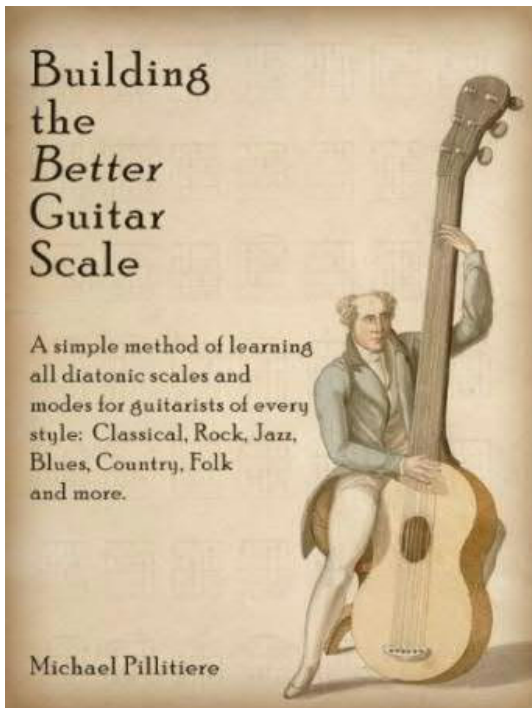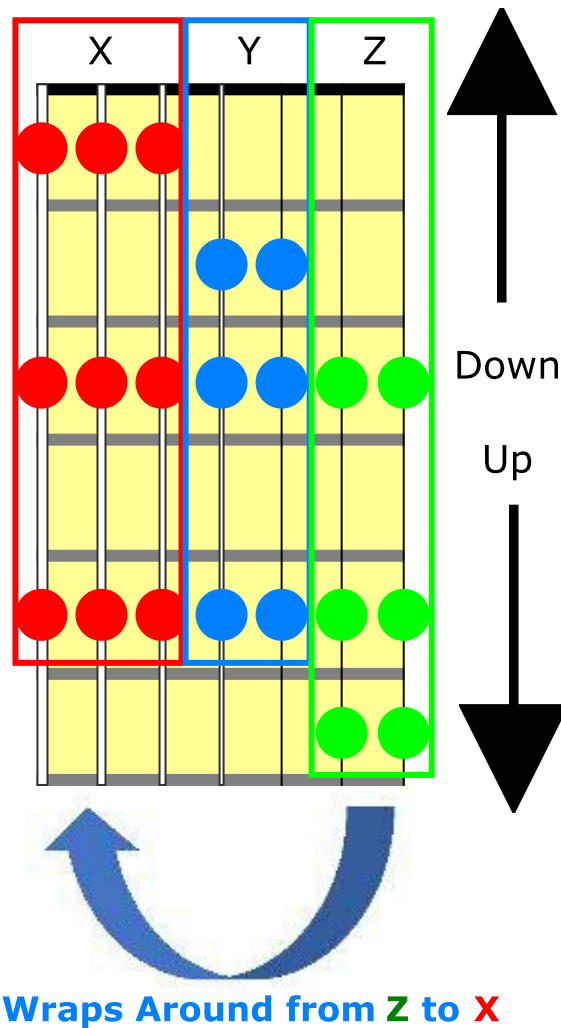# Building the Better Guitar Scale

Rule I
When progessing from shape X to shape Y, the first finger shifts up one fret.

Rule 2
When progessing from the 3rd string to the 2nd string, the first finger shifts up one fret.

X   Y   Z

Down

Up

Wraps Around from Z to X

Building the
the
Better
Guitar
Scale

A simple method of learning all diatonic scales and modes for guitarists of every style: Classical, Rock, Jazz, Blues, Country, Folk and more.

Michael Pillitiere

This is the book I got these Scales from.

Building the Better Guitar Scale series Link:

Building the Better Guitar Scale - Part 1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQf6i8KIwJU&t=0s

Building the Better Guitar Scale - Part 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SBG81G8ZcY&list=PLB04Q_-DchOO2pfeUB7rT2imLd9jeOFzz&index=3
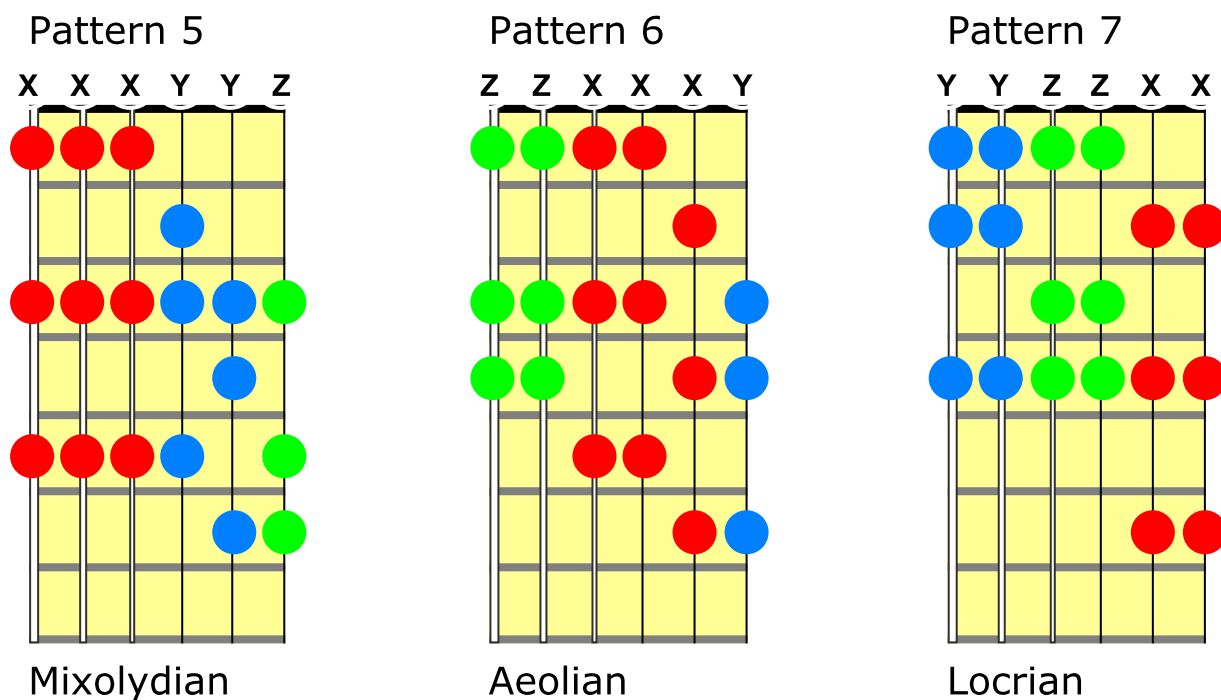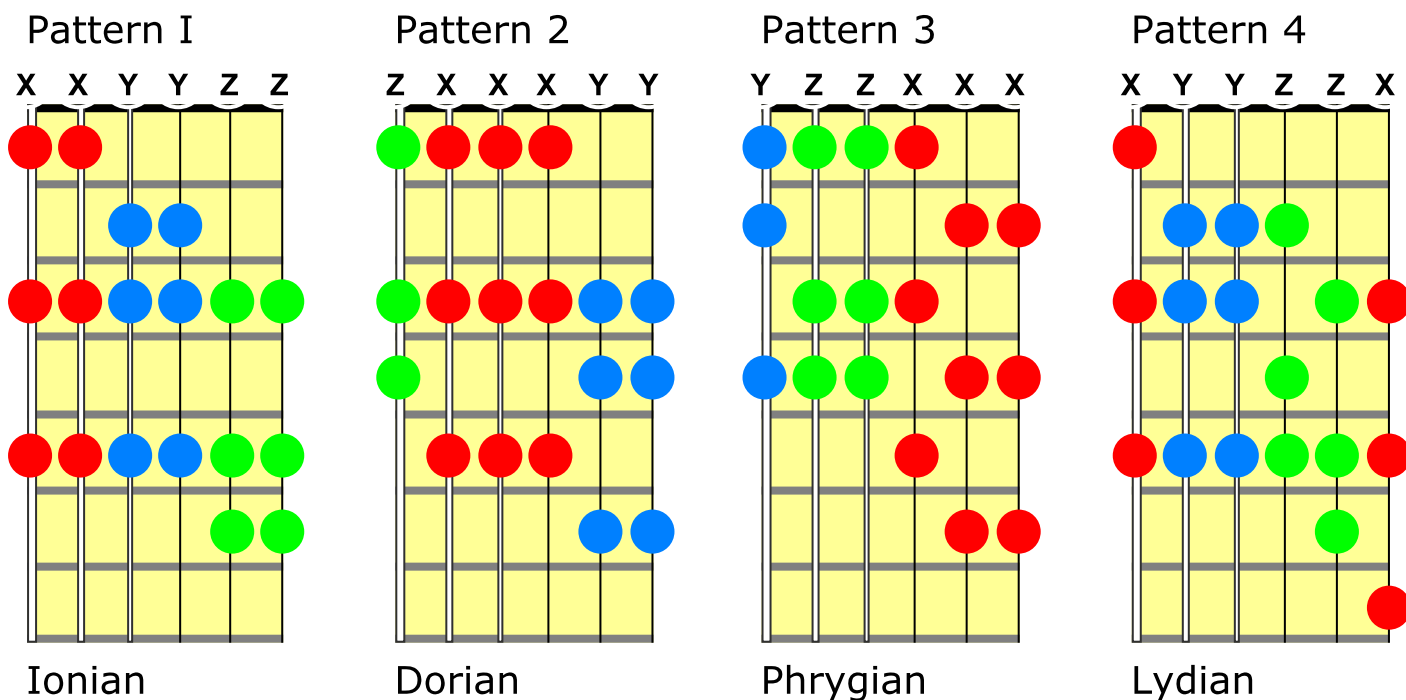
Building the Better Guitar Scale - Part 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8W_UrCZqRA&list=PLB04Q_-DchOO2pfeUB7rT2imLd9jeOFzz&index=4

Building the Better Guitar Scale - Part 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_bWLtz1Ktc&list=PLB04Q_-DchOO2pfeUB7rT2imLd9jeOFzz&index=5

MODE Scales

Pattern I
X X Y Y Z Z

Ionian

Pattern 2
Z X X X Y Y

Dorian

Pattern 3
Y Z Z X X X

Phrygian

Pattern 4
X Y Y Z Z X

Lydian

Pattern 5
X X X Y Y Z

Mixolydian

Pattern 6
Z Z X X X Y

Aeolian

Pattern 7
Y Y Z Z X X

Locrian

Scale Degree	Starting Shapes	Mode
1	XX	Ionian
2	ZX	Dorian
3	YZ	Phrygian
4	XY	Lydian
5	XXX*	Mixolydian
6	ZZ	Aeolian
7	YY	Locrian

*Scale degree 1 and 5 both start with XX. You will have to remember that scale degree 5 starts with XXX whereas scale degree 1 starts only XX.

C Ionian Starts on the Last 2 X Shapes
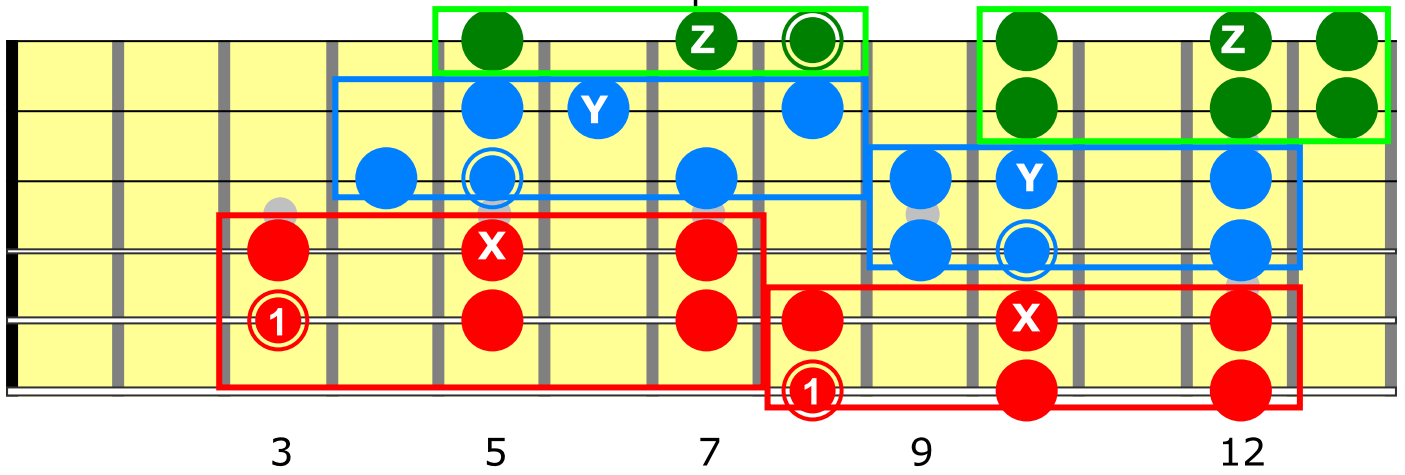
D Dorian Starts on Last Z Shapes (Flatten 3rd and 7th)
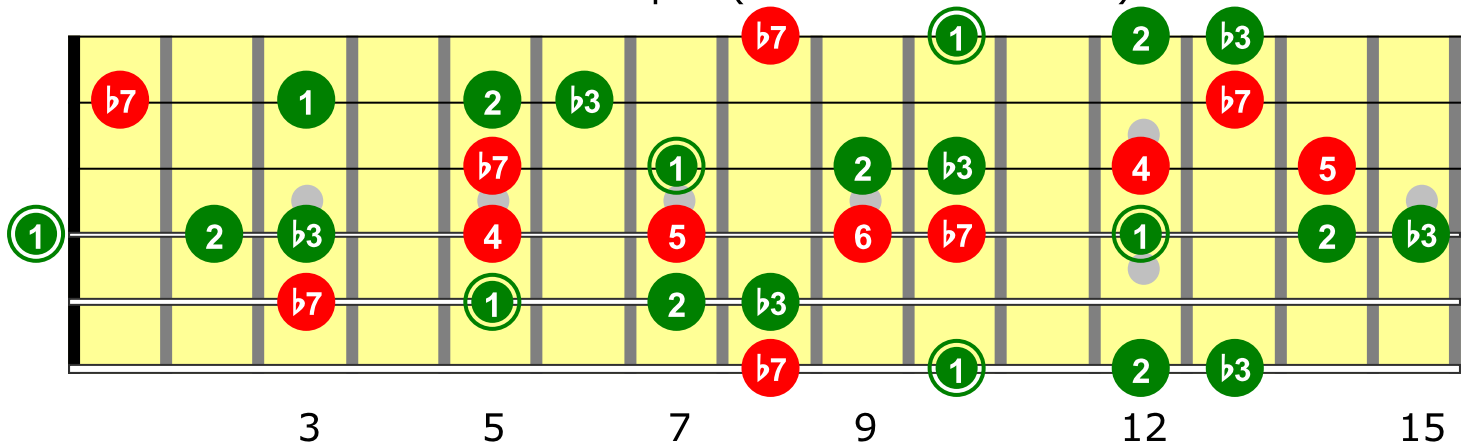
E Phrygian Starts on the Last Y Shapes (Flatten 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th)
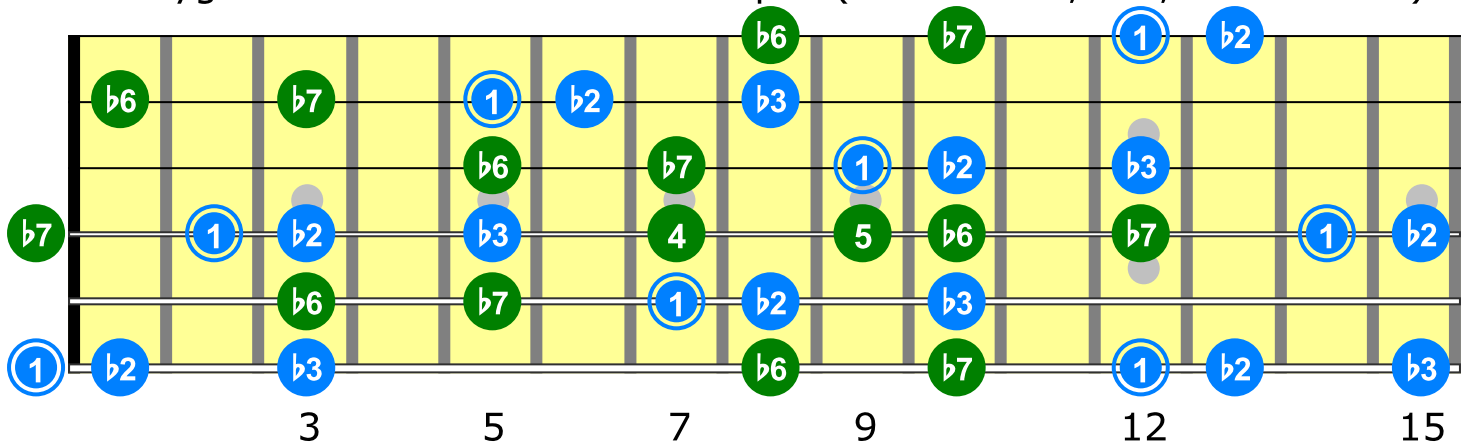
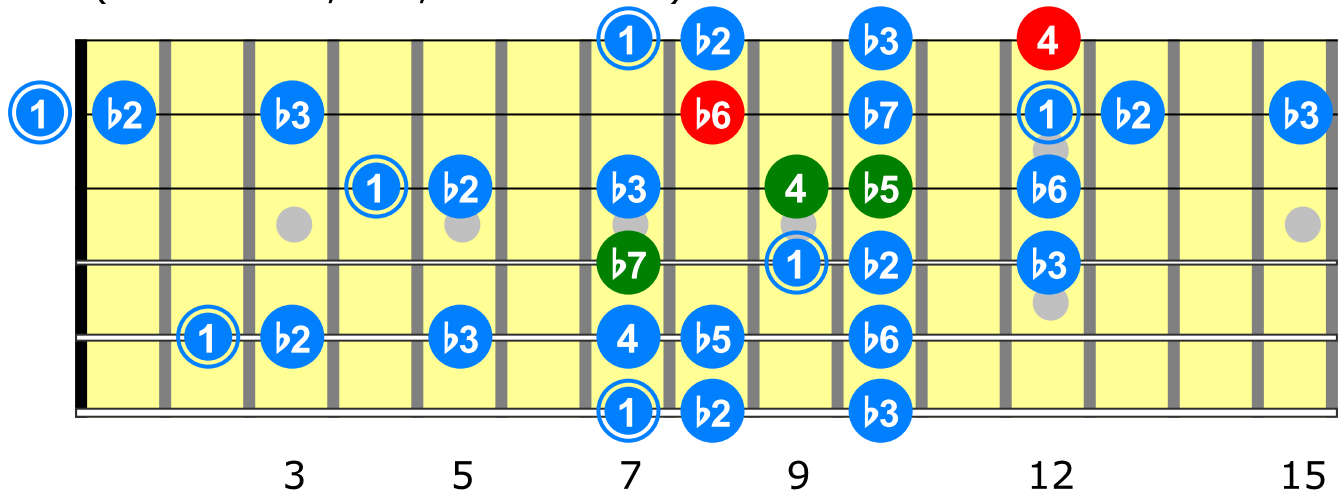# F Lydian Starts on the Last X Shapes (Sharpen 4th)
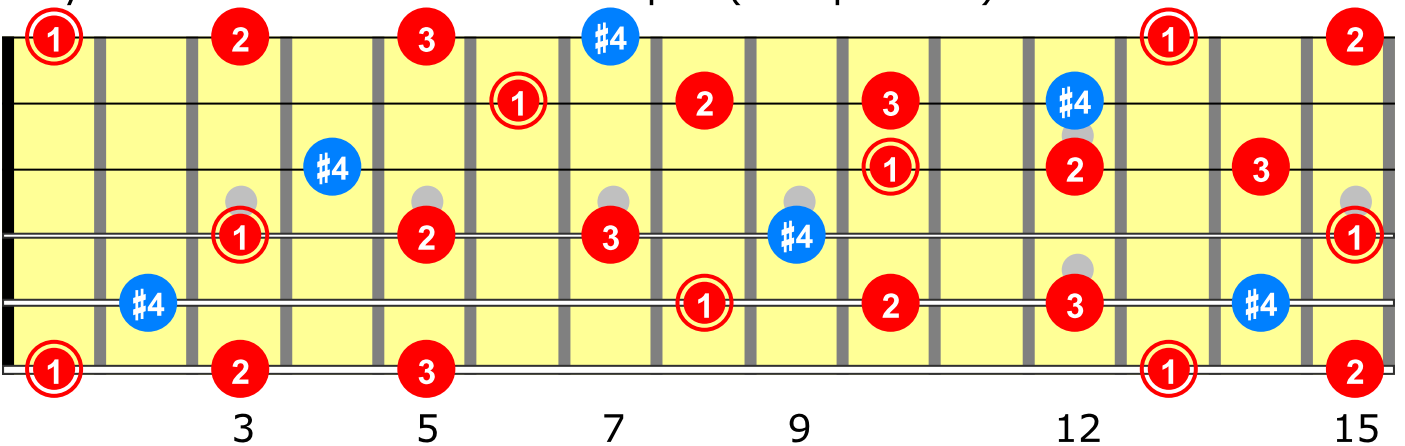
G Mixolydian Starts on the First of 3 X Shapes (Flatten 7th)
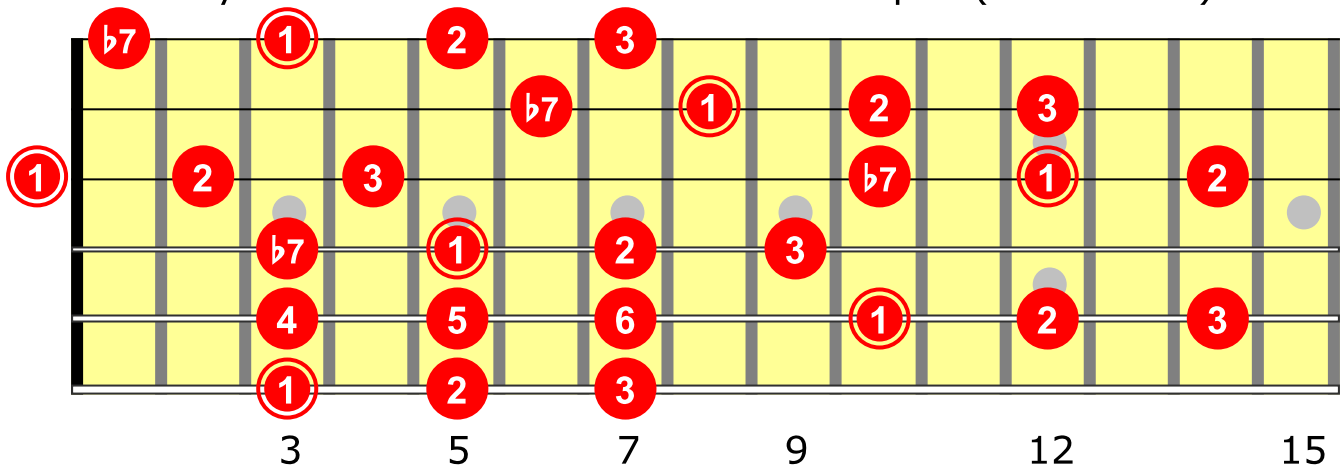
A Aeolian Starts on First of 2 Z Shapes (Flatten 3rd, 6th and 7th)
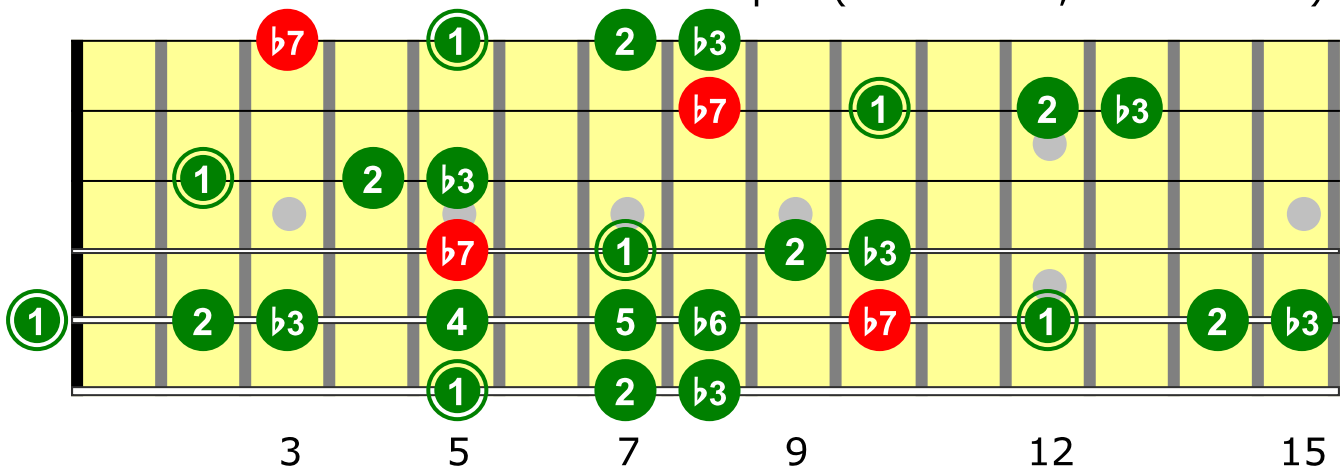
B Locrian Starts on First of 2 Y Shapes
## (Flatten 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th)

