

# Guitar inspiration

## **FAST PENTATONIC GUITAR LICK LESSON**

**FULL TAB, NOTATION & PLAYING GUIDE**  
for the video

<https://youtu.be/FgHnPNoLOQU>

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### thank you

Thank you for checking out this FREE “FAST PENTATONIC LICK” LESSON GUIDE



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I sincerely hope this detailed guide & TAB will inspire you to continue to develop your guitar playing!

If you have any questions, you can leave a comment on my YouTube channel or e-mail me at [maarten@guitar-inspiration.com](mailto:maarten@guitar-inspiration.com)

**maarten**

# FAST PENTATONIC LICK LESSON

In this lesson video, you'll learn how to play a **fast minor pentatonic lick** in the key of B minor. This lick is built from a repeating sequence or pattern of notes from the B minor pentatonic. We'll focus on the pattern in the lick, the picking pattern and I'll give you some practice tips so you can start adding this in your own guitar solos.

## jam track:

You can find a jam track for this lick on my channel by clicking the link (140 BPM).

If you're interested in downloading this track, to use on your own social media channels, [click here](#).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUHZ-o4JFqc>

## THE LICK

▣ = DOWNSTROKE

∇ = UPSTROKE

♩ = 140

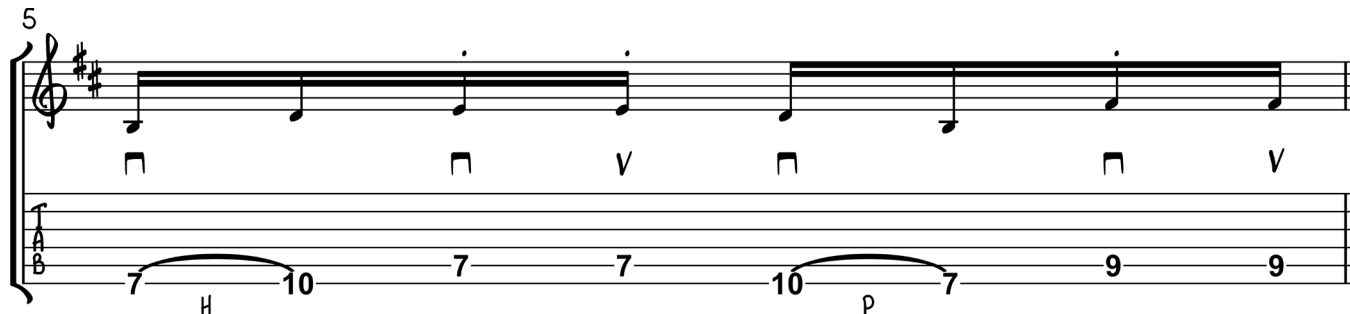
Legend: ▣ = DOWNSTROKE, ∇ = UPSTROKE

System 1: Treble clef staff shows notes B2, D3, F3, A3, B3, D4, F4, A4. Bass clef staff (TAB) shows frets 7-10, 7-7, 10-7, 9-9, 7-9, 7-7, 9-7, 9-9, 7-9. Picking pattern: ▣ ∇ ▣ ∇ ▣ ∇ ▣ ∇. Techniques: H, P, P, H, P, P, H.

System 2: Treble clef staff shows notes B3, D4, F4, A4, B4, D5, F5, A5. Bass clef staff (TAB) shows frets 7-7, 9-7, 9-9, 7-9, 7-7, 9-7, 10-10, 7-10, 7-7, 10-7, 10-9, 7-10, 7-10. Picking pattern: ▣ ∇ ▣ ∇ ▣ ∇ ▣ ∇ ▣ ∇ ▣ ∇. Techniques: P, P, H, P, P, H, P, P.

# THE PATTERN

This is the basic pattern for our lick:



The notes come from the **B minor pentatonic** as you can see on the chart below. When you just play the scale up & down, it sounds rather bland, but by repeating patterns you can play an infinitenumber of licks that sound much more interesting.

The basic pattern in this lick is an 8-note pattern on 2 strings, it starts on the E and A strings. Play the **7th** fret on the low E-string with your first finger. Play it with a downstroke, before hammering on to the **10th** fret with your pinky.

