

# Fingerboard Harmony Lesson 1

## Organizing the fingerboard

I have said a number of times that guitarists are very shape oriented musicians. I am not saying that is a bad thing. It is only a bad thing if you don't know what is under your fingers when you are improvising.

One of the most fundamental element of organizing the fingerboard is to break the fingerboard down into 5 patterns based on octave shapes.

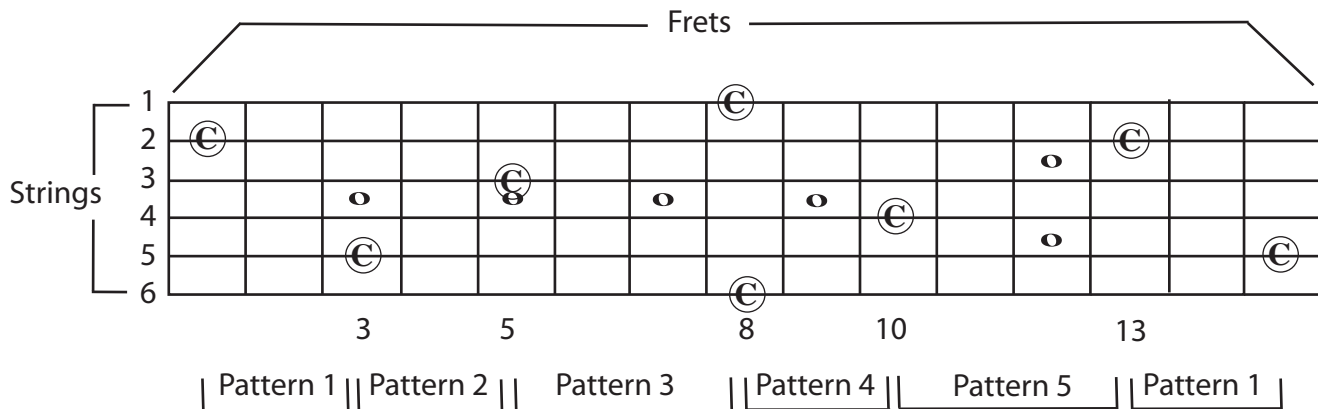
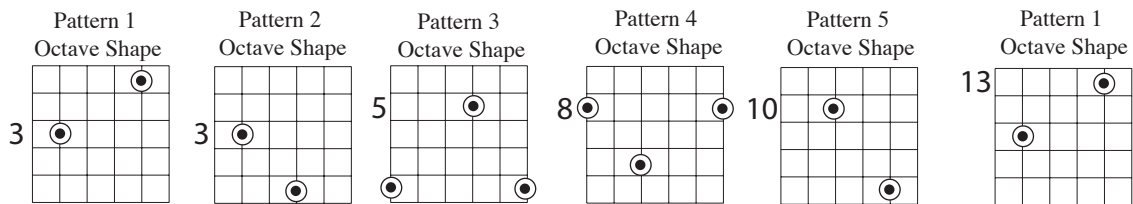
Pattern 1 - places the octaves on strings 5 and 2.

Pattern 2 - places the octaves on strings 5 and 3.

Pattern 3 - places the octaves on strings 6 and 3 and 1.

Pattern 4 - places the octaves on strings 6 and 4 and 1.

Pattern 5 - places the octaves on strings 4 and 2.



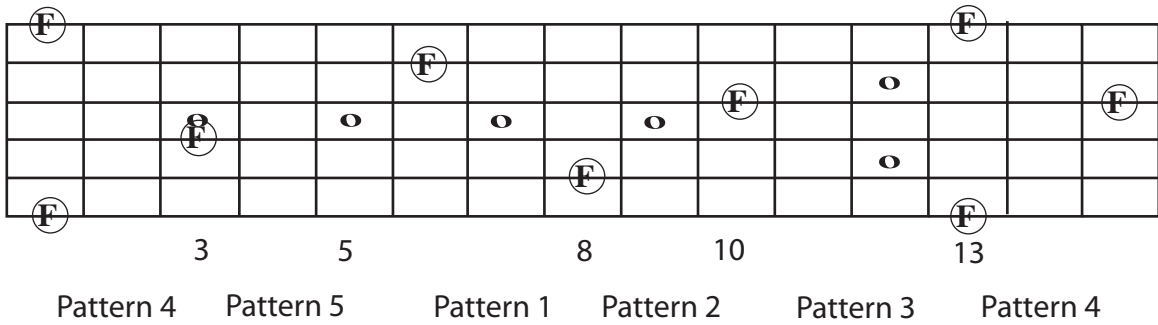
**Exercise:** Look at the fretboard diagrams and notice that they are showing two different ways of seeing these octave shapes. The top fingerboard diagram shows each octave shape by itself. The lower fingerboard diagram shows the octave shapes as they relate to each other. Notice that each shape connects to the next shape with at least one of the notes.