The 7 Mode Scales

Scale Degree	Starting Shapes	Mode
1	XX	Ionian
2	ZX	Dorian
3	YZ	Phrygian
4	XY	Lydian
5	XXX*	Mixolydian
6	ZZ	Aeolian
7	YY	Locrian

The 7 Major Scales

7 Scale Positions	Starting Shapes	Root Position
1	XY	Strings 5 & 3
2	XXX	Strings 5* & 3 & 1
3	ZZ	Strings 6 & 3* & 1
4	YY	Strings 6 & 4 & 1*
5	XX	Strings 6* & 4 & 2
6	ZX	Strings 4* & 2
7	YZ	Strings 5 & 2*

*Root Starting Sequence

C Major Position 1 (Lydian Shape 4th mode)
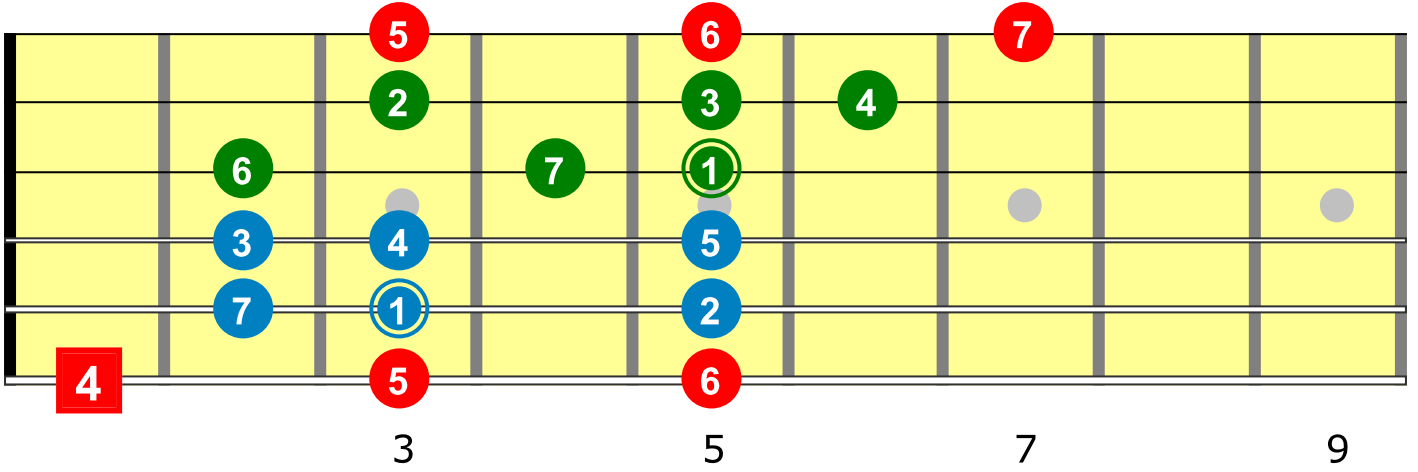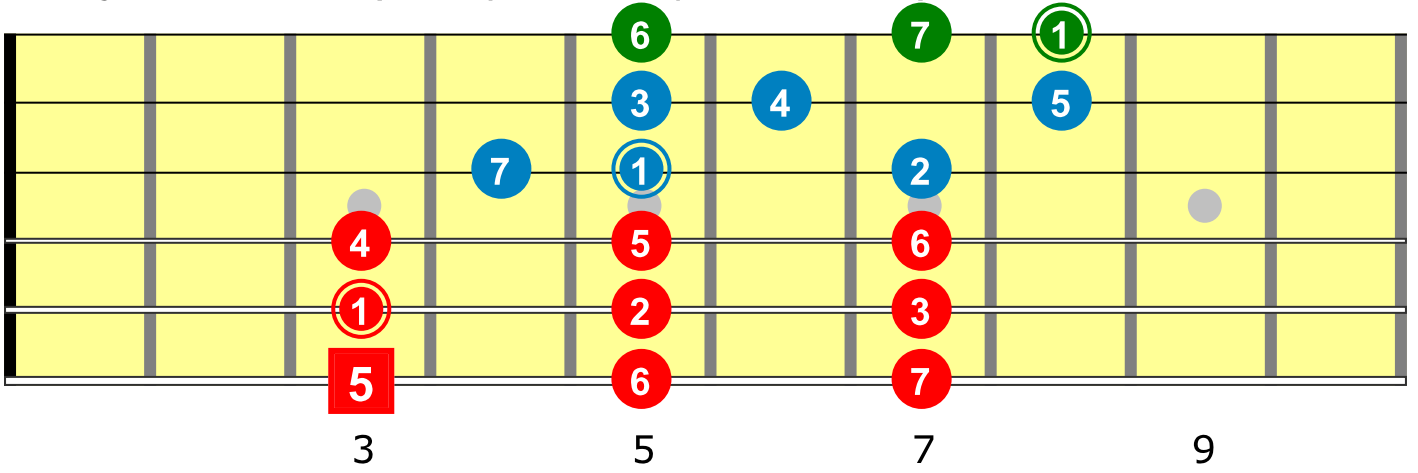
C Major Position 2 (Mixolydian Shape 5th mode)

C Major Position 3 (Aeolian Shape 6th mode)
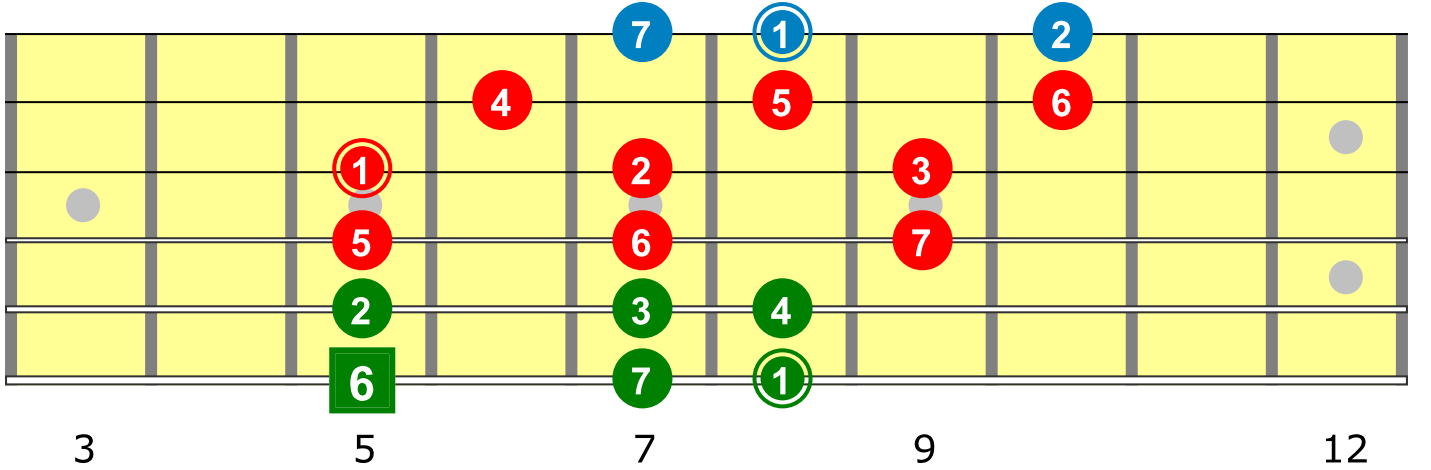
C Major Position 4 (Locrian Shape 7th mode)
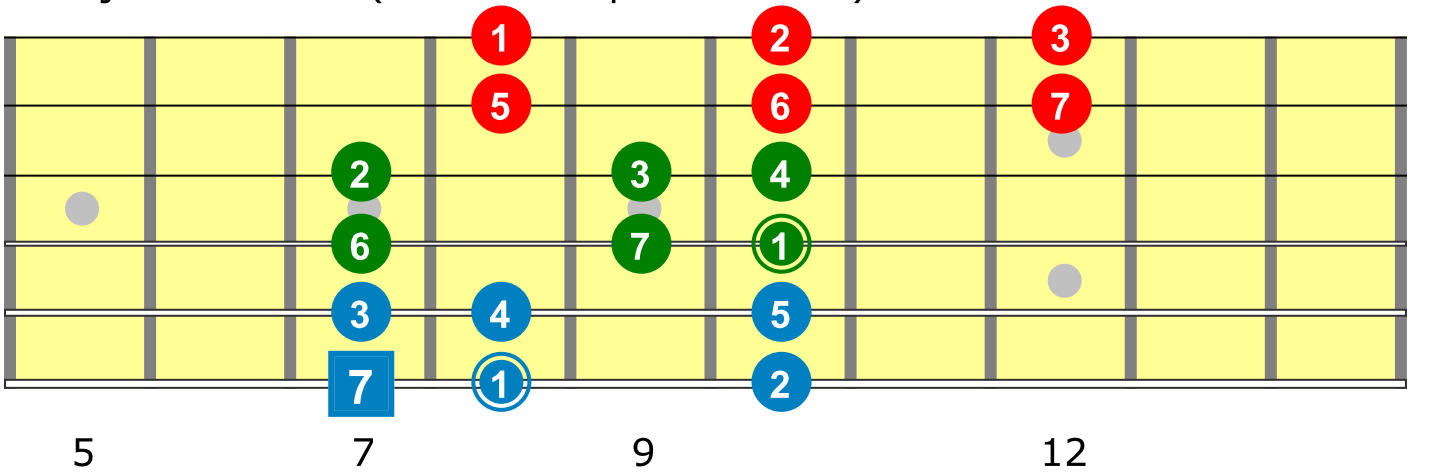
C Major Position 5 Starts on Two rows of X (Ionian Shape 1st mode)
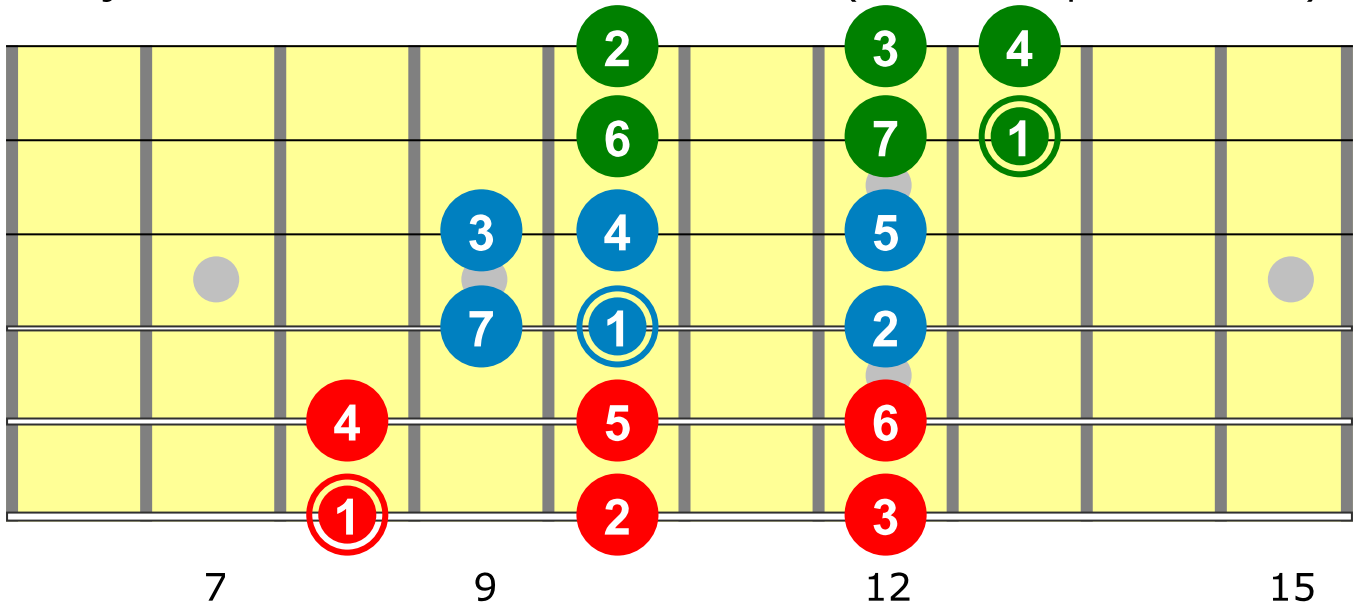
C Major Position 6 (Dorian Shape 2nd mode)
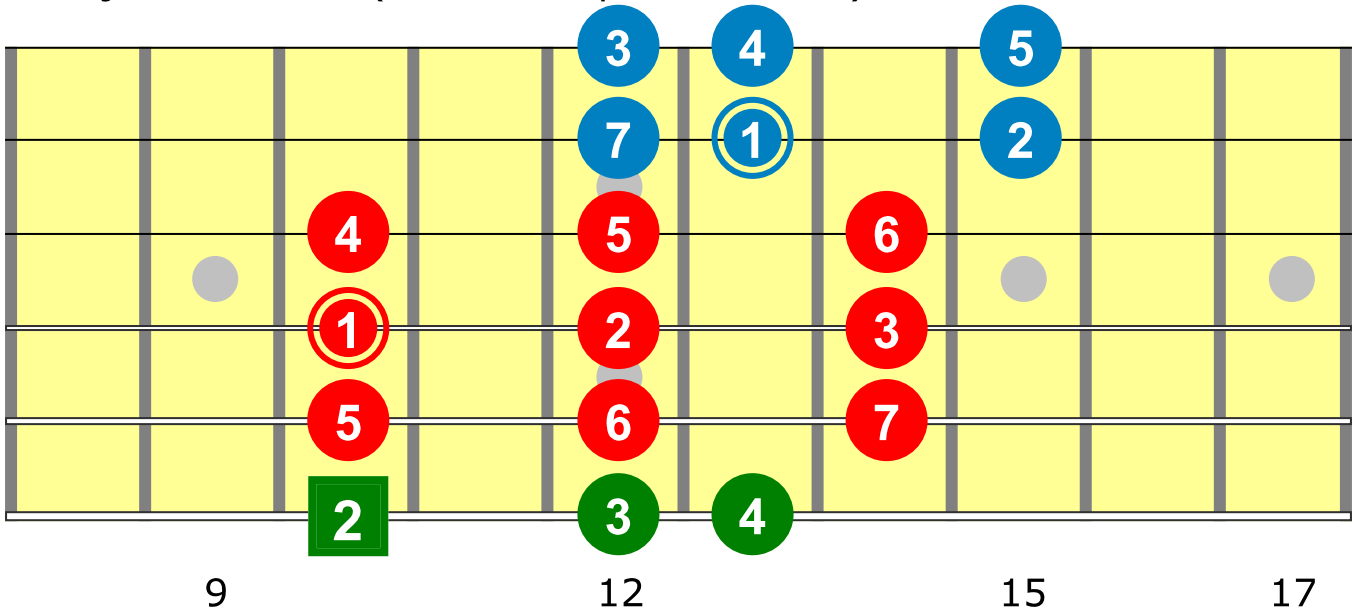
C Major Position 7 (Phrygian Shape 3rd mode)
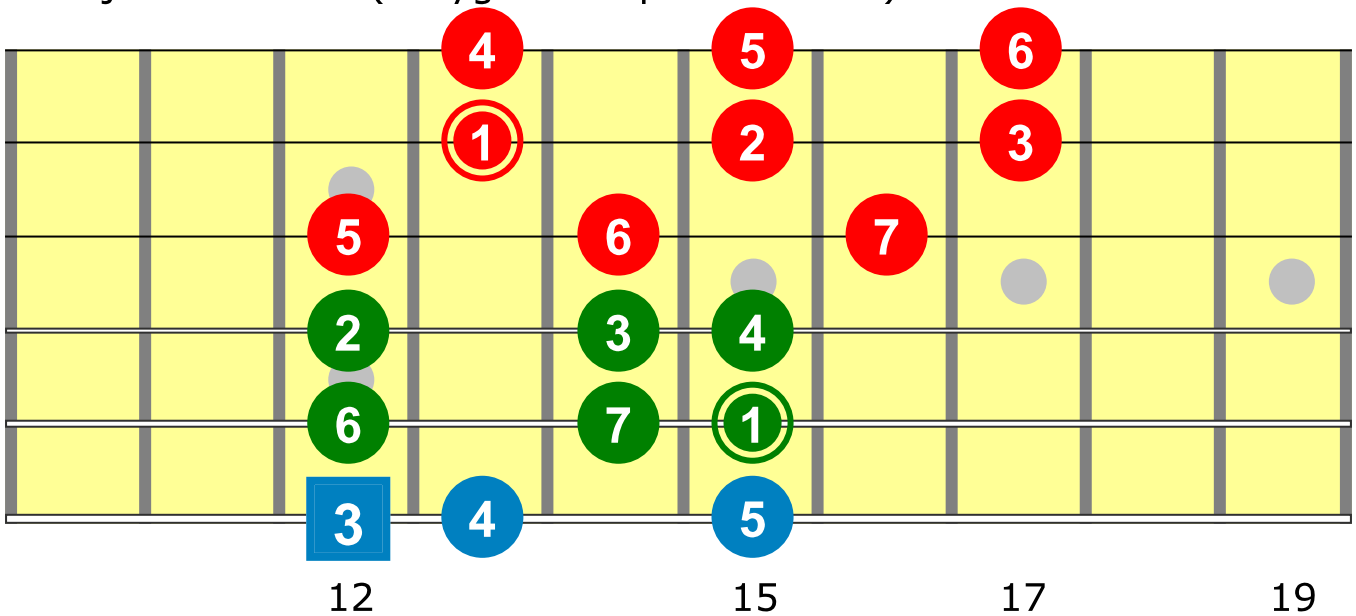
7 Modal Scales

