Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises Bass Clef
Exercises for developing technique and maintaining fluency

Introduction
Section 1 – C minor
Section 2 – F minor
Section 3 – Bb minor
Section 4 – Eb minor
Section 5 – Ab minor
Section 6 – C# minor
Section 7 – F# minor
Section 8 – B minor
Section 9 – E minor
Section 10 – A minor
Section 11 – D minor
Section 12 G minor
Section 13 Chord Charts - Suggested harmonies for scale practice

© 2010 Craig Fraedrich
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
This material may be duplicated for educational purposes
Introduction

The minor pentatonic, along with the blues scale, are quite likely the most used (and abused) scales in the jazz education lexicon. So why produce a book of exercises intended to develop minor pentatonic facility? It is my contention that the minor pentatonic is not overused but rather is underused effectively. The minor pentatonic is inherently ambiguous in the harmony it sounds having no tritone present and working with minimal clashes over multiple chords. It has a long-standing tradition of use as a blues progression staple. It is an invaluable tool for teaching melodic shape and phrasing. If you think of the minor pentatonic as a high-powered sports car, driven only on Sundays by the proverbial “little old lady” to church, you get the idea. The intent of these exercises is to get that car out on the Autobahn and see what it can really do.

The exercises are arranged by key moving in fourths. You may wish to find your own order for working on them. Practicing a key a day is highly recommended. Key signatures are included as the parallel major to the minor pentatonic. (ex. F minor pentatonic = key signature of F major) This is intentional and relates to how I suggest students learn scales and chord nomenclature. Additionally, I use a Bb minor pentatonic on Bb blues progressions all the time and have never seen a Bb blues with a key signature of five flats. In terms of real world applications, it did not make sense to use minor key signatures.

I highly recommend practicing with somebody if possible. All exercises are repeated. By trading, mistakes will be more likely to be corrected prior to becoming habit.

These exercises are not licks or patterns to be memorized and performed as a part of any solo. They are intended to provide enough technical facility, melodic shape and harmonic awareness to allow a student to better accomplish whatever he or she is hearing.

Exercises 1-18 Preparatory Exercises: These are possibly the most technically demanding of the exercises and can be practiced with any of the chord progressions at the end of the book.
Exercises 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated): Short phrases that sound complete are a means to solo development and creating long phrases of substance. Practice these over a medium tempo blues progression, swing hard and work to change them up on the repeat. (dynamics, articulation, etc.)

Exercises 41-54 2 Bar Phrases (repeated): These are a continuation and extension of the previous exercises.

Exercises 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-Slip: Practice these exercises with the modal harmony and with the ii-V-I progressions. No articulation is included, accent upper notes in lines.

Exercises 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7: These exercises apply a chromatic side-slip to create an altered dominant sound on a major ii-V-I. Play a minor pentatonic starting on the 5th of the ii chord, side-slip up a half-step for the V7 (effectively a tritone substitute) and resolve back down a half-step for the tonic chord.

As a general rule, it usually takes six or so months of practice for any new concept or technique to really begin to show in performance. Be patient and diligent!

Be sure to record performances and practice sessions once you begin improvise using this material. If you notice, (or someone else comments...) that it sure sounds like you are playing a lot of pentatonics, reevaluate your approach. Improvisations are melodies. Melodies can certainly contain pentatonic material but should not sound like a pentatonic exercise. Never sacrifice melody for technique.

Good luck!

Craig Fraedrich
February, 2010
Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 1 - C Minor Pentatonic

© 2010 Craig Fraedrich
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
This material may be duplicated for educational purposes
Chapt. 1 - C Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 2
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. I - C Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 3
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 1 - C Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 1 - C Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 7
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 1 - C Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 1 - C Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 10
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 2 - F Minor Pentatonic
Chapt. 2 - F Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 2
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 2 - F Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 2- F Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 6
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 2- F Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 2 - F Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 9
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 2 - F Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 10
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Chapter 3 - Bb Minor Pentatonic

© 2010 Craig Fraedrich
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
This material may be duplicated for educational purposes
Chapt. 3 Bb Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 3 Bb Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 3 Bb Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 3 Bb Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 4 - Eb Minor Pentatonic
Chapt. 4 - Eb Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 4
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 4 - Eb Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 4 - Eb Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 6
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 4 - Eb Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Minr Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 4 - Eb Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 10
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 5 - Ab Minor Pentatonic

