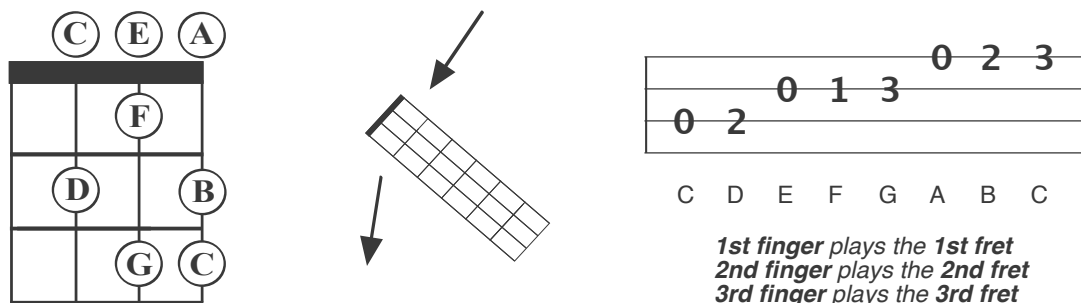


# Blues Lead: Single Notes

Ladies and Gentlemen, the task now at hand is to gain some experience playing and improvising single-note blues lead lines, so we must revisit the **Tab Diagram**.

If you've never seen Tab before, lemme 'splain:



Until now, Fretboard Diagrams have shown you the fingerings for forming chords, but this one (above, left) shows the *individual notes* in the **C Major Scale**: 2 notes (CD) on the 3rd string, 3 notes on the 2nd string (EFG) and 3 notes on the 1st string (ABC). Play the **C Major Scale** starting on the low **C** note: **CDEFGABC**. The Ol' **Do-Re-Mi**. *We'll be avoiding the 4th string; it's tuned oddly and the notes won't be in sequence.*

Take that diagram and push it over on its side so that the line representing the 4th string is the lowest horizontal line, and the 3rd, 2nd and 1st strings go up from there. This is Tab. Instead of seeing the note names on the strings, you see the *fret numbers* for those notes.

The problem with the Fretboard Diagram is that you see the locations of the notes, but not the *sequence* to play them in, whereas the Tab Diagram gives you the sequence, so you know to play this scale from the 3rd to the 1st string. Works great for melodies. You'll also see the beats in the bar, the **1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +**, telling you *when* to play them.

Okay, blues soloing relies on several scales for raw material; incidentally, the Major Scale, like the **C Major Scale** above, is not exactly one of them. Well, it's just too dang happy. We need a Minor Scale to inject some pathos.

Back to the **Key of C**. At the top of the next page, you'll find the

## C Minor Pentatonic Scale

in both Fretboard and Tab Diagrams. Explanations will come soon, but for now, your mission, should you decide to dissect it, is to play these six notes up and down the scale, to start building some muscle memory. **C** is the **Root Note** of the scale, the home base. **Pentatonic** means "5 different notes," counting just one of the two **C** notes, which are one **octave** apart (higher and lower versions of the same note).