Ionian *(Eye-oh-nee-an)* - Major

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Dorian *(Door-ee-an)*

2	3	4	5	6	7	1

Phrygian *(Fridge-ee-an)*

3	4	5	6	7	1	2

Lydian *(Lid-ee-an)*

4	5	6	7	1	2	3

Mixolydian *(Mix-oh-lid-ee-an)*

5	6	7	1	2	3	4

Aeolian *(Ay-oh-lee-an)* - Minor

6	7	1	2	3	4	5

Locrian *(Lo-cree-an)*

7	1	2	3	4	5	6

Ionian (I)	W	W	H	W	W	W	H					
Dorian (II)		W	H	W	W	W	H	W				
Phrygian (III)			H	W	W	W	H	W	W			
Lydian (IV)				W	W	W	H	W	W	H		
Mixolydian (V)					W	W	H	W	W	H	W	
Aeolian (VI)						W	H	W	W	H	W	W
Locrian (VII)							H	W	W	H	W	W	W

Mode Formulas

C Ionian **Rember the the number 221 2221 for WWh WWWh**

[-W-] 2	[-W-] 2	[H] 1	[-W-] 2	[-W-] 2	[-W-] 2	[H] 1
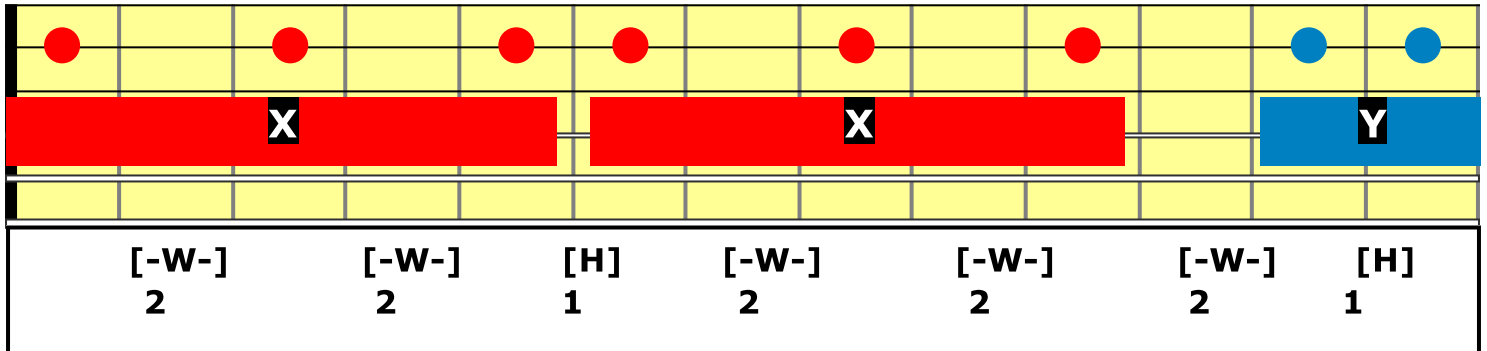
D Dorian **Rember the the number 212 2212 for WhW WWhW**

[-W-] 2	[H] 1	[-W-] 2	[-W-] 2	[-W-] 2	[H] 1	[-W-] 2
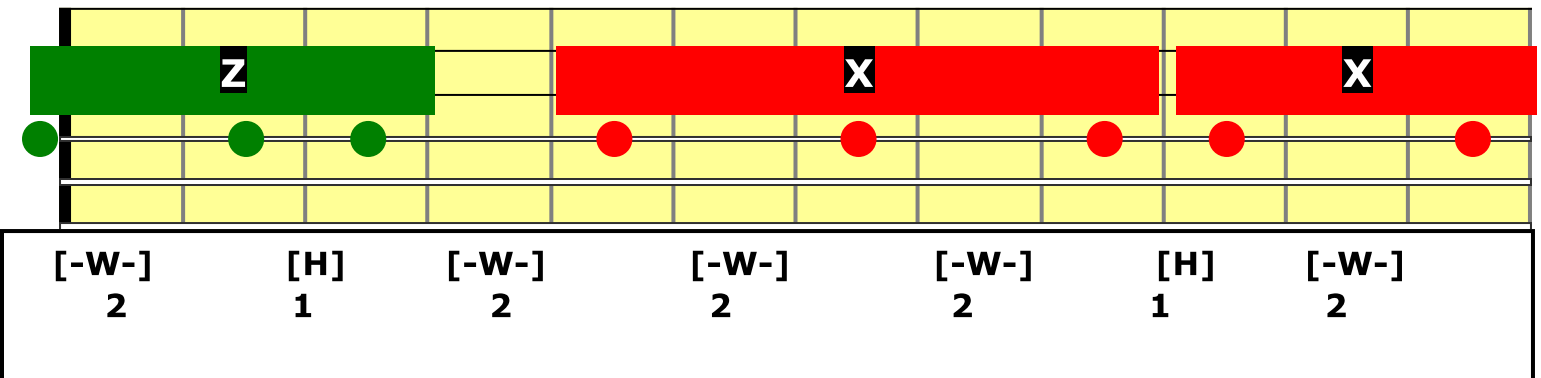
E Phrygian **Rember the the number 122 2122 for hWW WhWW**

[H] 1	[-W-] 2	[-W-] 2	[-W-] 2	[H] 1	[-W-] 2	[-W-] 2
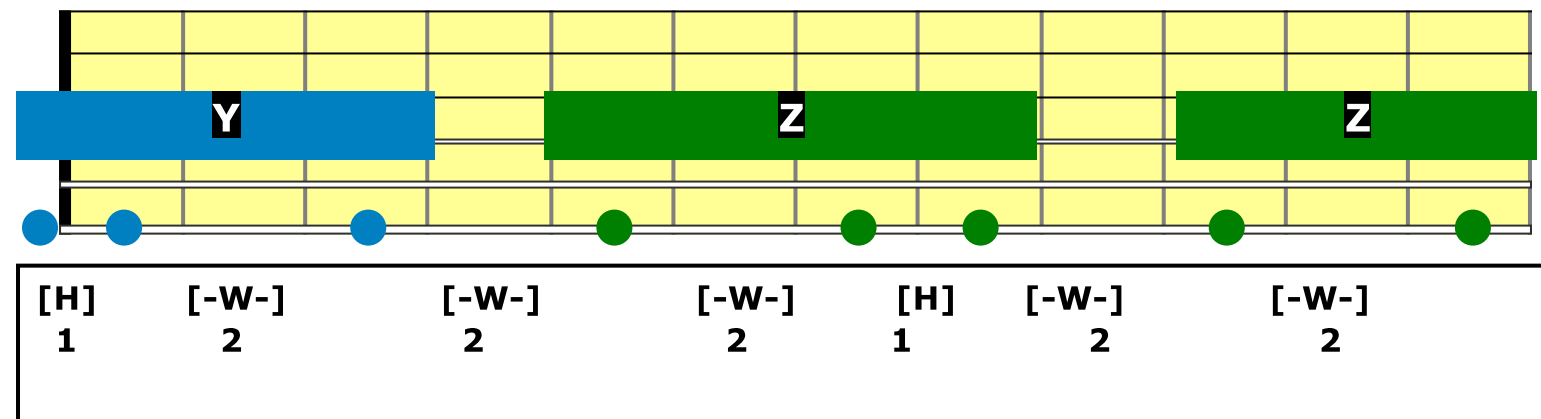
F Lydian **Rember the the number 222 1221 for WWW hWWh**

[-W-]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]
2	2	2	1	2	2	1

G Mixolydian **Rember the the number 221 2212 for WWh WWhW**

[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]
2	2	1	2	2	1	2

A Aeolian **Rember the the number 212 2122 for WhW WhWW**

[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]
2	1	2	2	1	2	2

B Locrian **Rember the the number 122 1222 for hWW hWWW**

[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[-W-]
1	2	2	1	2	2	2

Modes in order
In **D**ark **P**laces **L**ove **M**aking **A**lway **L**urks
with the Seven Major Scale Positions

C Ionian Starts on the Last Two Rows X (Position 5)
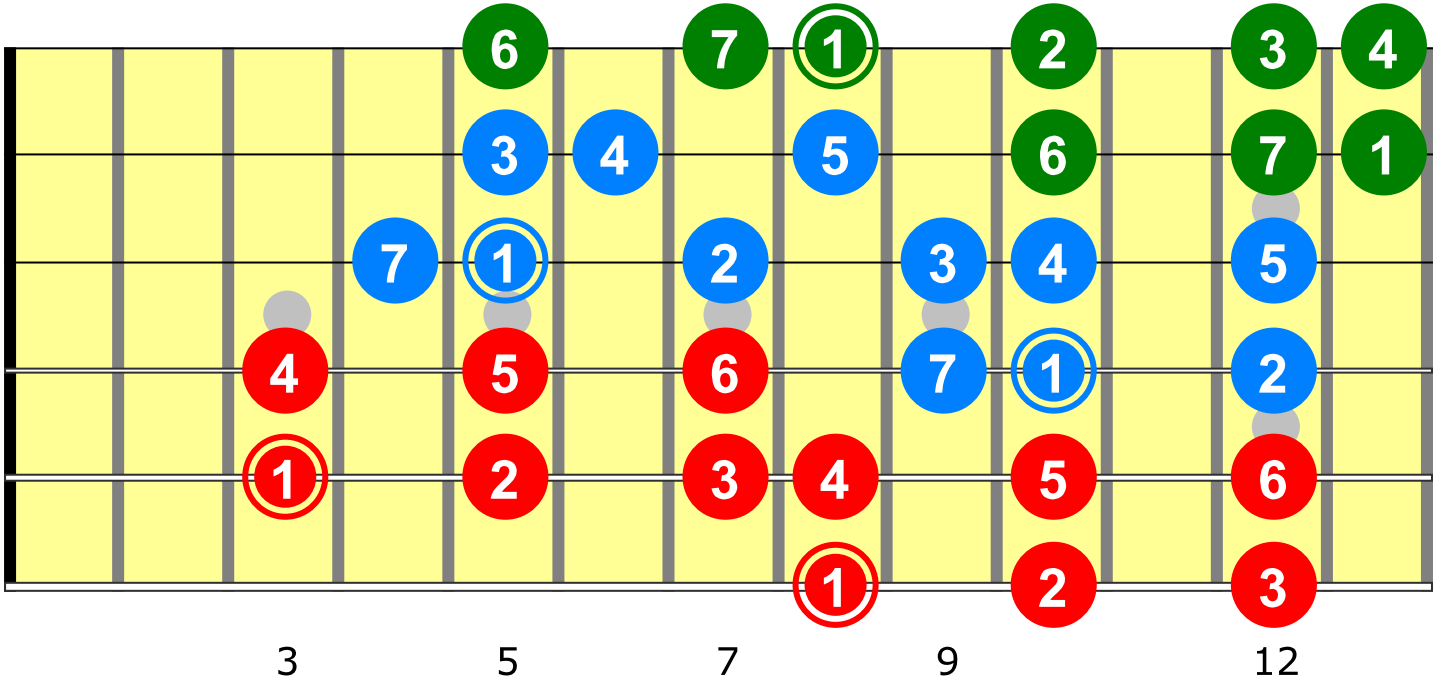
C Dorian Starts on one row of Z (Position 6)
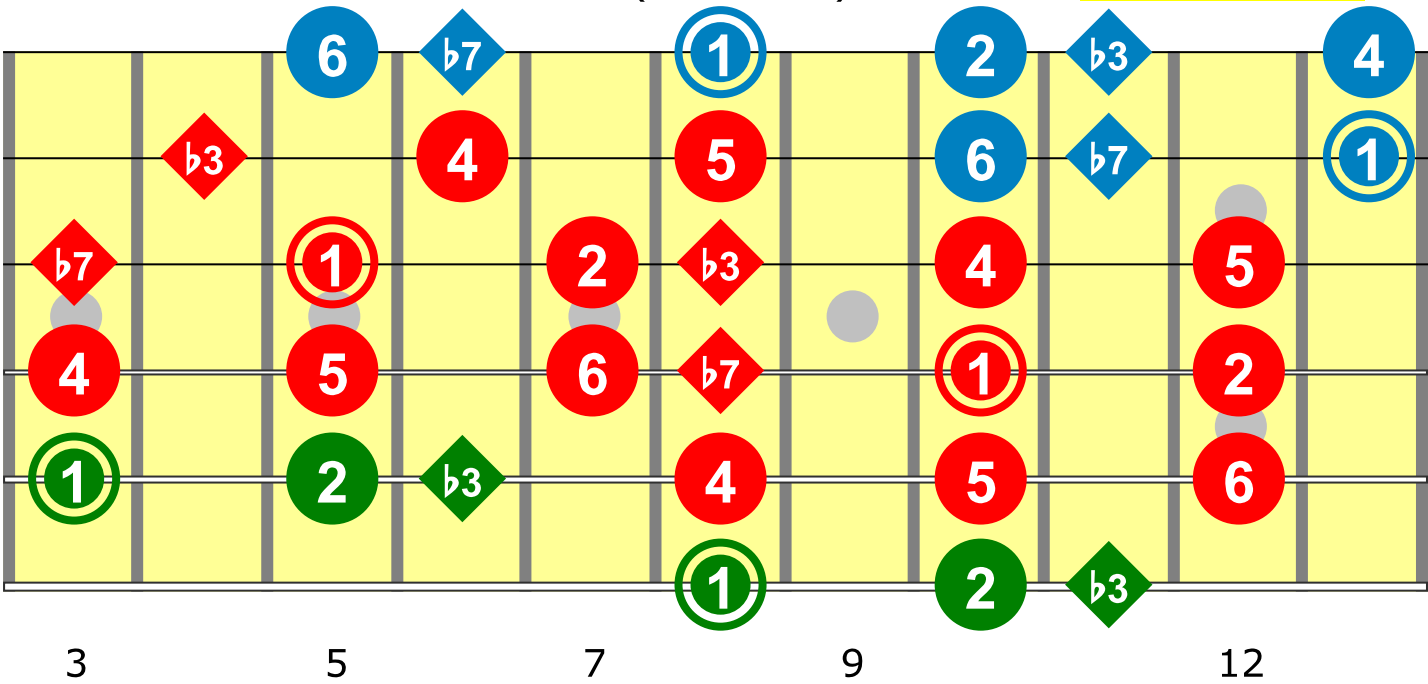
C Phrygian Starts on one row of Y (Position 7)
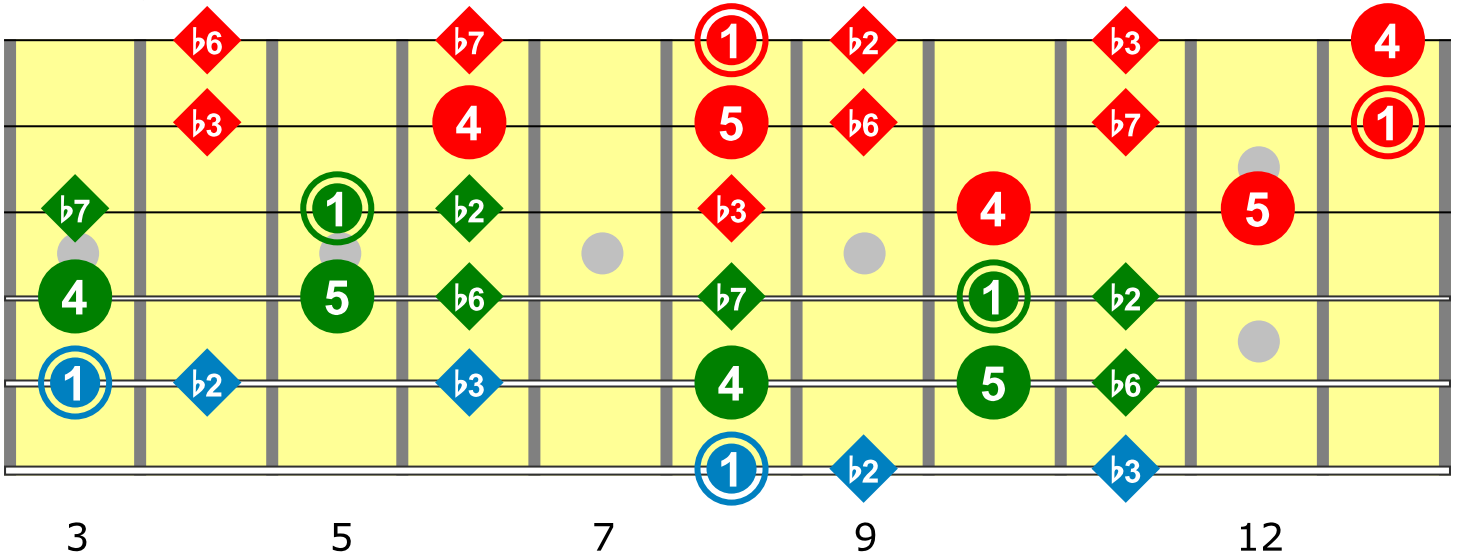
HWW WHWW
122 2122

C Lydian Start on one row of X (Position 1)
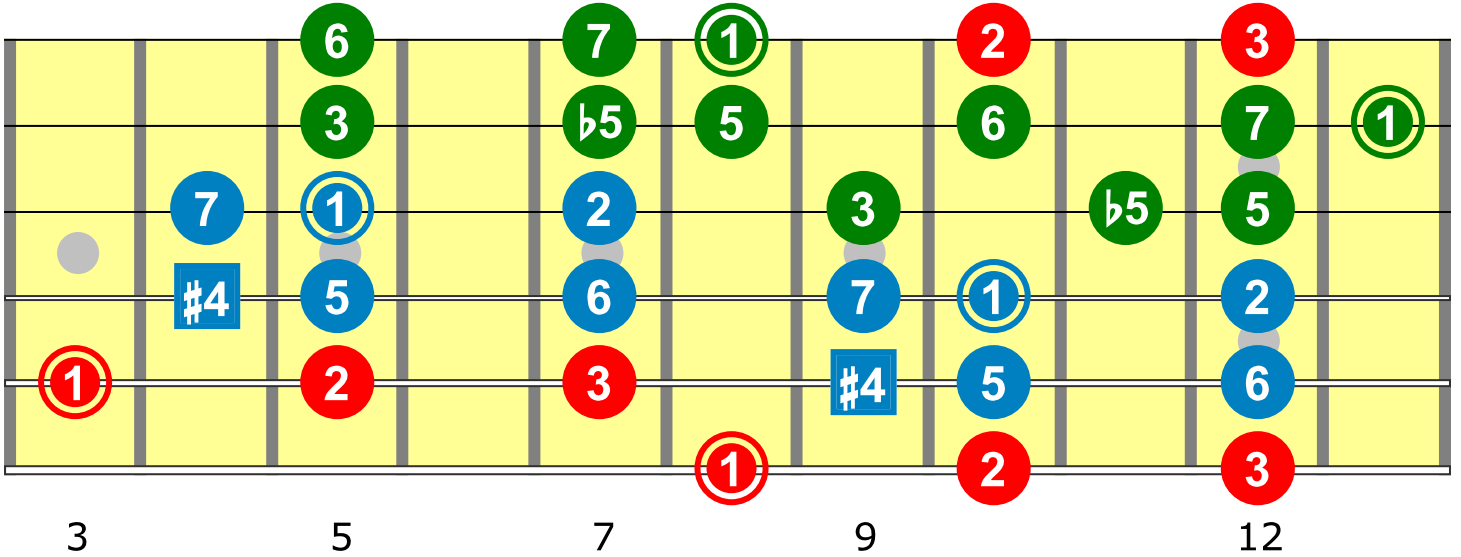
WWW HWWH
222 1221

C Mixolydian Starts on the three rows of X (Position 2)
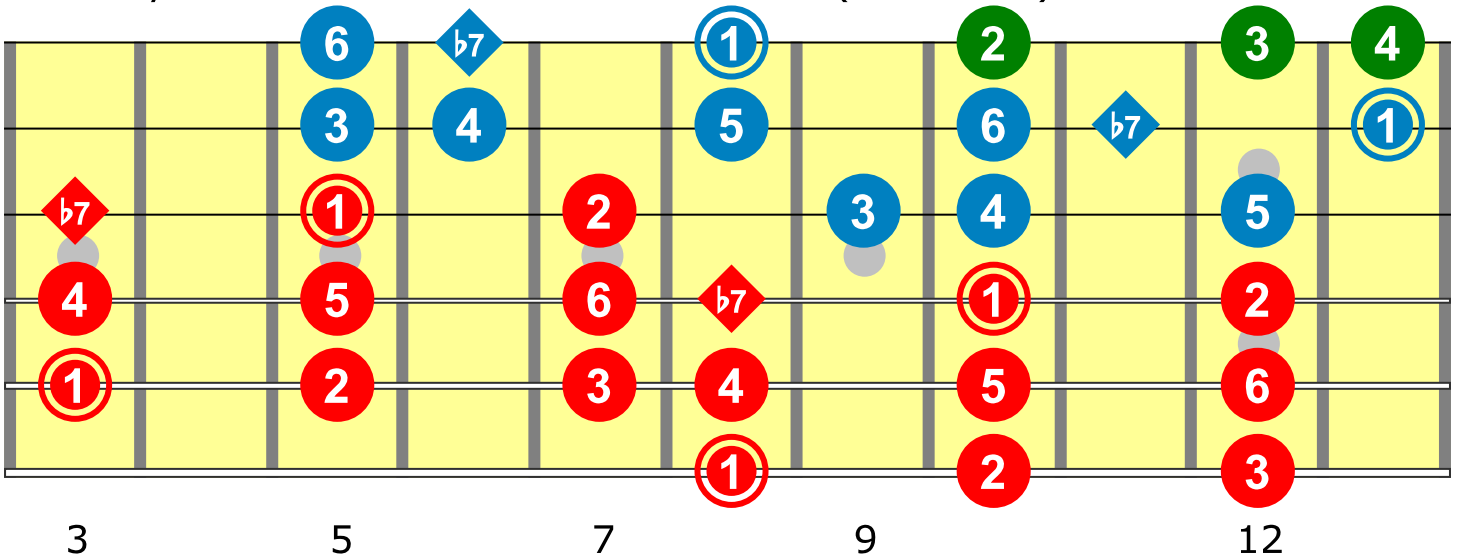
WWH WWHW
221 2212

