



### **Some notes on the Blues Scale Slide Rule**

My ideas on other types of scale slide rules: Note I said "These are of course less useful...". I have attached an Excel file of my design for a Minor Pentatonic Scale / Blues Scale Slide Rule. I based it on the design Weemeng LEE posted.

An example of how this could be used is in composing.

For example if you want to compose a melody or chord progression in say a (regular) key of E Major, it would be good to know what notes are in that key's scale. Things tend to sound more "in key" if you stick to mainly the notes naturally found in that key. So for E Major you have E, Gb, Ab, A, B, Db, and Eb. So you might write a melody using (mainly) those notes. Or write a chord progression based on them. Say E - A - E - A - E7 - Bmaj7 - E7 - B7. These chords only use the 7 notes of the E Major scale.

Now for a pentatonic scale. The Pentatonic scale has fewer notes, only 5. In case you ever wondered, the Black keys on a piano are the Eb minor Pentatonic scale (starting on a different note they are also the F# Major Pentatonic scale).

The common Blues Scale is like the minor Pentatonic Scale with an added flatted 5th (or sharped 4th). So again if you want or have to use the C minor Pentatonic scale you have the notes C, Eb, F, G, and Bb. Now you seemingly only can make the chords Cm and Cm7 with these few (odd) notes. Therefore it might be better to treat this Pentatonic scale business like a mode, and use chords with roots based on those five notes but that will contain other notes as well for their 3rds, 5ths, and 7ths. And of course you can write a melody with C, Eb, F, G, and Bb. Pentatonic scales are important, they are used in Rock and Jazz, and many far Asian instruments are tuned to the D Major Pentatonic scale or other Pentatonic Scales.

My scale slide rules can give you what notes or what chords to use but you still have to use the regular Transpos-A-Chord design slide rule to construct your chords. Hopefully this make sense from a person with a Biology degree and a teaching credential. I am not a musician, just an avid music listener.

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