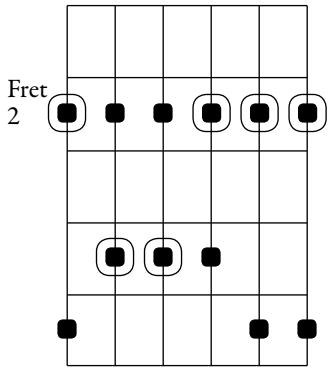


Associating the learned pentatonic scale pattern for each of the *five basic chord shapes* produces the following I, IV, V Progression in the key of "F♯" minor, at the fifth fret:



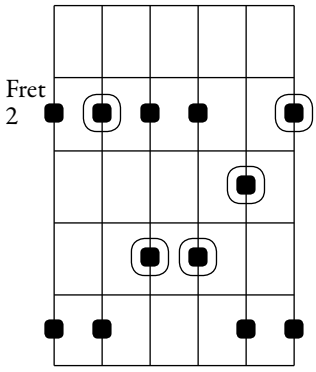
Observe a similar occurrence at the second fret:

I Minor
"F♯" minor



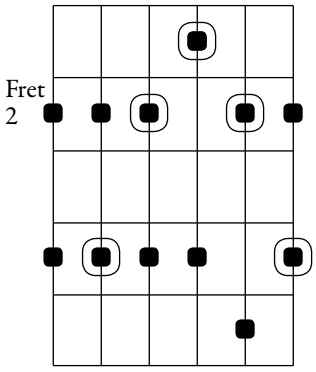
AEO - PENT
"E" mi. Shaped

IV Minor
"B" minor



LYDI - PENT
"A" mi. Shaped

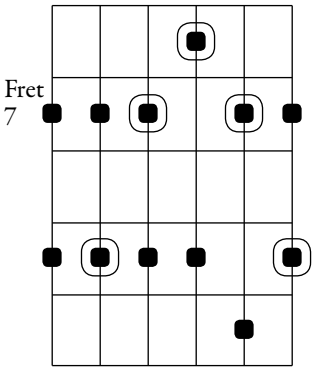
V Minor
"C♯" minor



DORI - PENT
"C" mi. Shaped

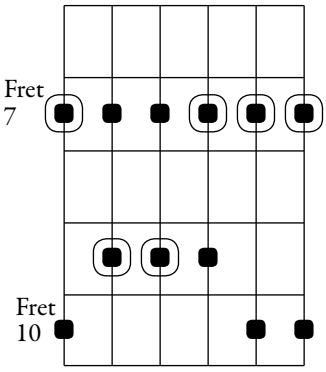
At the seventh fret:

I Minor
"F♯" minor



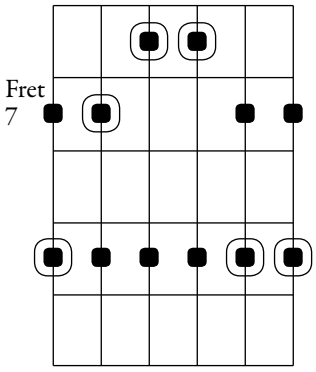
DORI - PENT
"C" mi. Shaped

IV Minor
"B" minor



AEO - PENT
"E" mi. Shaped

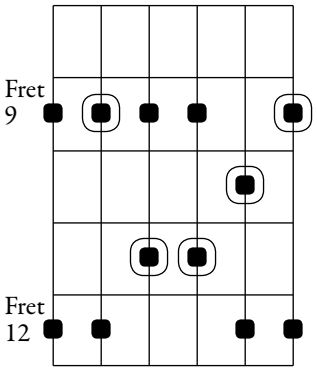
V Minor
"C♯" minor



MIXO - PENT
"G" mi. Shaped

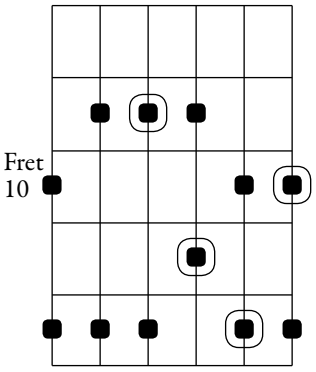
At the ninth fret:

I Minor
"F♯" minor



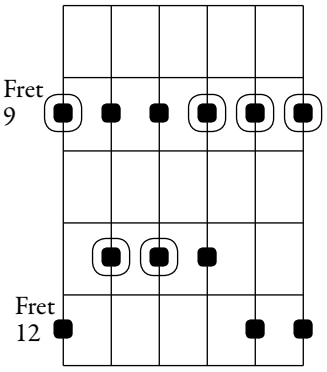
LYDI - PENT
"A" mi. Shaped

IV Minor
"B" minor



IO - PENT
"D" mi. Shaped

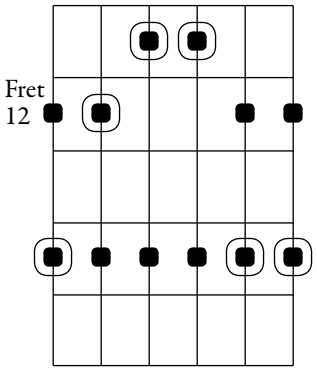
V Minor



AEO - PENT
"E" mi. Shaped

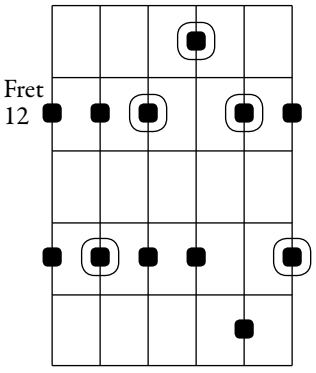
At the twelfth fret:

I Minor
"F♯" minor



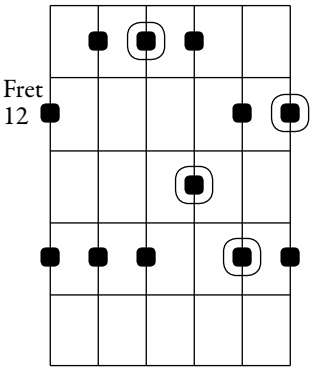
MIXO - PENT
"G" mi. Shaped

IV Minor
"B" minor



DORI - PENT
"C" mi. Shaped

V Minor
"C♯" minor



IO - PENT
"D" mi. Shaped

Exercises

Using workbook pages 187 through 191, complete the pattern movement exercises.

This information should be absorbed slowly — it takes time!

Exercises

Practice the I, IV, V chord/arpeggio and pattern changes at each of the five areas just reviewed.

Spending two minutes per area, for ten minutes a day, will do the trick.

Please be patient and consistent.