C Aeolian Starts on the two rows of Z (Position 3)
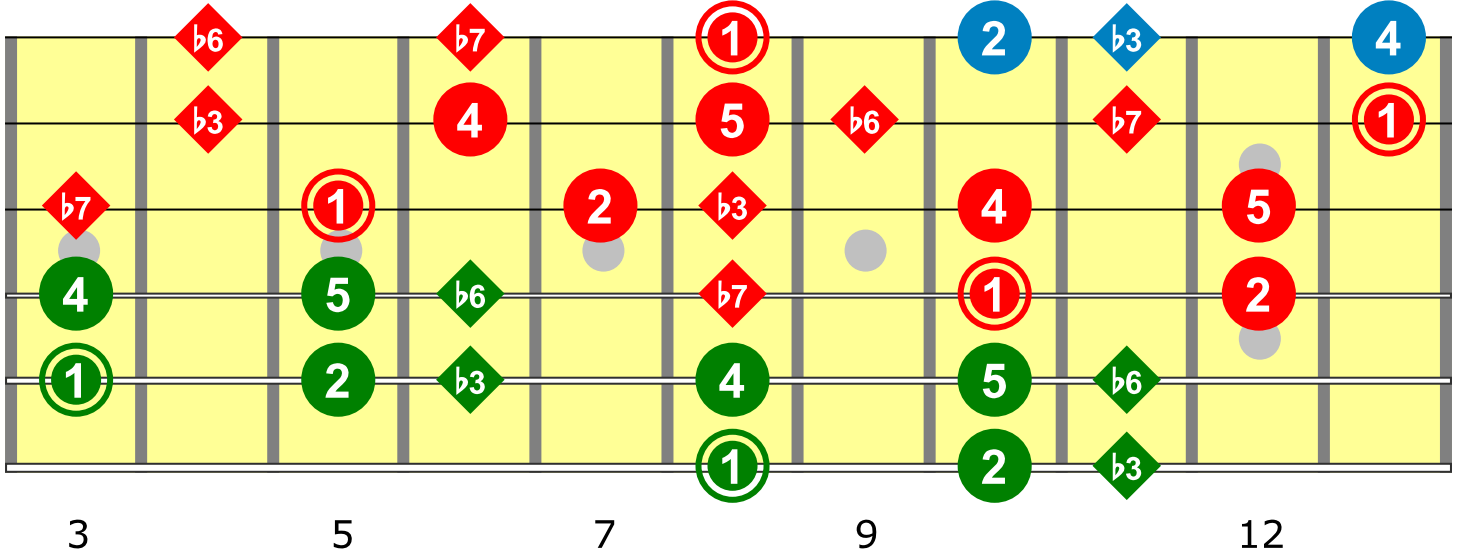
WHW WHWW
212 2122

C Locrian Starts on the two rows of Y (Position 4)

HWW HWWW
122 1222
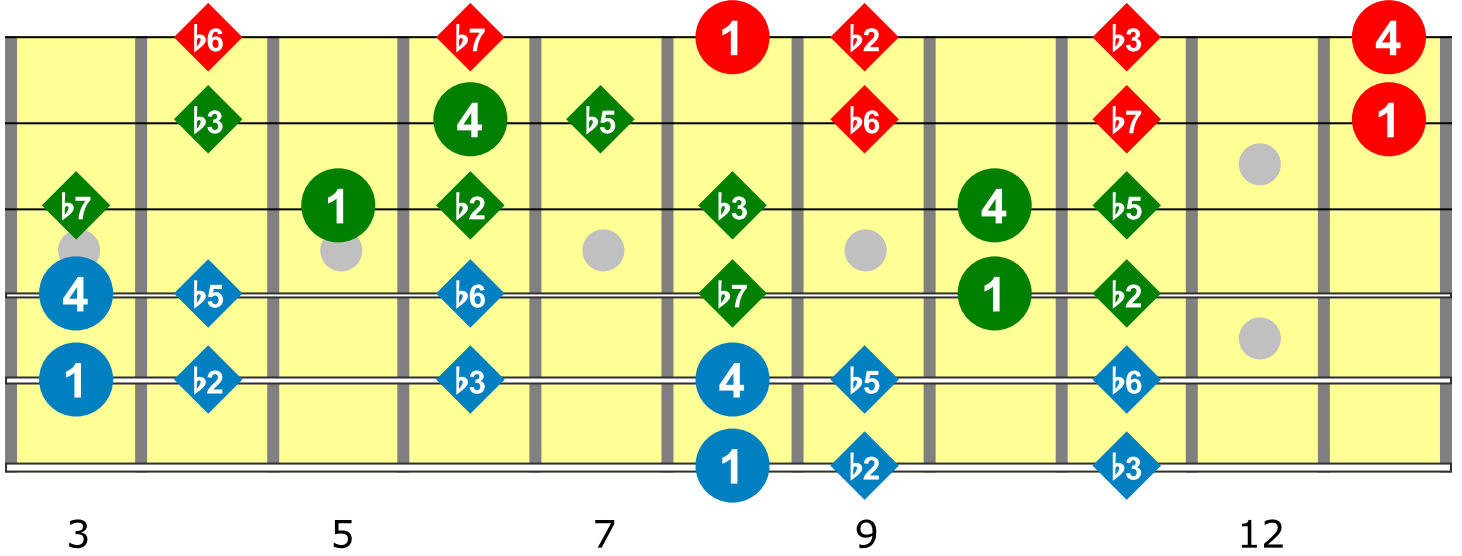
Compare 7 Major scale position to its mode degree

C Major Position 1

F Lydian Scale Degree 4 (Sharpen 4th)

Old Root is now p5

The New Root is on the old 4th inverval. (4th Mode Shape)
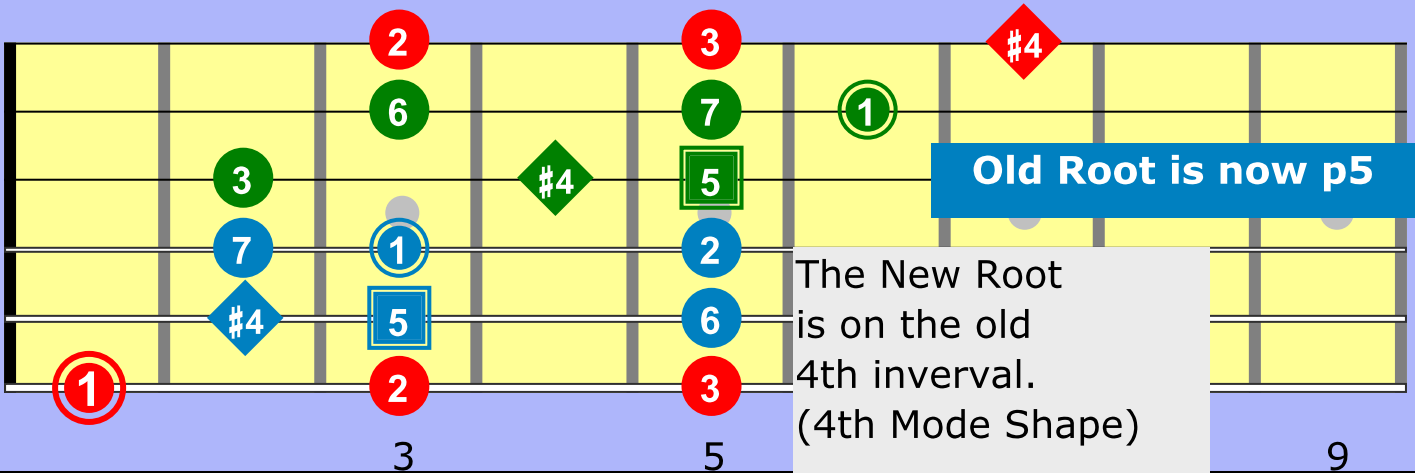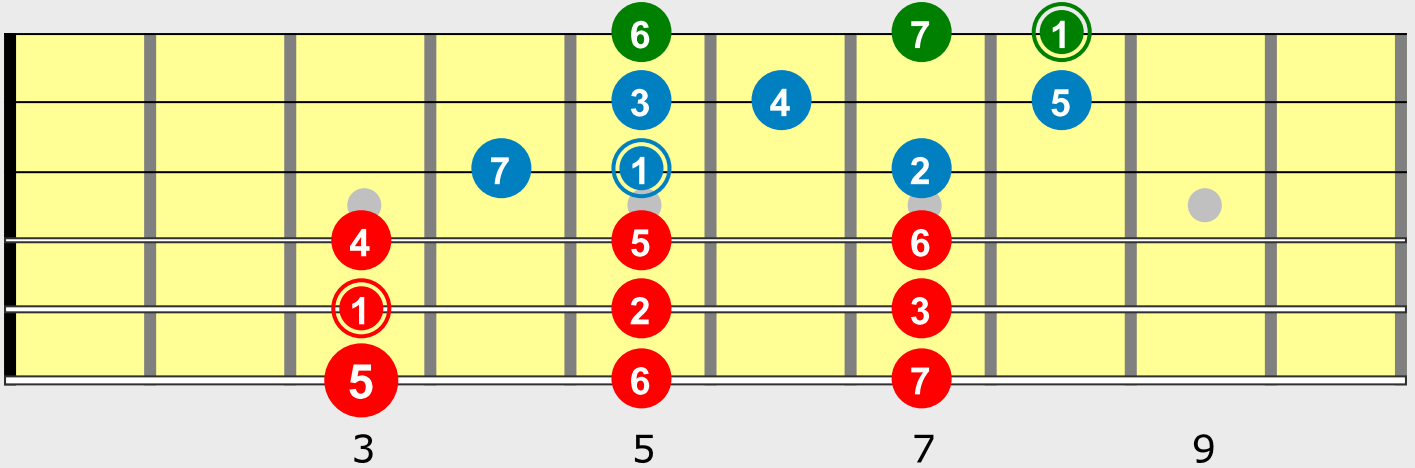
C Major Position 2

G Mixolydian Scale Degree 5 (Flatten 7th)

Old Root is now p4

The New Root is on the old 5th inverval. (5th Mode Shape)
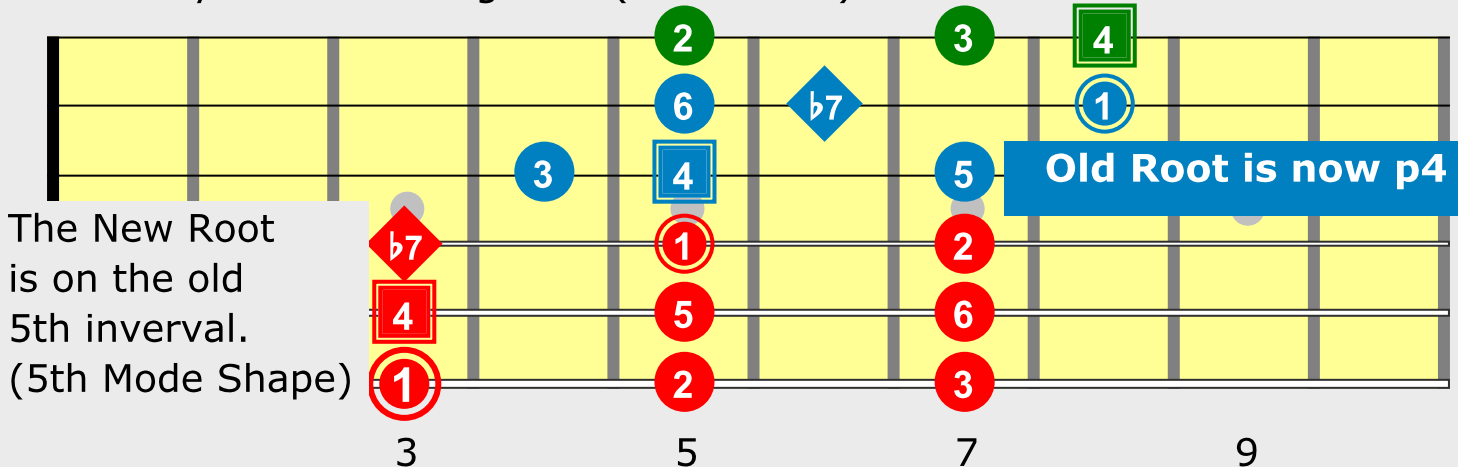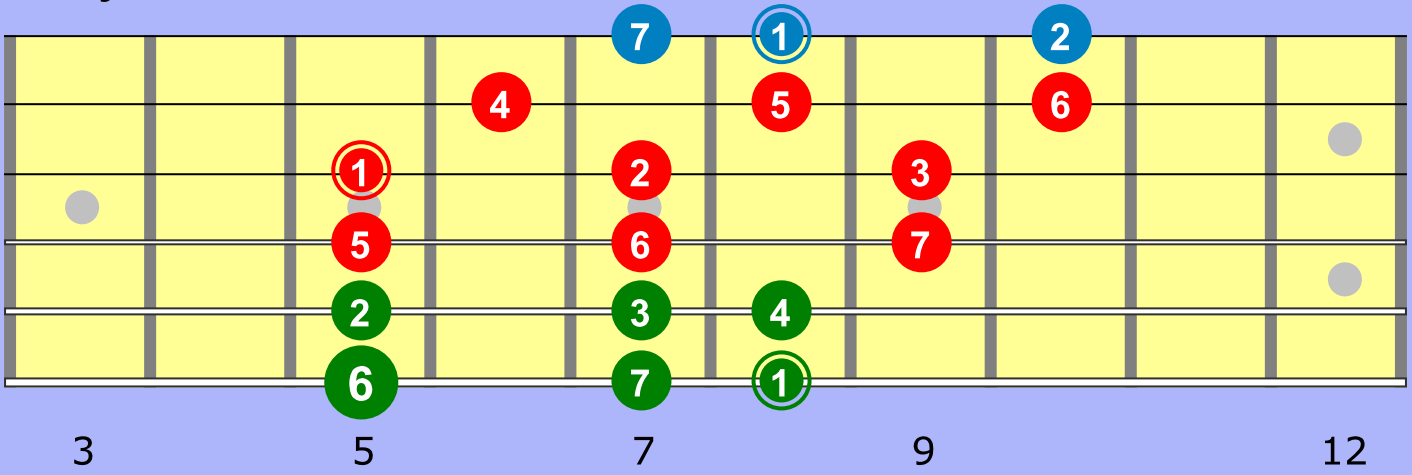
C Major Position 3

A Aeolian Scale Degree 6 (Flatten 3rd, 6th and 7th)

The New Root is on the old 6th inverval. (6th Mode Shape)

Old Root is now b3
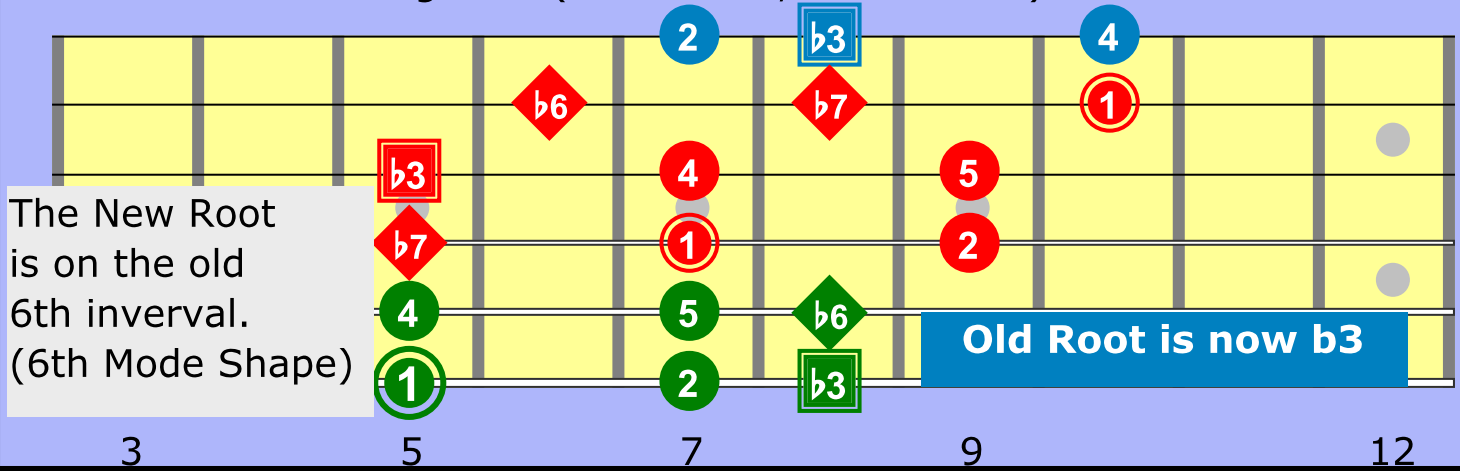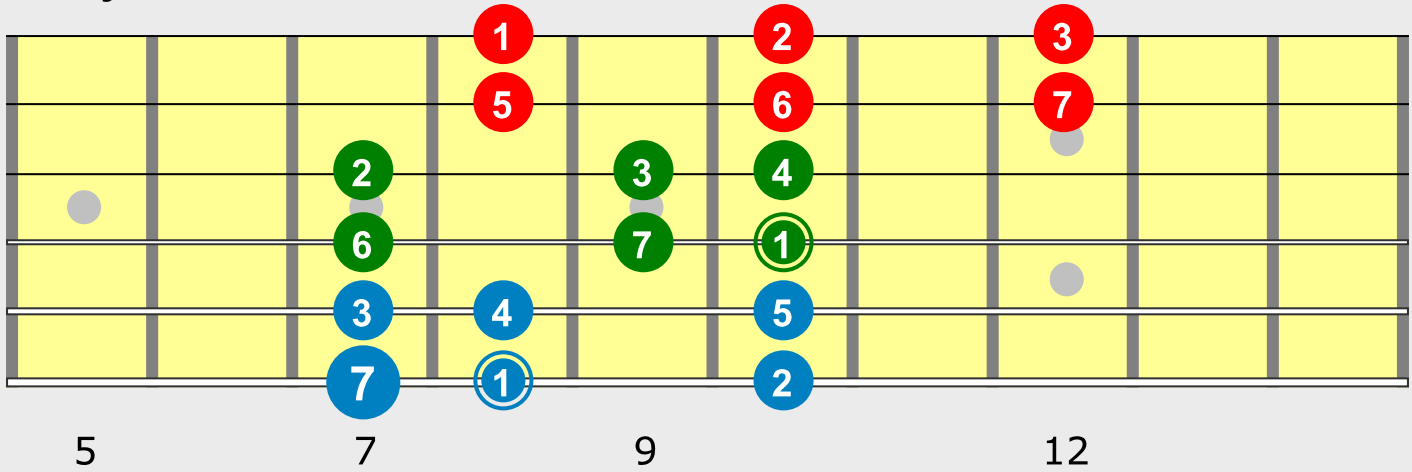
C Major Position 4

B Locrian Scale Degree 7 (Flatten 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th)

The New Root is on the old 7th inverval. (7th Mode Shape)