Try learning these octave patterns in all keys. Practice this for a few minutes every day until it is part of your playing. Some of the keys are already worked out for you on page 2 of this lesson.

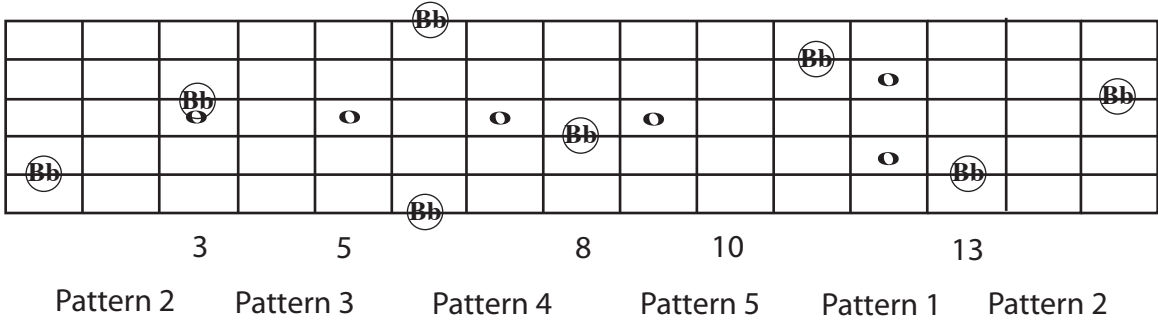
Once this lesson has been completed, move to the Theory lesson #2.

Fingerboard Harmony Lesson #1

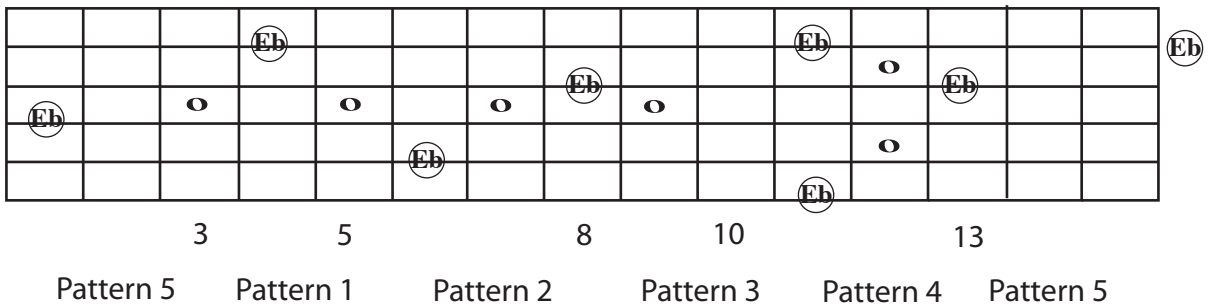
F Major Octave Shapes



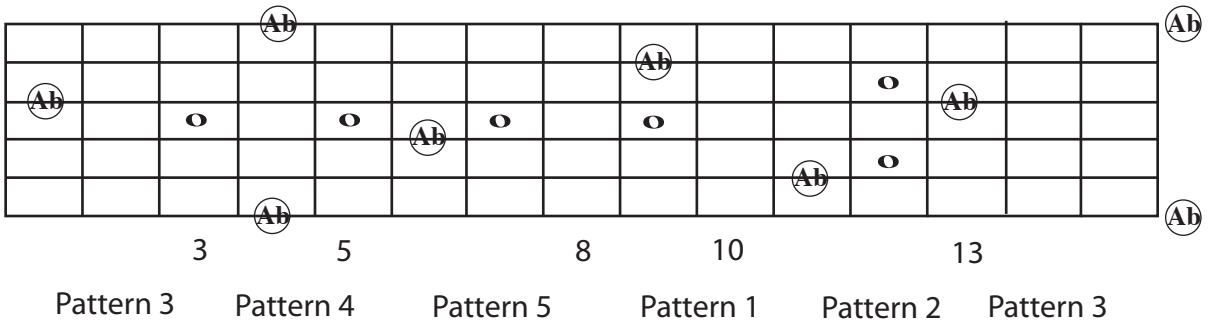
Bb Major Octave Shapes



Eb Major Octave Shapes



Ab Major Octave Shapes



Db Major Octave Shapes