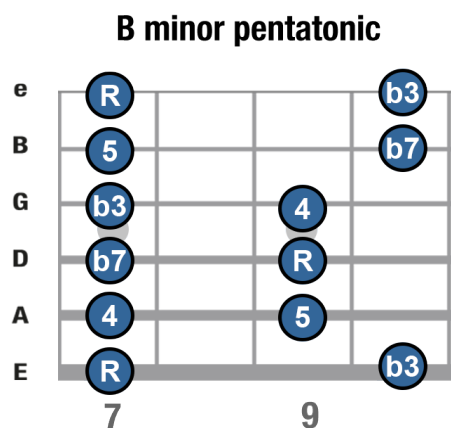
Next, play the **7th** fret on the A-string, again with your first finger. Play it twice, with alternate picking, first with a downstroke, then an upstroke.

Next, where back to the **10th** fret on the E-string (that’s the pinky), picked with a downstroke. Pull-off to the **7th** fret. Finally play the **9th** fret on the A-string, again twice and with alternate picking.

These 8 sixteenth notes have an equal duration.

## Why the picking pattern matters

The way these 8 notes are picked, and the position of the hammer-on & the pull-off are very important to make this lick work at faster speeds. This is because the lick is designed to facilitate string crossings, for example when I move from the A-string to the E-string, I make sure I do this after an upstroke, because, that way my picking hand is already moving up.



\*(numbers stand for scale degrees)

# REPEATING THE PATTERN

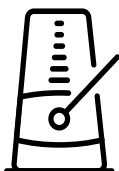
The pattern on the A and D strings is almost identical. The only thing we have to take into account is that the 10th fret on the A-string is not part of the B minor pentatonic. The 9th fret is, so replace it in these spots. Play it with your third finger.

Before we move on the other strings, let me show you how to **connect** the patterns, how to glue the head & tail of everything together.

This is done simply by adding a **pull-off** at the end of each pattern.

➤➤ **FULL pattern on all strings**

I prefer playing the **10th** frets on the B and E-strings with my 3d finger, because I'm bending these a lot, but if you're more of a classical player, feel free to use your pinky.



**Practice with a metronome**

Practice this slow with a metronome, and make sure you align the downstrokes nicely with each downbeat. The rhythm is very important here, don't rush and give each sixteenth note equal length. Start slow and work your way up to the track tempo (140 BPM). In the video chapter ('TEMPO WORKOUT'), I start at 25BPM and take 10 BPM-steps up. If this is too challenging for you, take smaller steps e.g. 3 BPM.

# FINISHING TOUCHES

Here, I want to share 3 tips with you, that will help you take these sequenced licks to the next level:

## ★ POLISHING THE PATTERN

First, I'm applying a **gentle palm mute**, especially when playing the staccato'd notes. If you want, you can apply more firm pressure for a true palm mute sound, but here I'm only trying to keep things a bit clean and remove some muddiness that might happen in the heat of the moment. **In the video, I show you where to place your hand on the strings for a gentle palm mute.**

## ★ STARTING & ENDING THE PATTERN

Secondly, I like to experiment where in a bar of 4/4, I start the lick. The way I played, in the intro of the video, was by making the first 2 sixteenth notes a little **pickup** and aligning the 3rd sixteenth on the first beat of a new bar. That's just one way of placing it in the rhythm.

These types of licks are applicable in many different situations, and you can shift them back and forth wherever you like, but I strongly recommend shifting the pattern **in even numbers**, otherwise you have to change the picking pattern!

## ★ WHAT TO PLAY AFTER THE PATTERN?

Finally, every flashy lick needs a sensible, elegant ending. You can't stop 'mid-flight'. So what I did here was add 2 triplets. Play the **10th** fret on the E-string with a downstroke (that's my 3d finger), the **9th** fret with an upstroke (that's my second finger), and pull-off to the **7th** fret (index finger).

Next, play the **10th** fret on the B-string with a downstroke, back to the 7th fret on the E-string with an upstroke. End the lick with a (slow) full-step bend from the **10th** fret on the B-string.

## THE ENTIRE LICK

I hope you enjoyed this pentatonic pattern lick lesson. This pattern is very useful, easably transposable in other keys if you know your pentatonic boxes minor/or major. Also, you can use small fragments of the pattern too.

Practice this lick slowly and pay attention to play it clean & steady. People like patterns in music, even non-musicians like hearing patterns, but to avoid sounding too formulaic, make sure you glue the patterns nicely together & look for a creative ending, that is perhaps a bit more melodic. Also, experiment with shifting the rhythm back & forth in the bar AND with filter-type effects like a WAH pedal.

Keep on playing that guitar!

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