Old Root is now b2
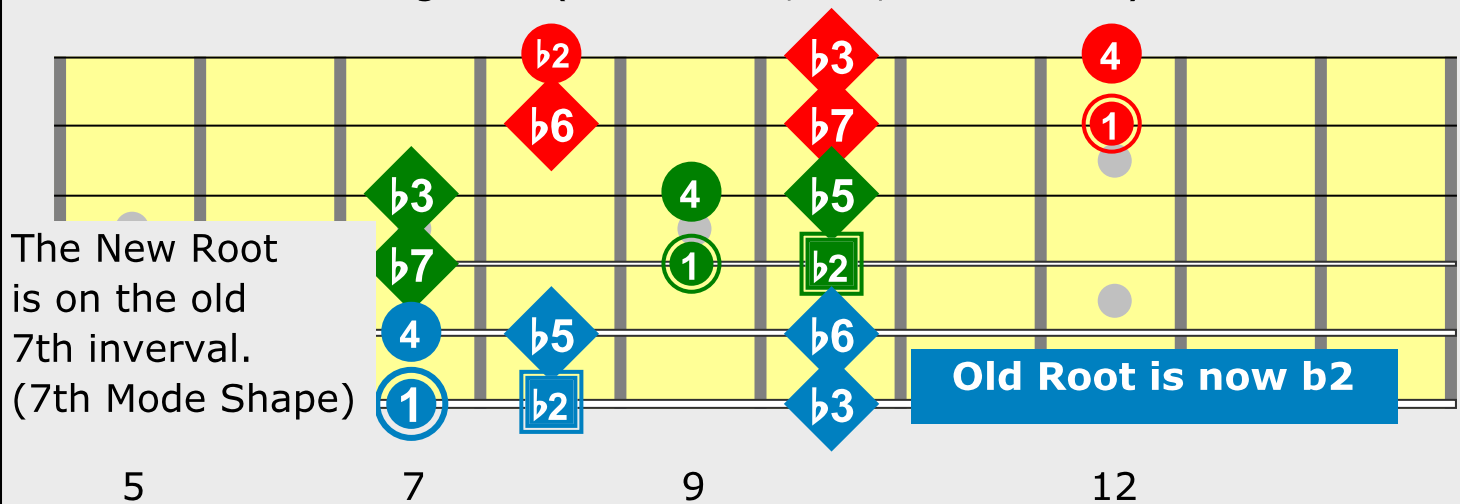
C Major Position 5

C Ionian Degree Scale 1

The New Root is on the old 1st inverval. (1st Mode Shape)
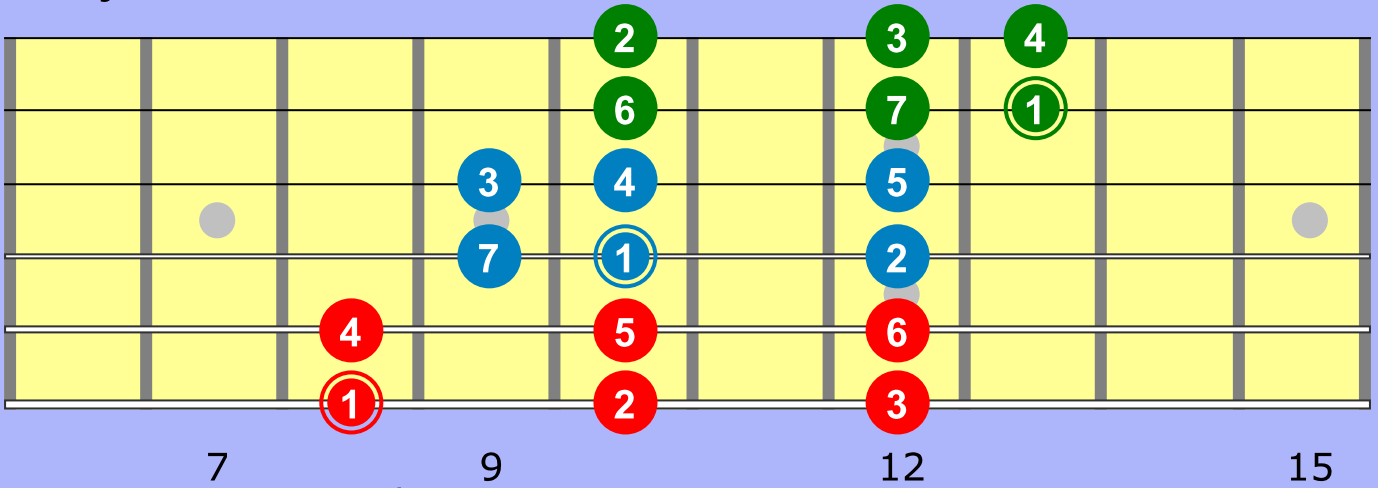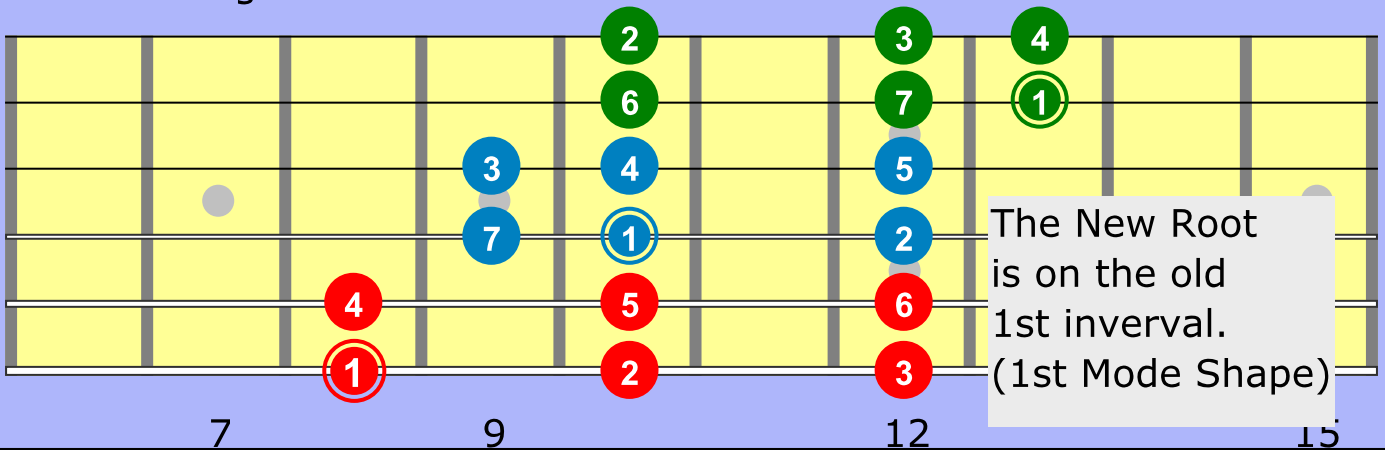
C Major Position 6

D Dorian Scale Degee 2 (Flatten 3rd and 7th)

Old Root is now b7
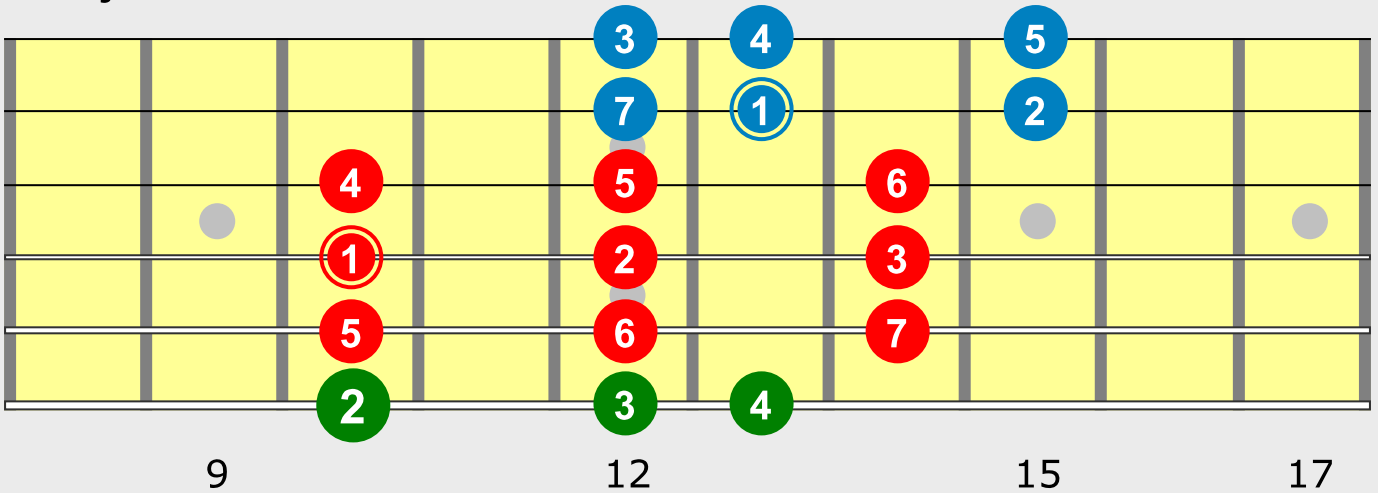
The New Root is on the old 2nd inverval. (2nd Mode Shape)
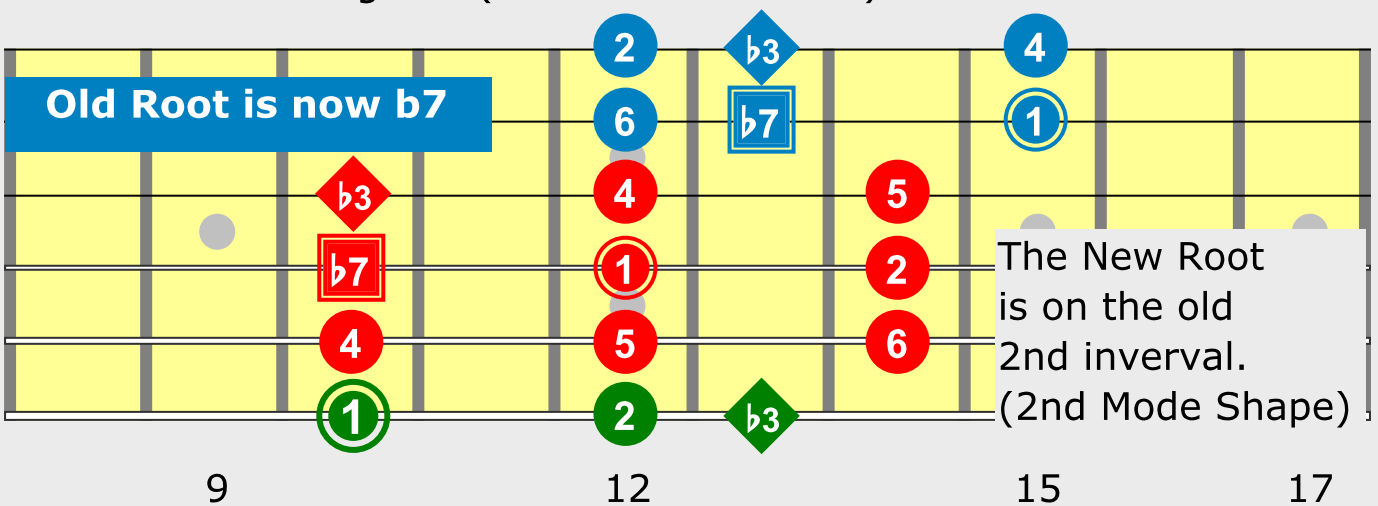
C Major Position 7
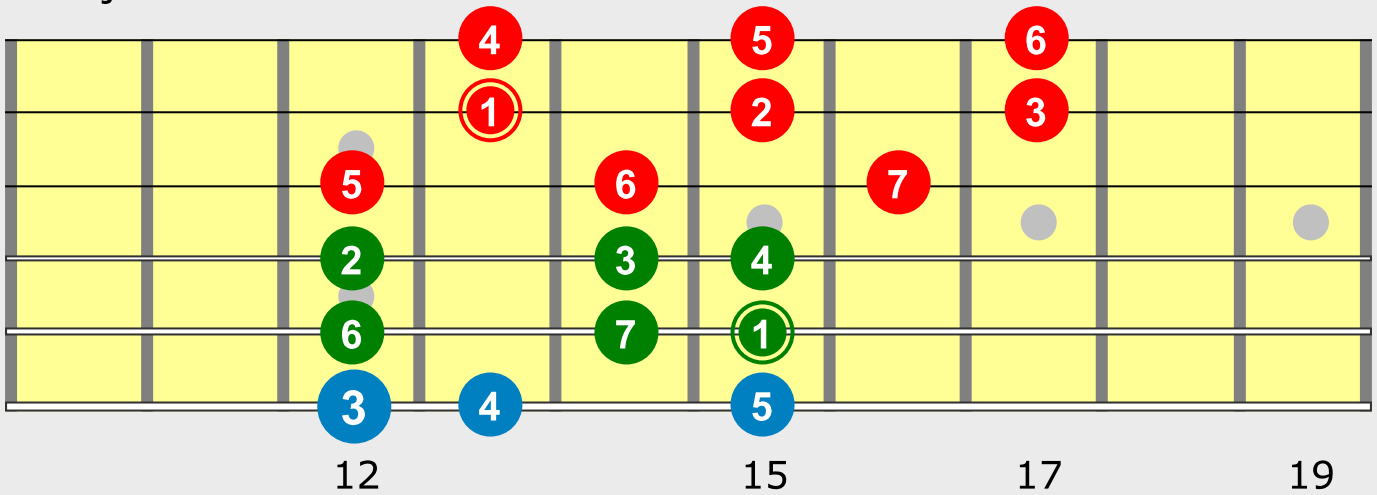
E Phrygian Scale Degree 3 (Flatten 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th)

The New Root is on the old 3rd inverval. (3rd Mode Shape)

Old Root is now b6
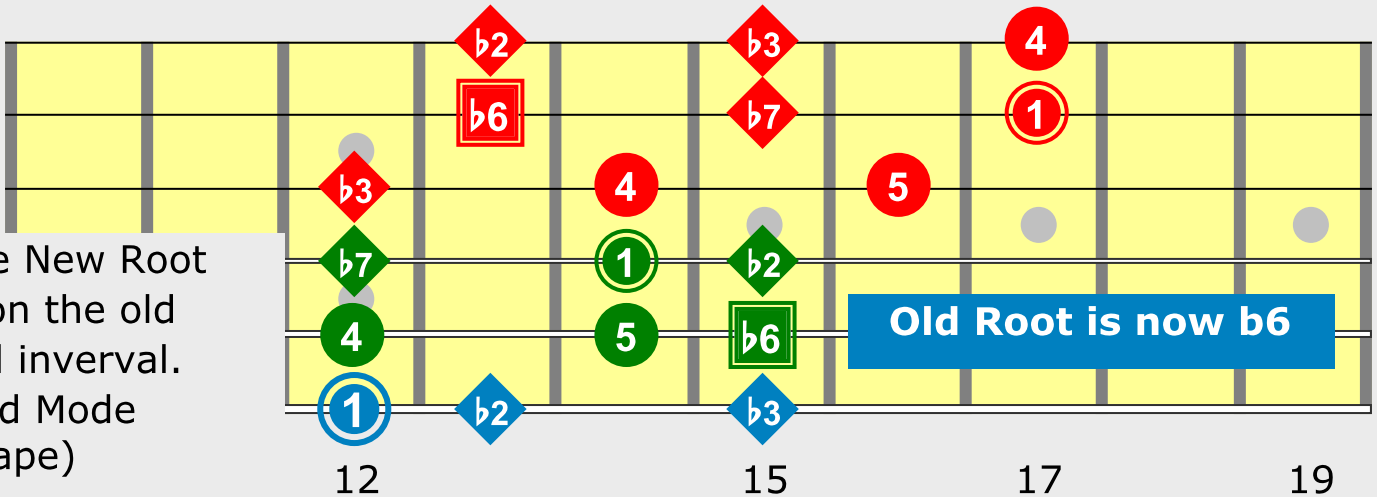
7 Scale Positions	Mode Degree	Old Root Position	Scale
1	4. Lydian	Perfect 5	Major
2	5. Mixolydian	Perfect 4	Major
3	6. Aeolian	minor 3	minor
4	7. Locrian	minor 2	minor
5	1. Ionian	Unison	Major
6	2. Dorian	minor 7	minor
7	3. Phrygian	minor 6	minor