© 2010 Craig Fraedrich
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
This material may be duplicated for educational purposes
Chapt. 5 - Ab Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 5 - Ab Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 5 - Ab Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 5 - Ab Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 5 - Ab Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

143

147

151

155

159

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 6 - C# Minor Pentatonic
Chapt. 6 - C# Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 6 - C# Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 6 - C# Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 6
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 6 - C# Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 7
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 6 - C# Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 6 - C# Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

179

181

183

185

187

189

191

193

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 10
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 7 - F# Minor Pentatonic
Chapt. 7 - F# Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 2
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 7 - F# Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 7 - F# Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 7 - F# Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

115

117

119

121

123

125

127

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 6
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 7 - F# Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 7
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 7 - F# Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

B Min7 (F# Min pentatonic)

A Maj7 (F# Min pentatonic)

B Min7

A Maj7

B Min7

A Maj7
Chapt. 7 - F# Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 10
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 8 - B Minor Pentatonic

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises
Chapt. 8 - B Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 3
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 8 - B Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19</th>
<th>20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21</th>
<th>22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23</th>
<th>24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>25</th>
<th>26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>27</th>
<th>28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Chapt. 8 - B Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 8 - B Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 6
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 8 - B Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 8 - B Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 8 - B Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7
Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 9 - E Minor Pentatonic

© 2010 Craig Fraedrich
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
This material may be duplicated for educational purposes
Chapt. 9 - E Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 2
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 9 - E Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)

95

99

103

107

111
Chapt. 9 - E Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 6
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 9 - E Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 9 - E Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 9
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 10 - A Minor Pentatonic
Chapt. 10 - A Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 2
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 10 - A Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 3
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 10 - A Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 10 - A Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 10 - A Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 6
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 10 - A Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 10 - A Minor

Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 10 - A Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 9
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 11 - D Minor Pentatonic

© 2010 Craig Fraedrich
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
This material may be duplicated for educational purposes
Chapt. 11 D - Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 3
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 11 D - Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 11 D - Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 6
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 11 D - Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 7
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Ex. 55-59 Modal with Chromatic Side-slip

Chapt. 11 D - Minor

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 8
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Chapt. I I D - Minor

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 9

www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 11 D - Minor

Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 10
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises

Chapter 12 - G Minor Pentatonic
Chapt. 12 - G Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 2

www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 12 - G Minor

Ex. 1-18 Preparatory Exercises

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 3
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Chapt. 12- G Minor

Ex. 19-40 One Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 12 - G Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Chapt. 12 - G Minor

Ex. 41-54 Two Bar Phrases (repeated)
Ex. 60-67 ii7-V7alt-Imaj7

Chapt. 12- G Minor

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises - 10
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. Modal (Works For All, Best For 1-18)
   C Min7
   G Min7  A6 Maj7
   F7 Sus4  Bb7 Sus4

2. Blues (Works For All, Best For Ex. 19-54)
   C7  F7  C7  G Min7  C7
   F7
   D Min7  G7  C7  A7#9

3. II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)
   C Min7  Bb7#5  Eb Maj7

4. II-V7sus-I (Ex. 1-54)
   C Min7  Bb7 Sus4  Eb Maj7
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. Modal (Works for All, Best for 1-18)
   F\text{MIN7} \rightarrow B_{b}\text{MIN7}

2. Blues (Works for All, Best for Ex. 19-54)
   F_{7} \rightarrow B_{b}7 \rightarrow F_{7} \rightarrow C\text{MIN7} \rightarrow F_{7}

3. 11-V-1 (Ex. 55-67)
   B_{b}\text{MIN7} \rightarrow E_{b}^{7}_{65} \rightarrow A_{b}\text{MA7}

4. 11-V7sus-1 (Ex. 1-54)
   B_{b}\text{MIN7} \rightarrow E_{b}\text{7sus4} \rightarrow A_{b}\text{MA7}
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. MODAL (Works for all, best for 1-18)
   BbMIN7
   EbMIN7
   FMIN7
   GbMA7
   Eb7sus4
   Ab7sus4

2. BLUES (Works for all, best for Ex. 19-54)
   Bb7
   Eb7
   Bb7
   Eb7
   Bb7
   G7
   Cmin7
   F7
   Bb7
   Cmin7
   F7

3. II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)
   EbMIN7
   Ab7♯5
   DbMA7

4. II-V7sus1 (Ex. 1-54)
   EbMIN7
   Ab7sus4
   DbMA7
Chapt. 4 - Eb Minor

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. Modal (Works for All, Best for 1-18)
   EbMIN7
   AbMIN7
   BbMIN7
   B Maj7
   Ab 7sus4
   Db 7sus4