C Dorian Position 1 (Dorian Shape) caGED
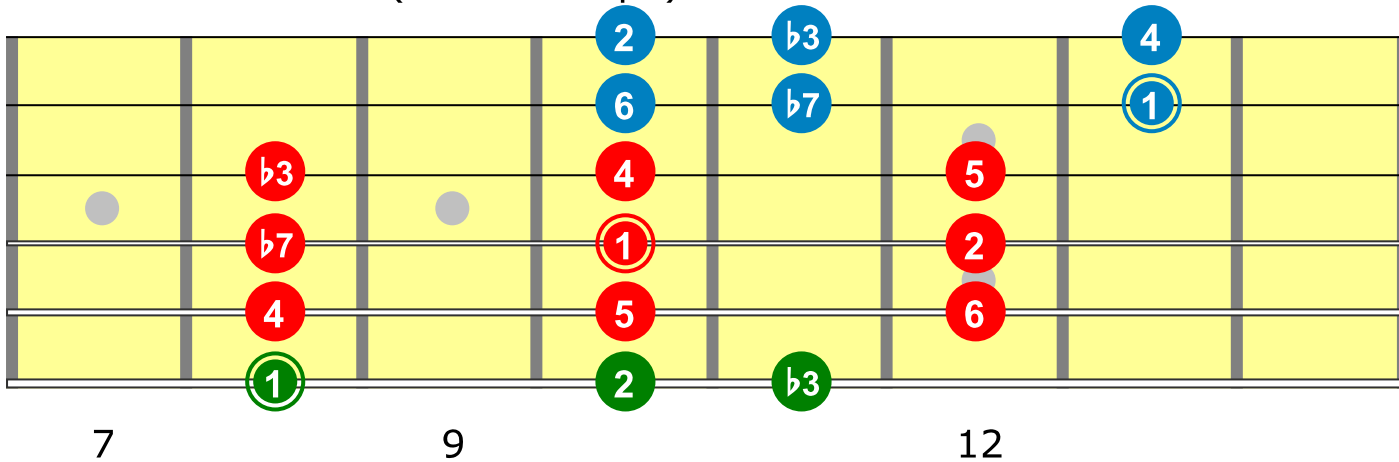
C Dorian Position 2 (Phrygian Shape) cagED
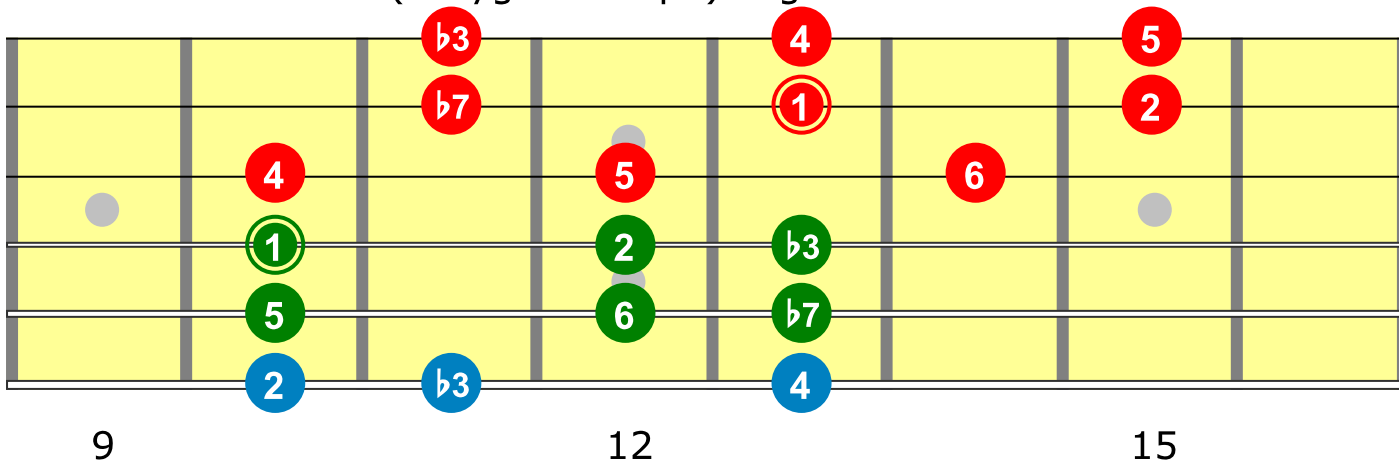
C Dorian Position 3 (Lydian Shape) CageD
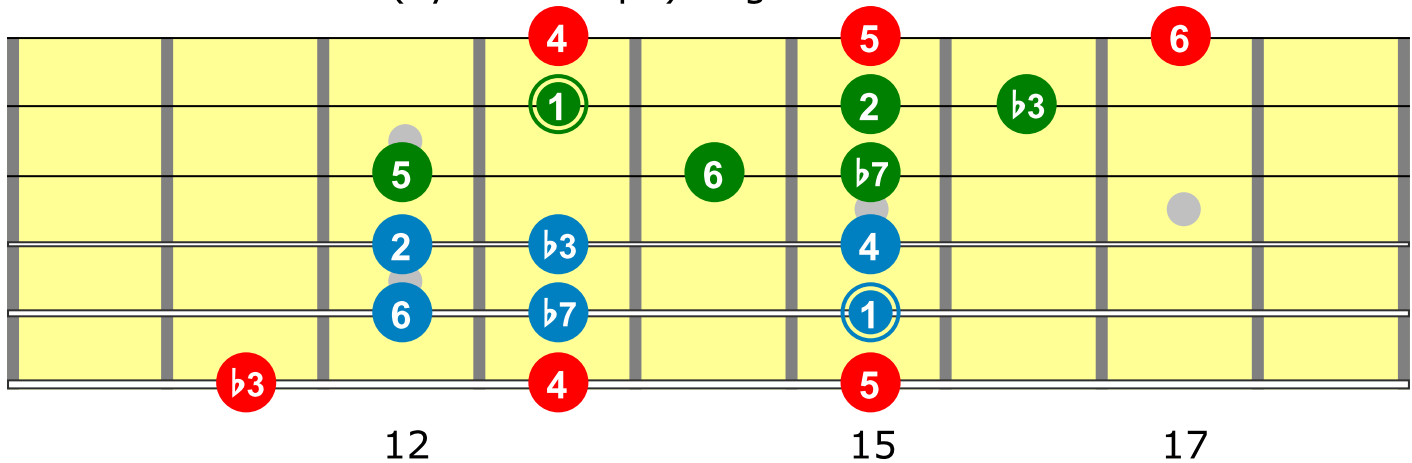
C Dorian Position 4 (Mixolydian Shape) CAged
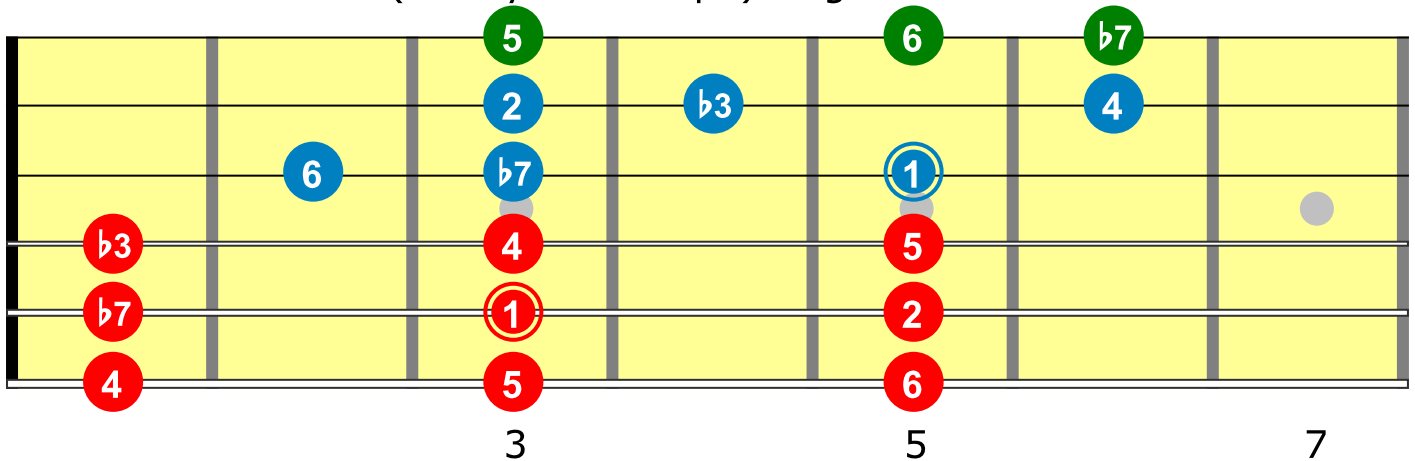
C Dorian Position 5 (Aeolian Shape) CAGed
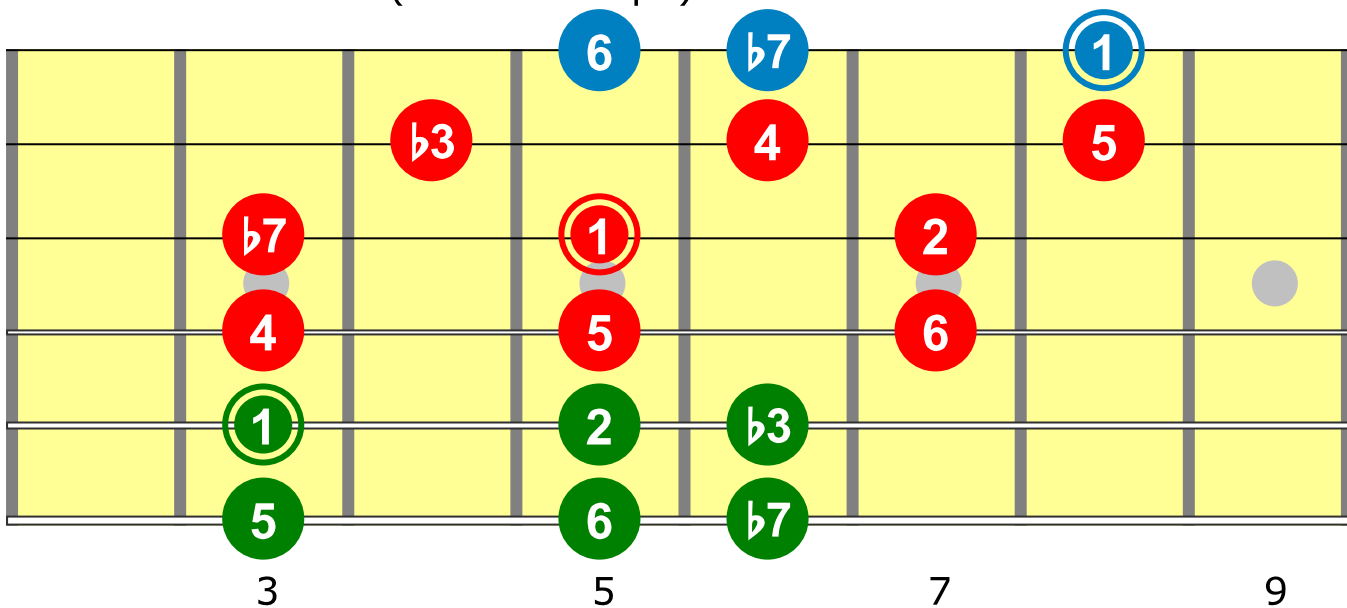
C Dorian Position 6 (Locrian Shape) cAGed
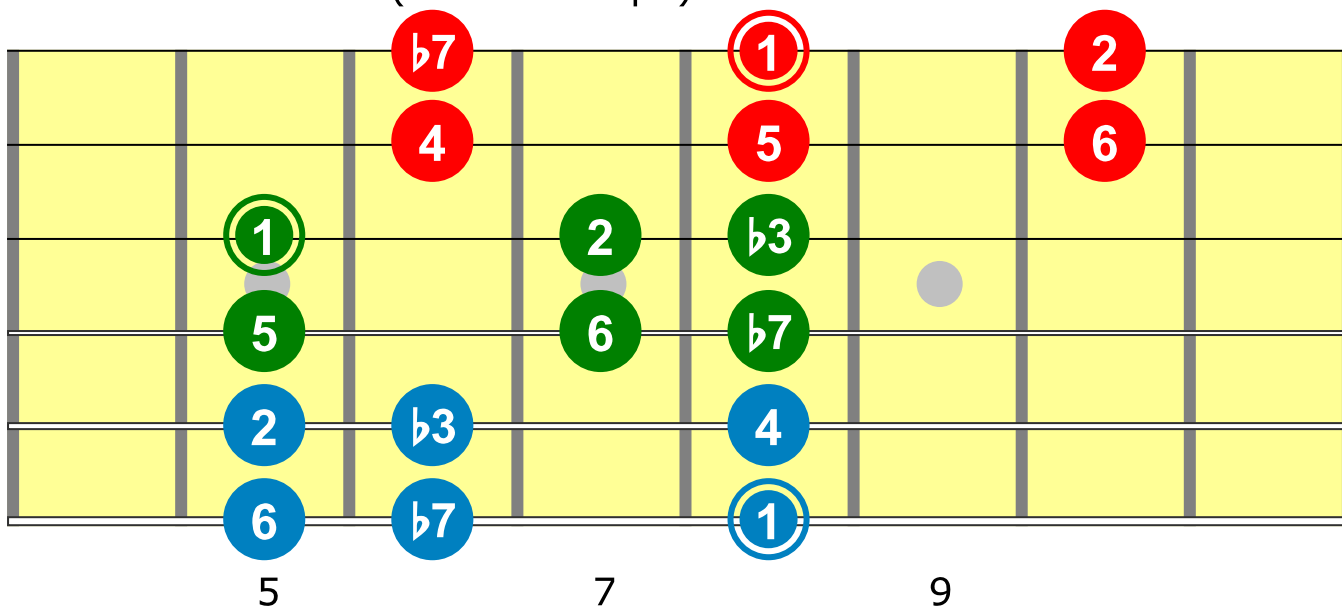
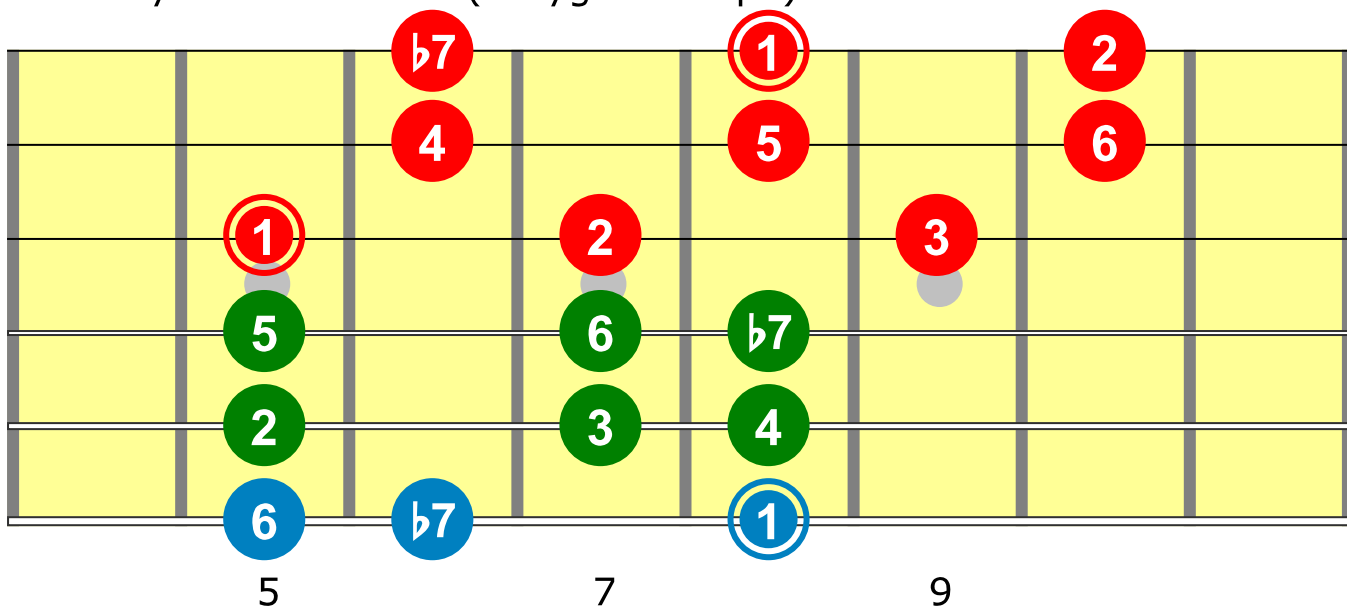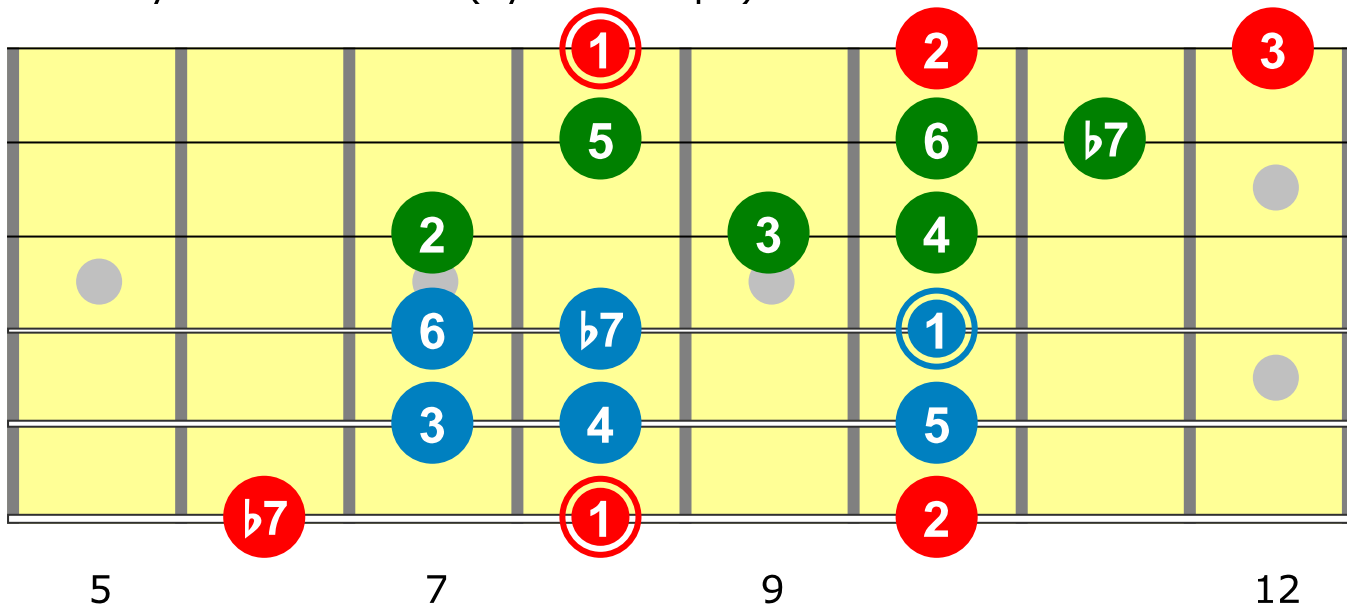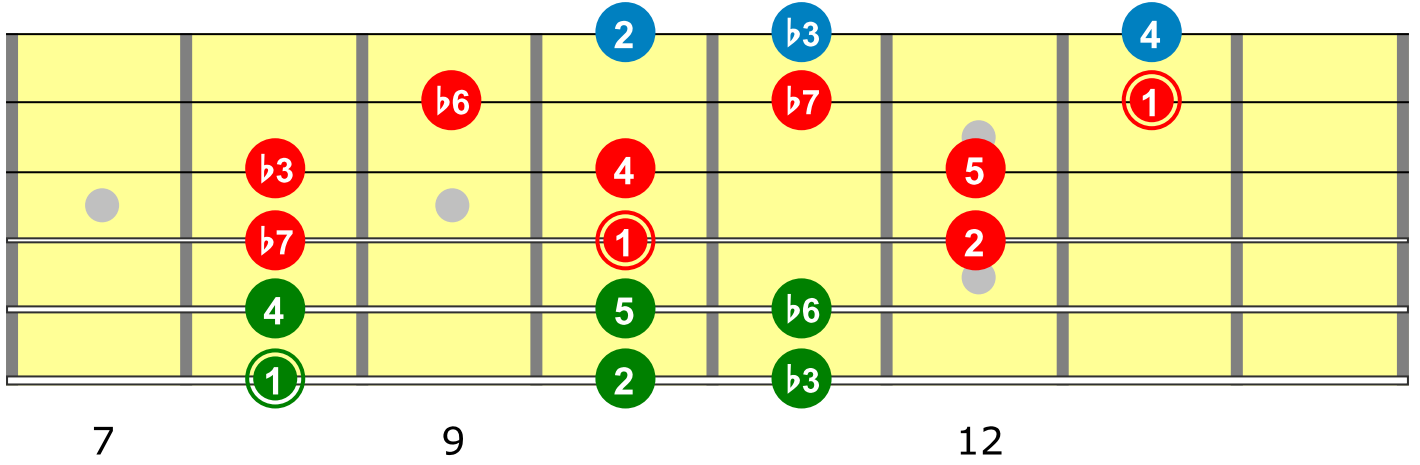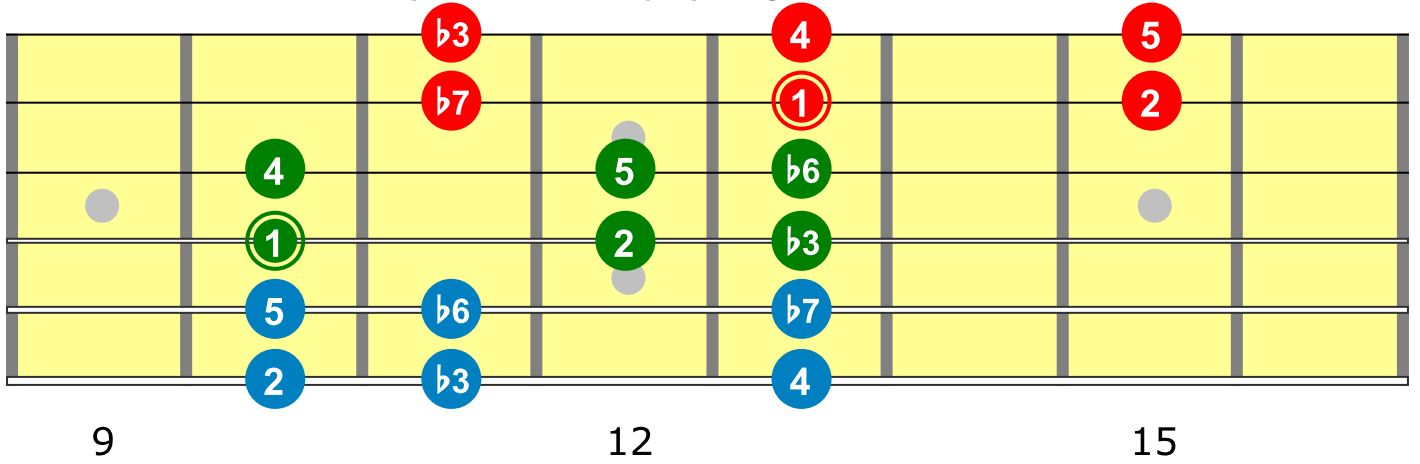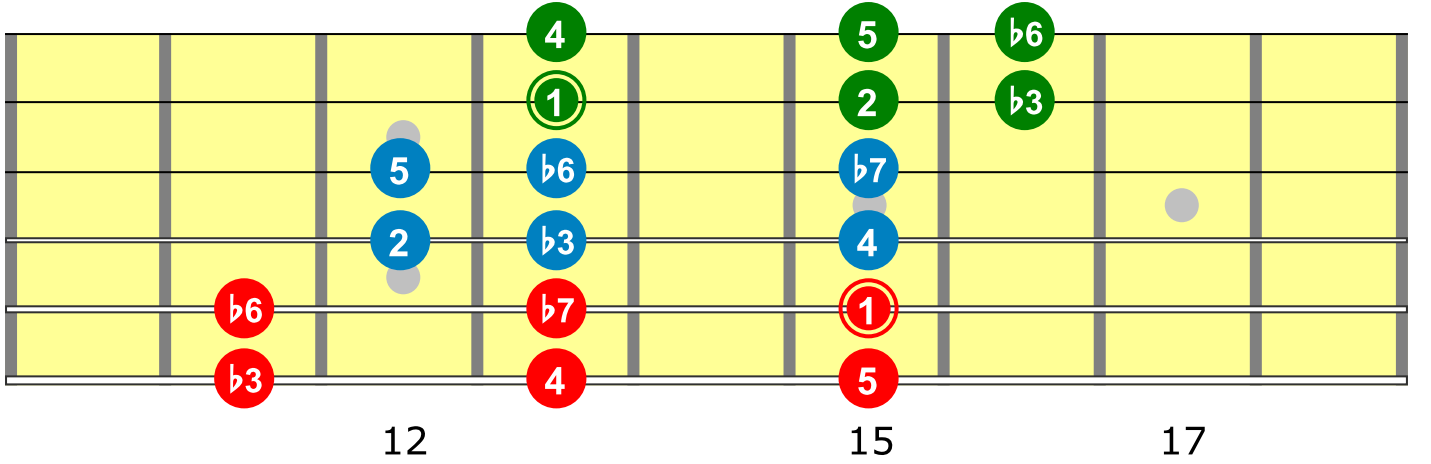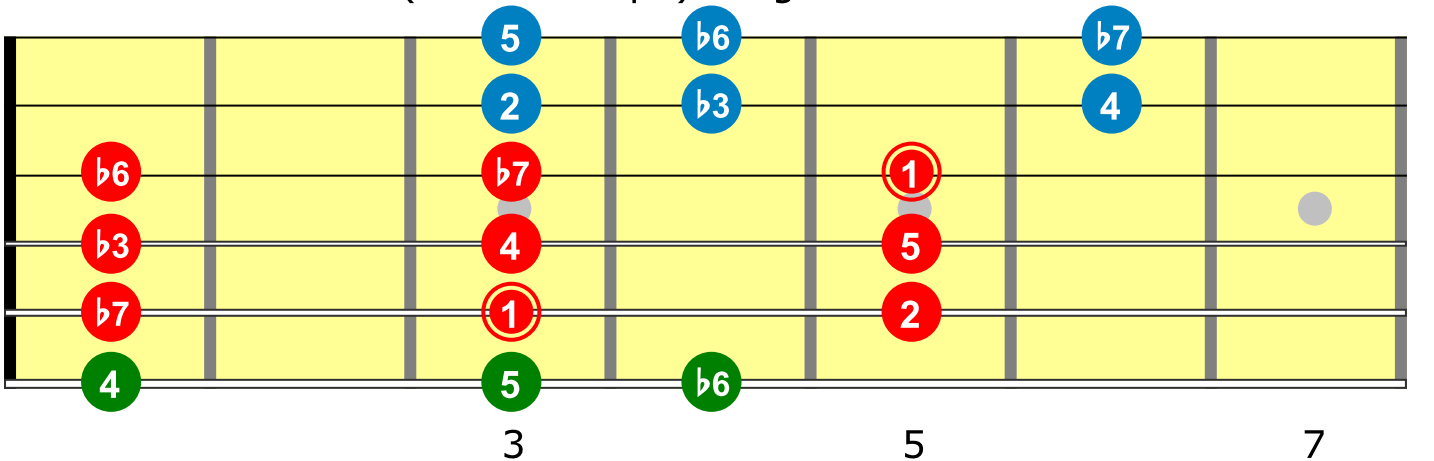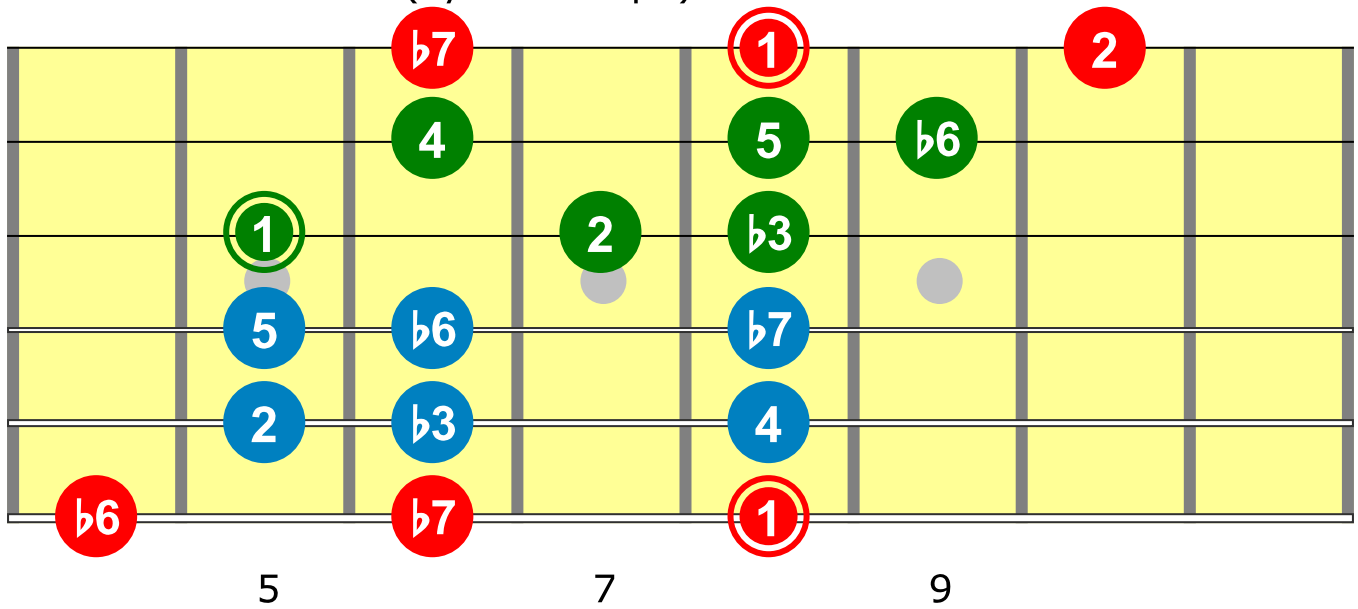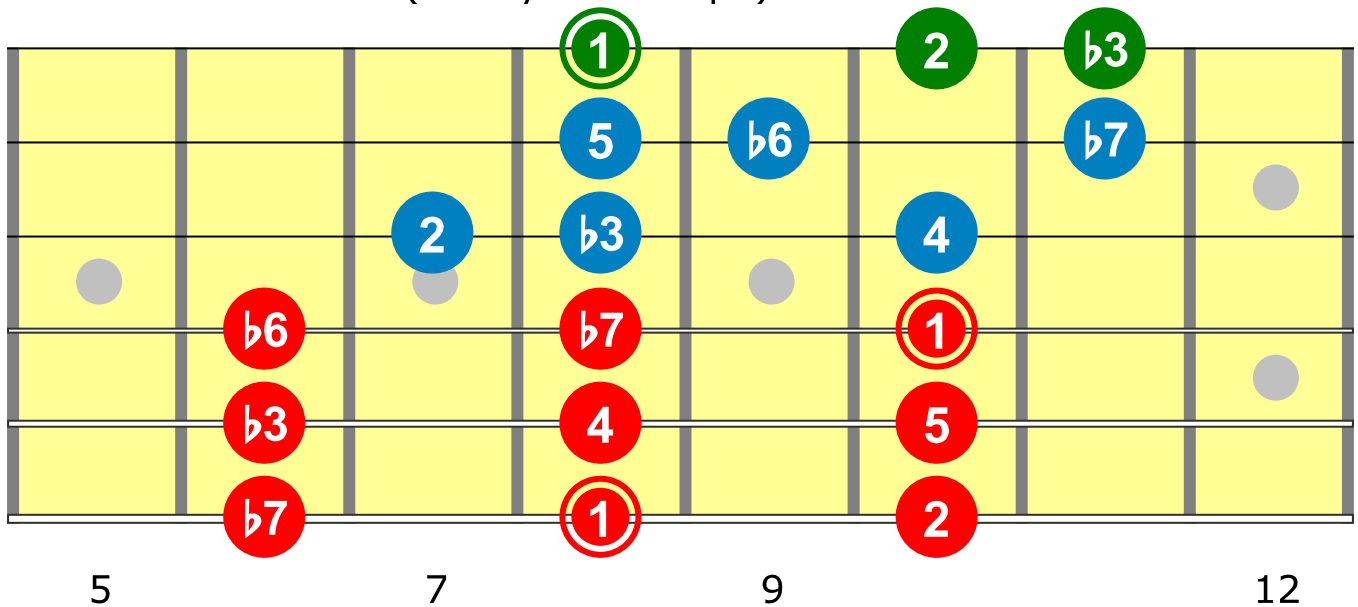# C Dorian Position 7 (Ionian Shape) caGEd
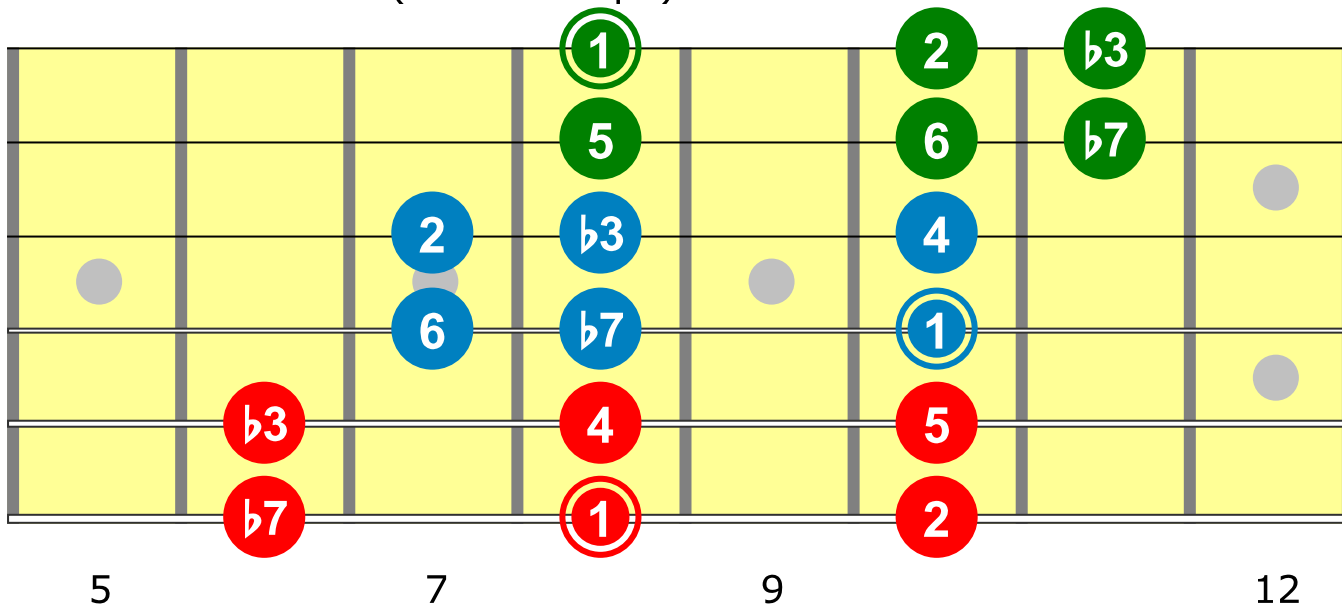
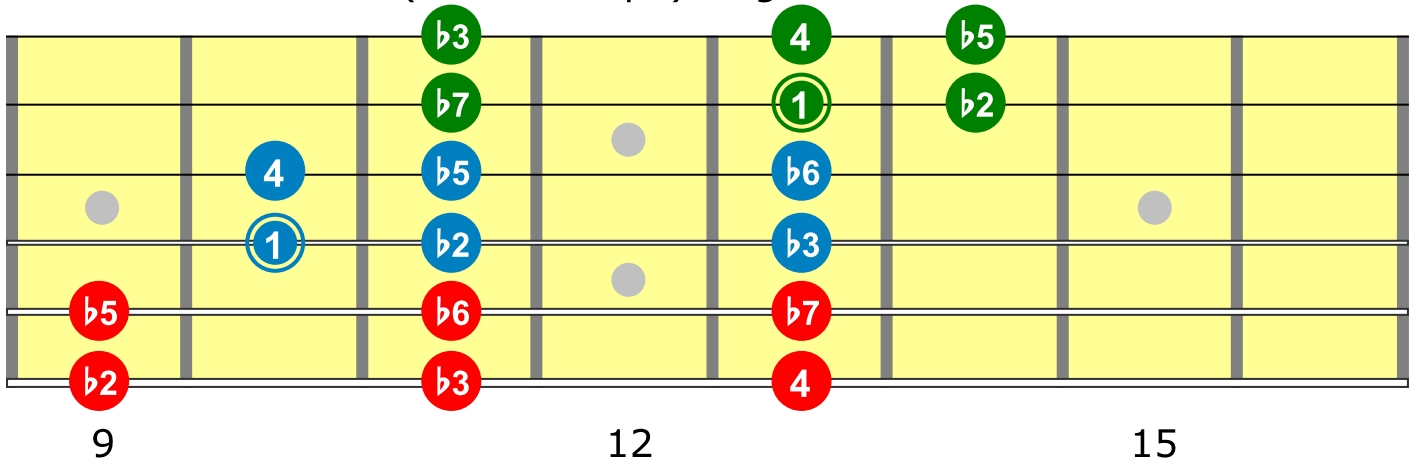# C Phrygian Position 1 (Phrygian Shape) caGED
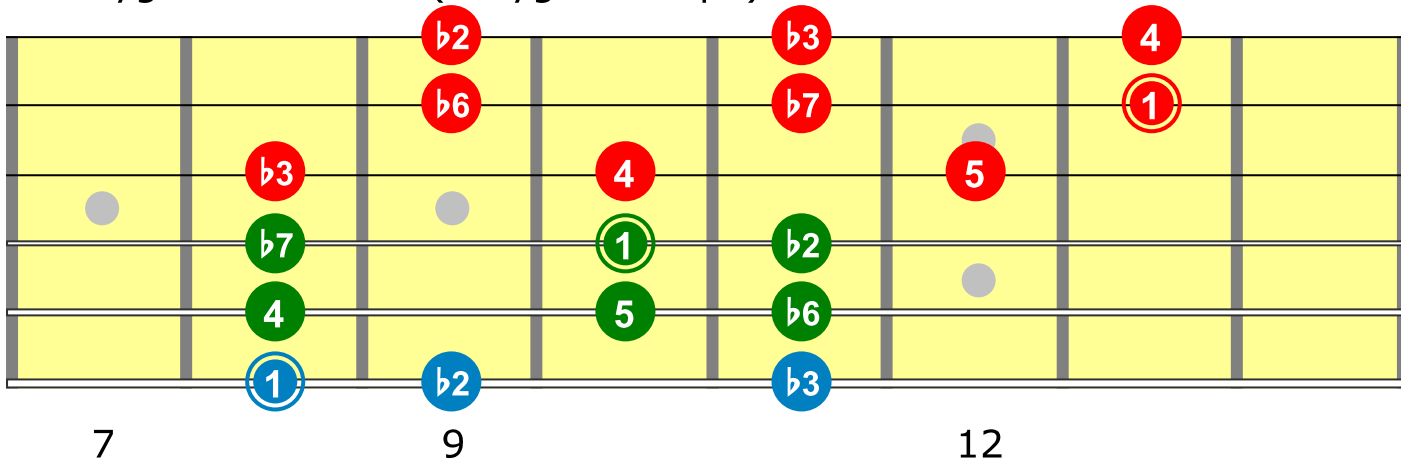
C Phrygian Position 2 (Lydian Shape) cagED
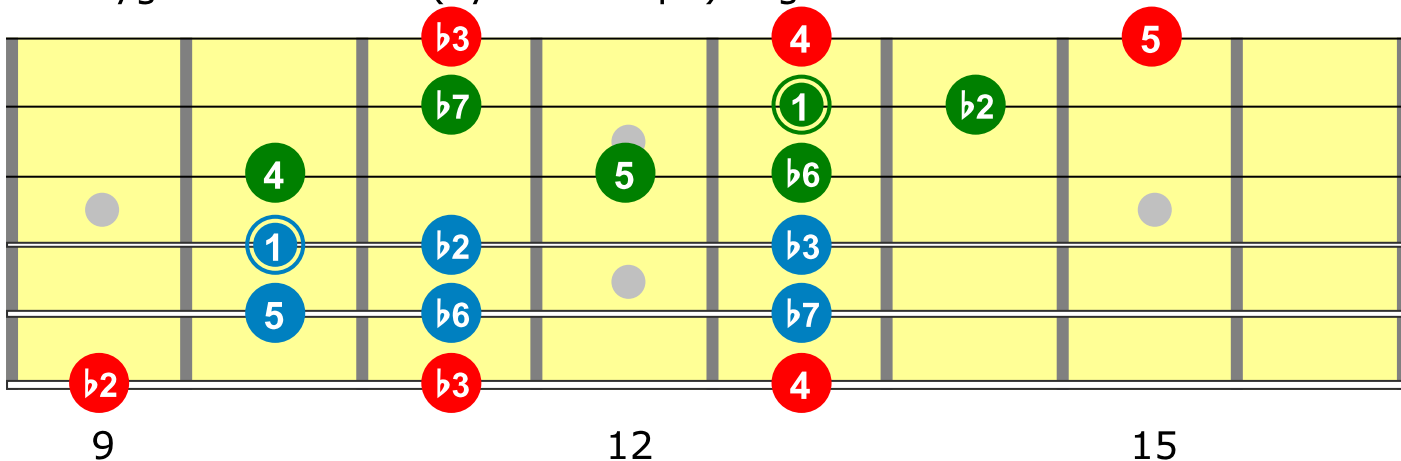
C Phrygian Position 3 (Mixolydian Shape) CageD
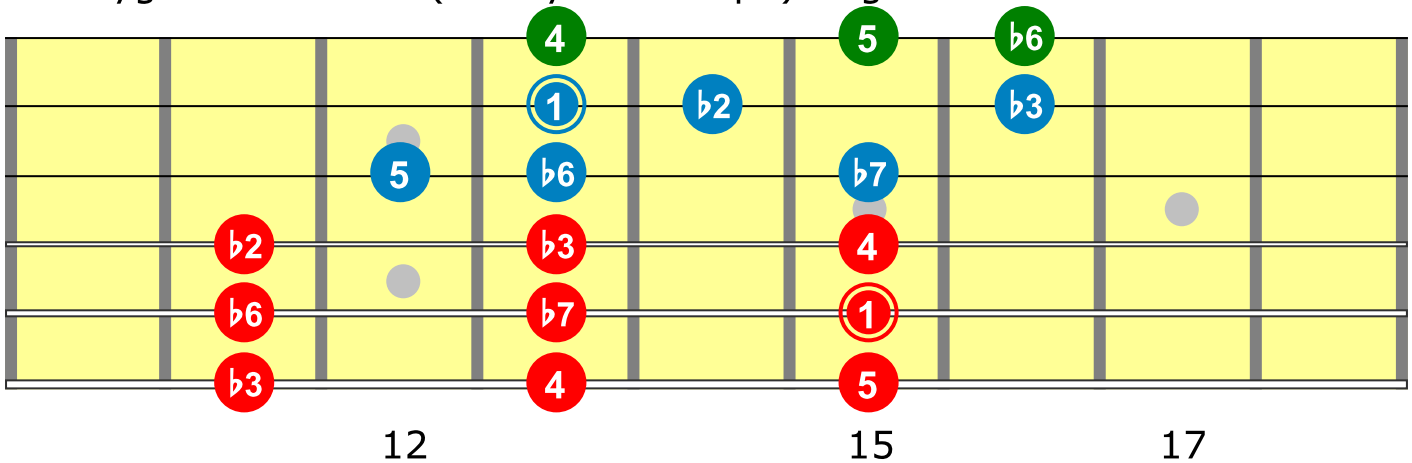
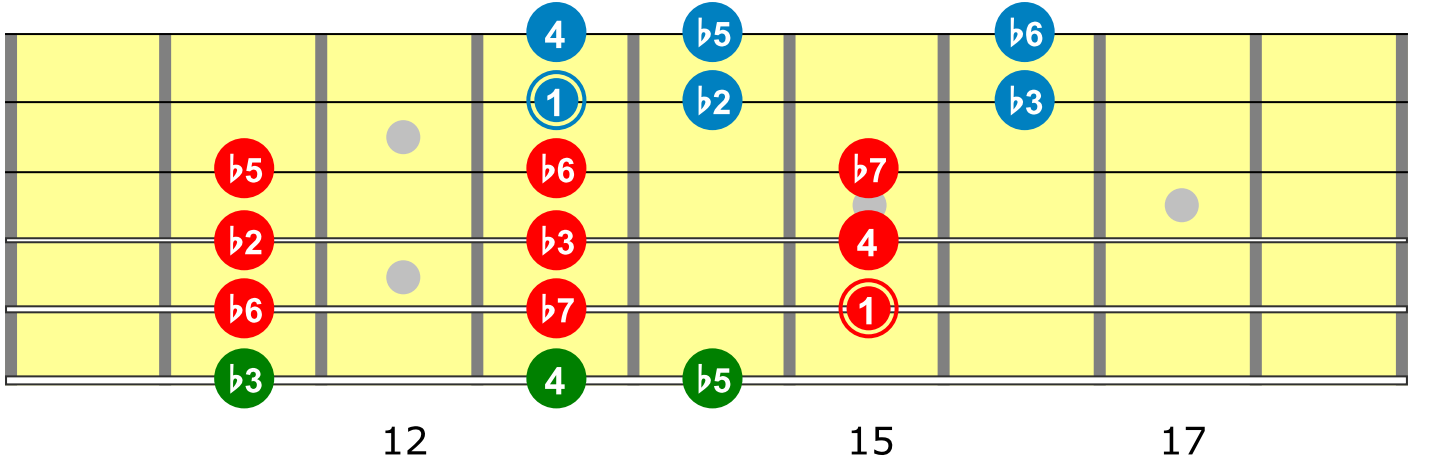# C Phrygian Position 4 (Aeolian Shape) CAged
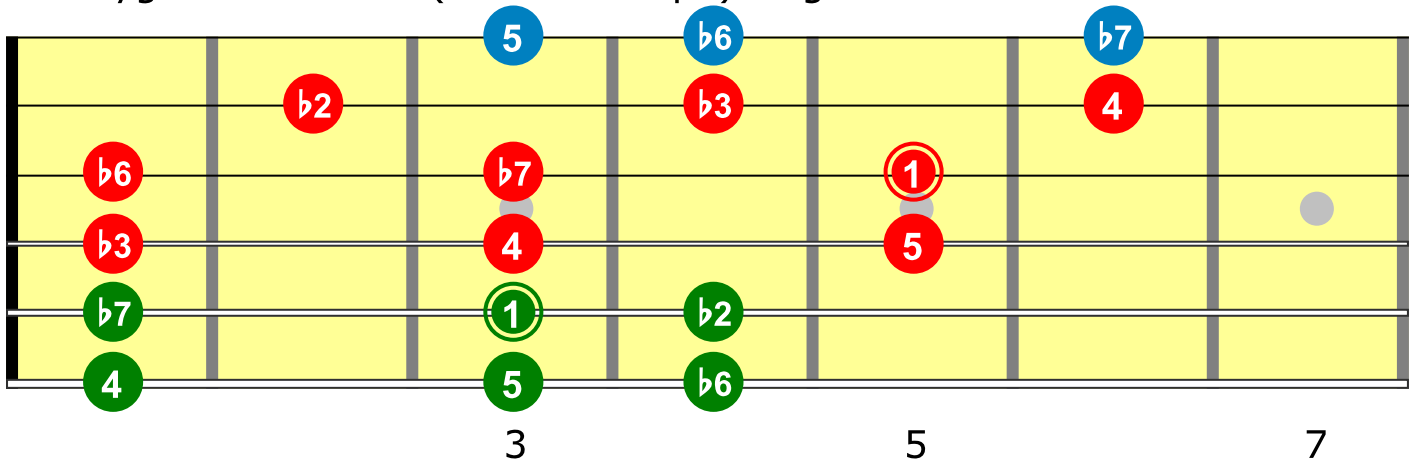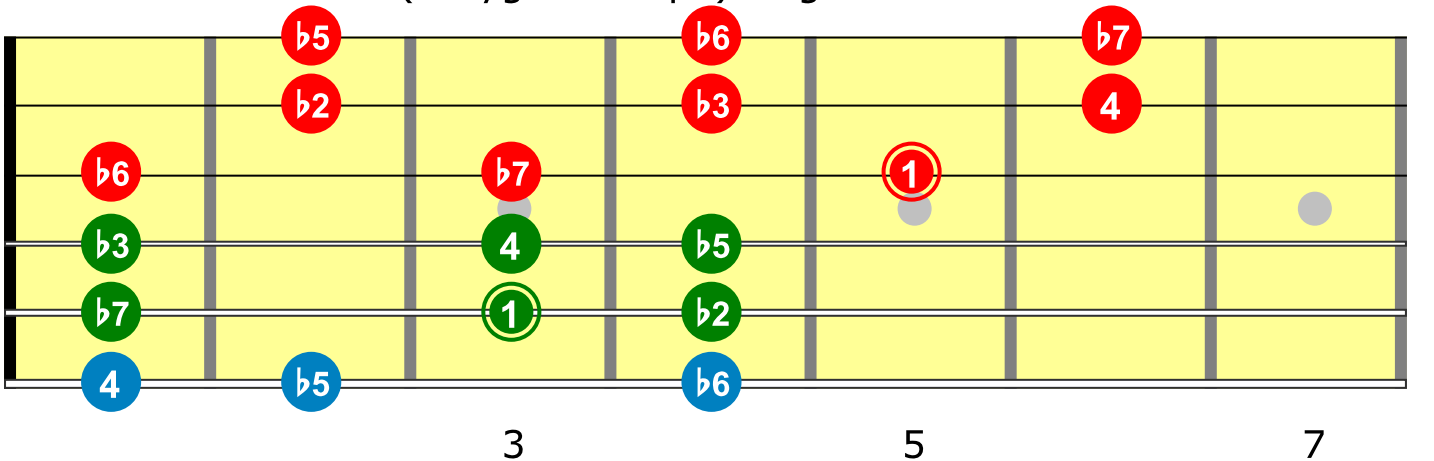
C Phrygian Position 5 (Locrian Shape) CAGed
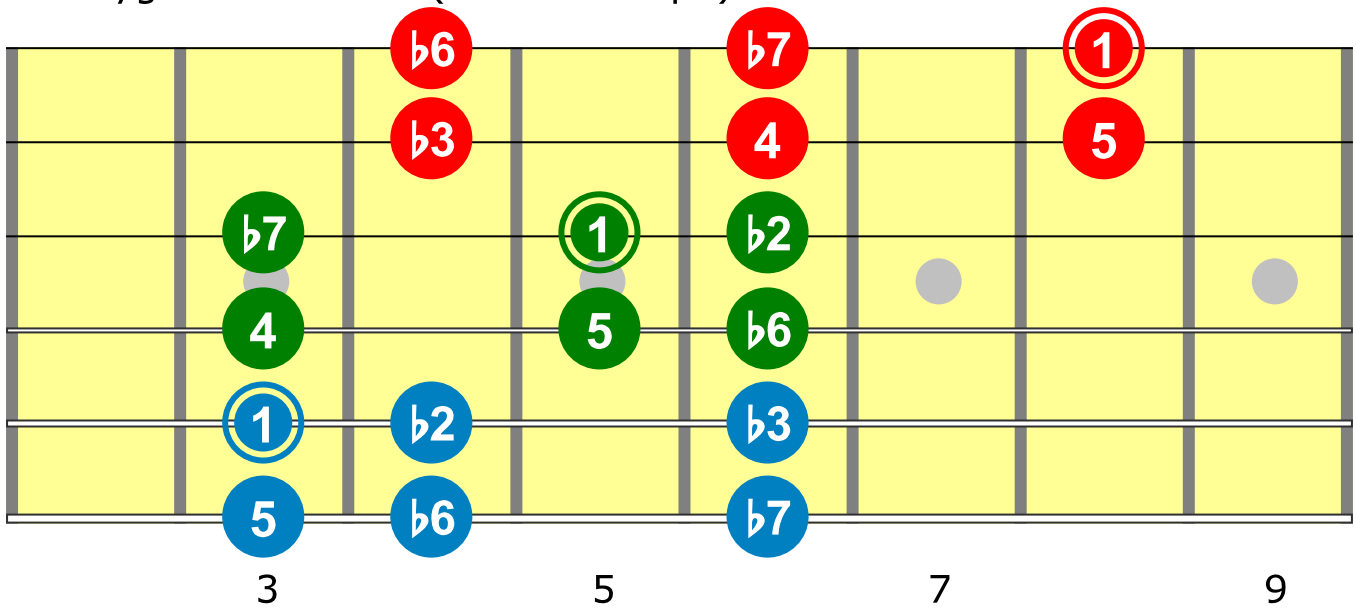