2. Blues (Works for All, Best for Ex. 19-54)
   Eb7
   Ab7
   Eb7
   BbMIN7
   Eb7
   Ab7
   Eb7
   C7b9
   FMIN7
   Bb7
   Eb7
   FMIN7
   Bb7

3. II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)
   AbMIN7
   Db7b9
   Gb Maj7

4. II-V7sus-I (Ex. 1-54)
   AbMIN7
   Db7sus4
   Gb Maj7

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
www.craigfraedrichmusic.com
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. **Modal (Works for All, Best for 1-18)**

   - Ab min7
   - Eb min7
   - Gb 7sus4

2. **Blues (Works for All, Best for Ex. 19-54)**

   - Ab7
   - Eb7
   - Gb7

3. **II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)**

   - Ab min7
   - Gb 7½
   - Bb maj7

4. **II-V7sus6-I (Ex. 1-54)**

   - Ab min7
   - Gb 7sus4
   - Bb maj7
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1 Modal (Works for all, best for 1-18)
   G#min7
   F#min7
   G#min7
   A major7

2 Blues (Works for all, best for Ex. 19-54)
   C#7
   F#7
   C#7
   G#min7

3 II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)
   F#min7
   B7b5
   E major7

4 II-V7sus1 (Ex. 1-54)
   F#min7
   B7sus4
   E major7
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. **Modal (Works For All, Best For 1-18)**

   F# MIN7

   C# MIN7

   B7/G64

   E7/G64

2. **Blues (Works For All, Best For Ex. 19-54)**

   F#7

   B7

   F#7

   C# MIN7

3. **II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)**

   B MIN7

   E7#5

   A MA7

4. **II-V7b9US-I (Ex. 1-54)**

   B MIN7

   E7b9/G64

   A MA7
Chapt. 8 - B Minor →

Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. **Modal (Works For All, Best For 1-18)**
   
   E min7 → E min7
   
   E# min7 → G maj7
   
   E 7sus4 → A 7sus4

2. **Blues (Works For All, Best For Ex. 19-54)**
   
   B7 → E7 → B7 → E# min7 → B7
   
   E7 → B7 → G#7#9
   
   C# min7 → F#7 → B7 → C# min7 → F#7

3. **II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)**
   
   E min7 → A7#9 → D maj7

4. **II-V7sus-I (Ex. 1-54)**
   
   E min7 → A7 sus4 → D maj7
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. Modal (Works for all, best for 1-18)

E Min7  A Min7
B Min7  C Maj7
A7sus4  D7sus4

2. Blues (Works for all, best for Ex. 19-54)

E7  A7  E7  B Min7  E7
A7  E7  C#7#9
F# Min7  B7  E7  F# Min7  B7

3. II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)

A Min7  D7f5  G Maj7

4. II-V7sus-1 (Ex. 1-54)

A Min7  D7sus4  G Maj7
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. Modal (Works for All, Best for 1-18)
   Amin7
   Emin7
   D7sus4

2. Blues (Works for All, Best for Ex. 19-54)
   A7
   D7
   Amin7
   Emin7

3. 11-V-1 (Ex. 55-67)
   Dmin7
   G7#9
   Cmaj7

4. 11-V7sus-1 (Ex. 1-54)
   Dmin7
   G7sus4
   Cmaj7
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1. Modal (Works for all, best for 1-18)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{D Min7} & \\
\text{A Min7} & \\
\text{G7sus4} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

2. Blues (Works for all, best for Ex. 19-54)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{D7} & \\
\text{G7} & \\
\text{D7} & \\
\text{A Min7} & \\
\text{D7} & \\
\text{G7} & \\
\text{A7} & \\
\text{D7} & \\
\text{E Min7} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

3. 11-V-1 (Ex. 55-67)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{G Min7} & \\
\text{C7#5} & \\
\text{Em Maj7} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

4. 11-V7sus6-1 (Ex. 1-54)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{G Min7} & \\
\text{G7sus4} & \\
\text{Em Maj7} & \\
\end{align*}
\]
Minor Pentatonic Technical Exercises
Suggest Chord Changes for Practice

1 Modal (Works for All, Best for 1-18)

2 Blues (Works for All, Best for Ex. 19-54)

3 II-V-I (Ex. 55-67)

4 II-V7sus-1 (Ex. 1-54)