C Phrygian Position 6 (Ionian Shape) cAGed
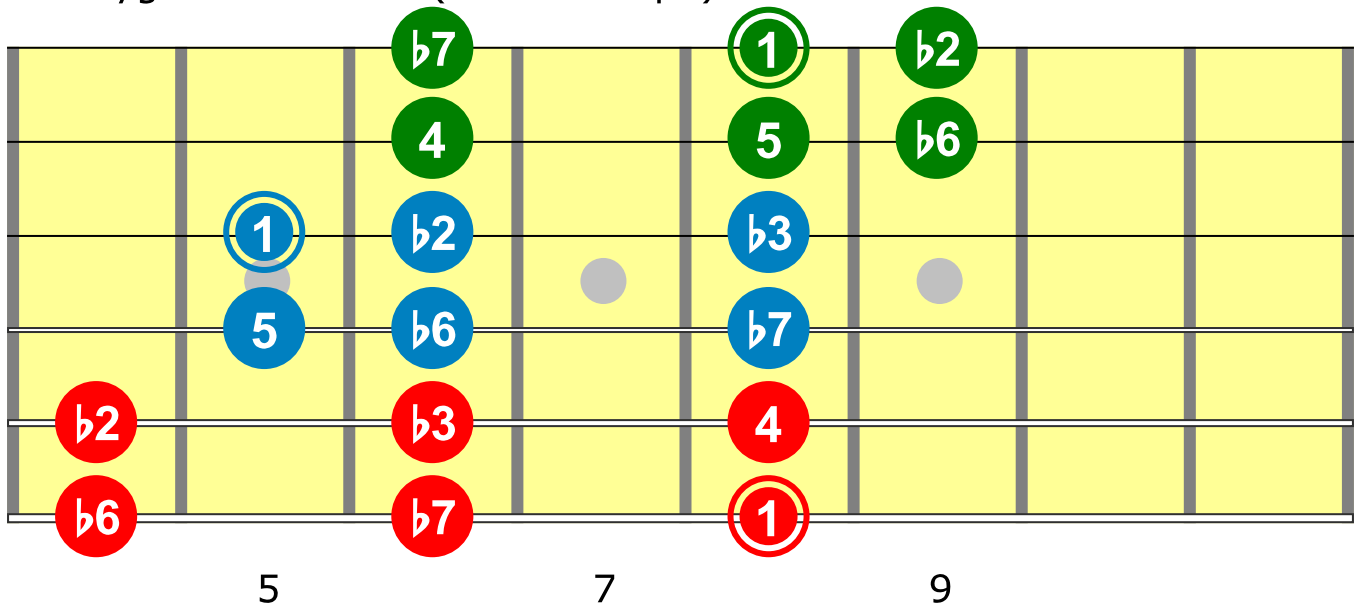
C Phrygian Position 7 (Dorian Shape) caGEd
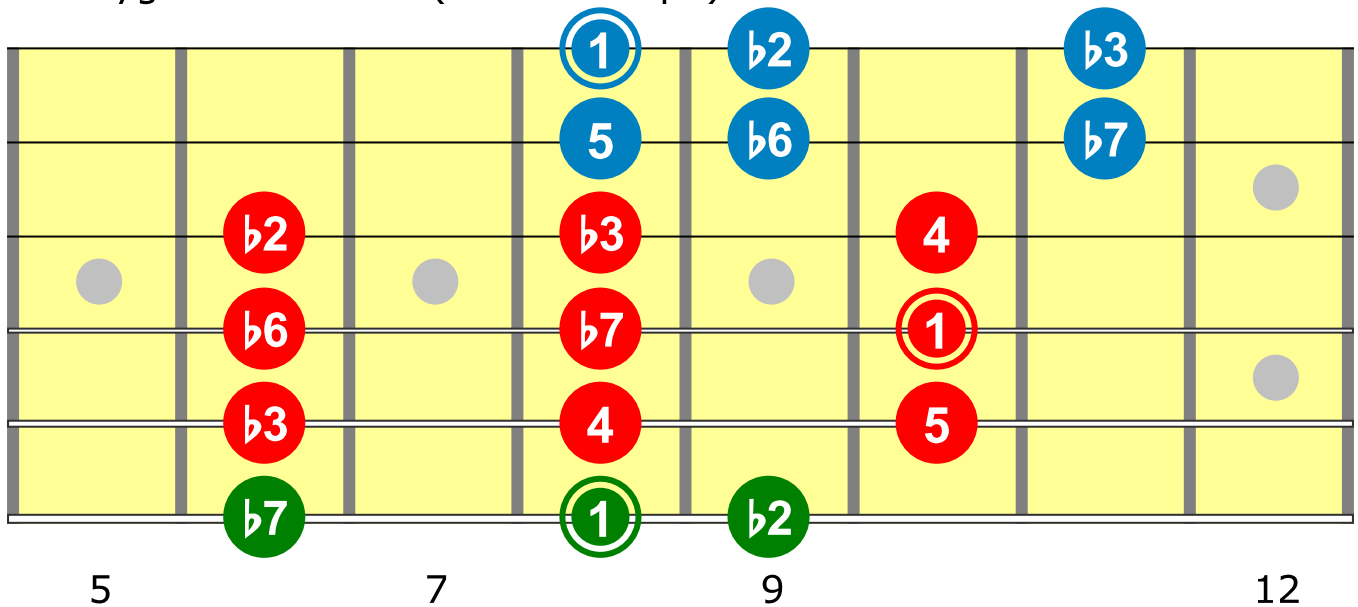
C Lydian Position 1 (Lydian Shape) caGED
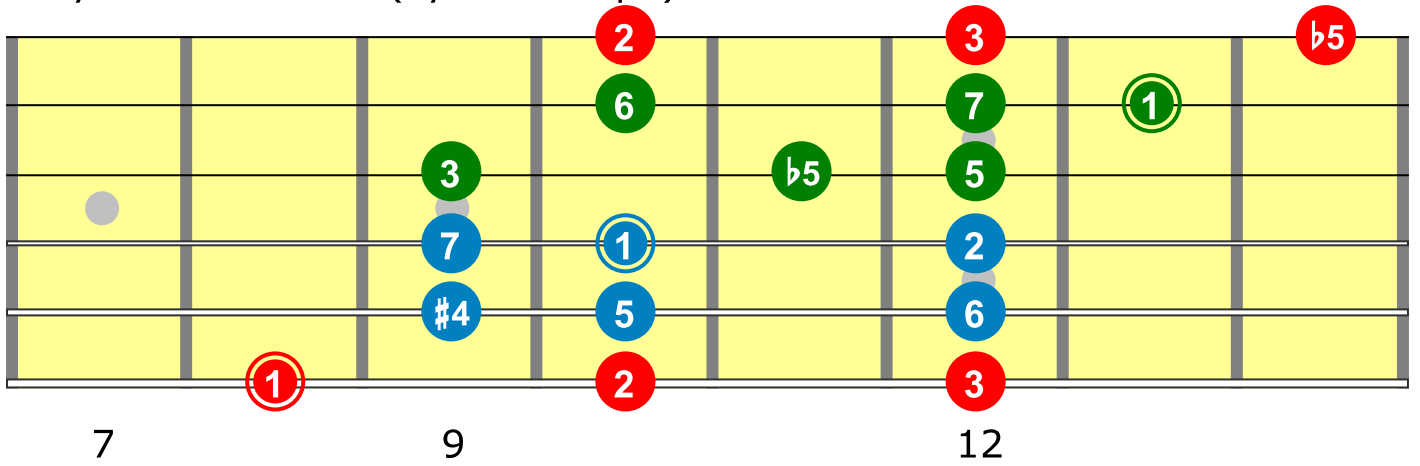
C Lydian Position 2 (Mixolydian Shape) cagED
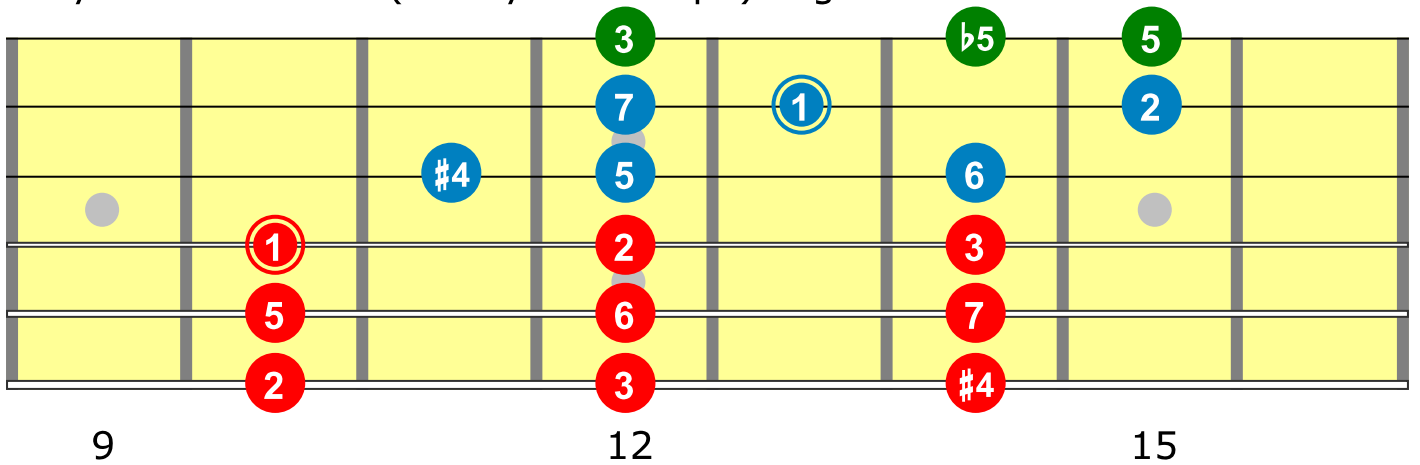
C Lydian Position 3 (Aeolian Shape) CageD
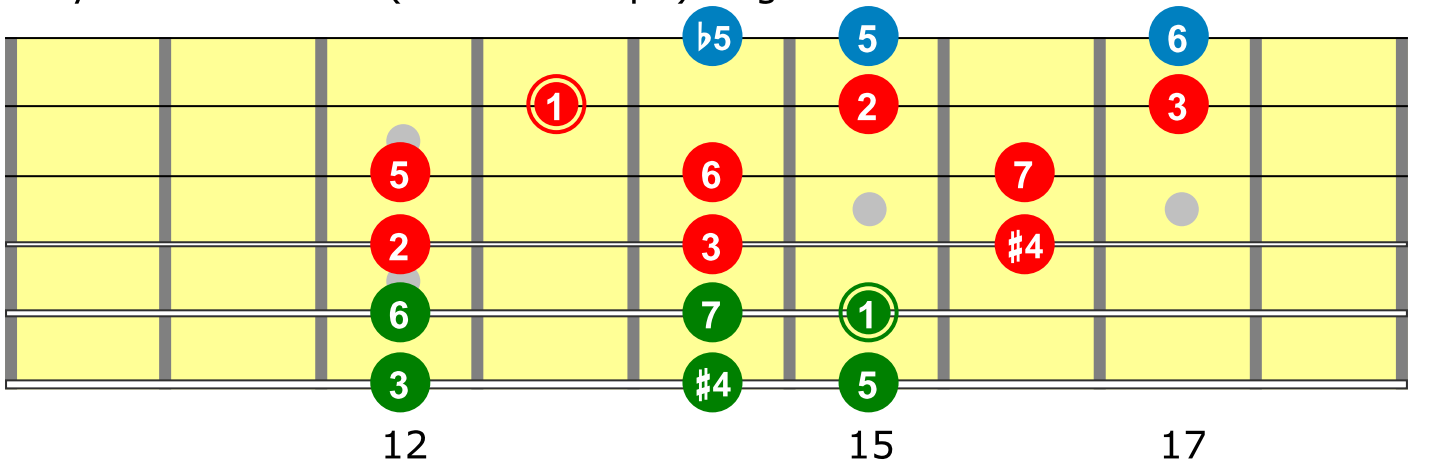
C Lydian Position 4 (Locrian Shape) CAged
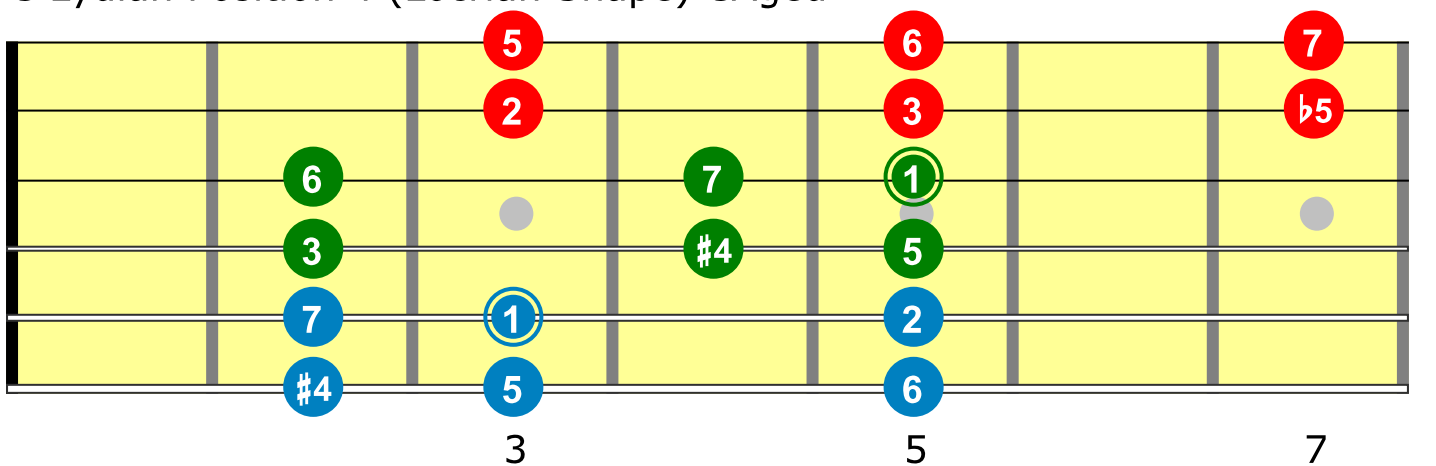
C Lydian Position 5 (Ionian Shape) CAGed
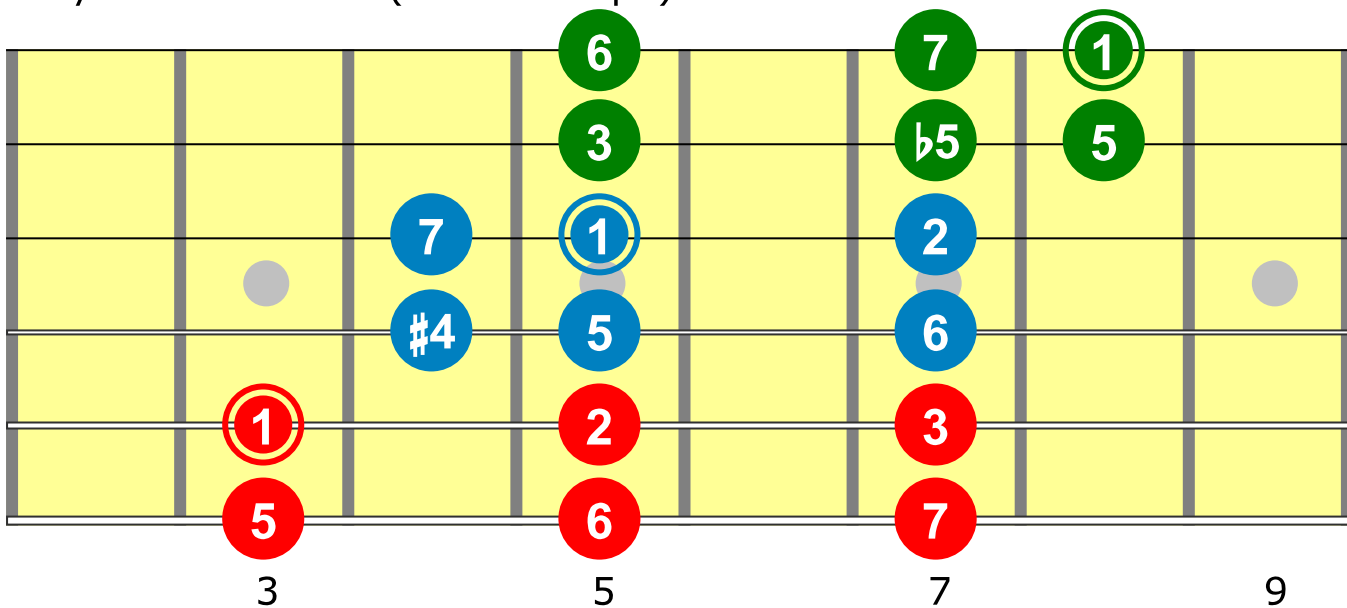
C Lydian Position 6 (Dorian Shape) cAGed
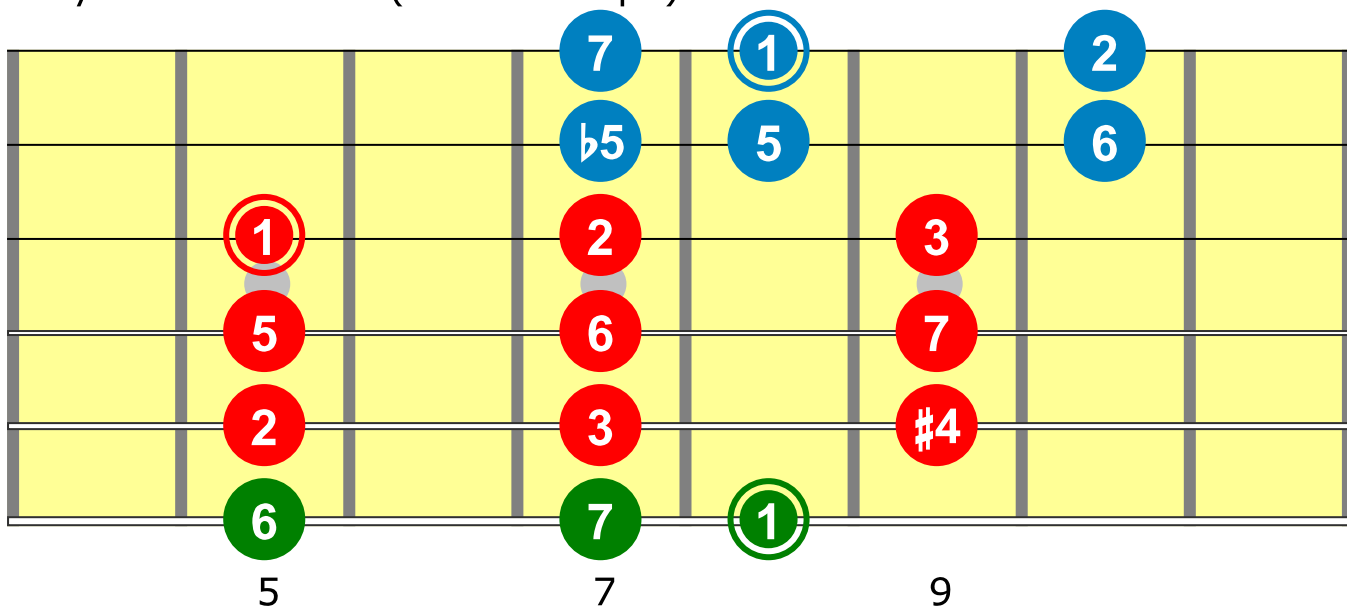

C Lydian Position 7 (Phrygian Shape) caGEd
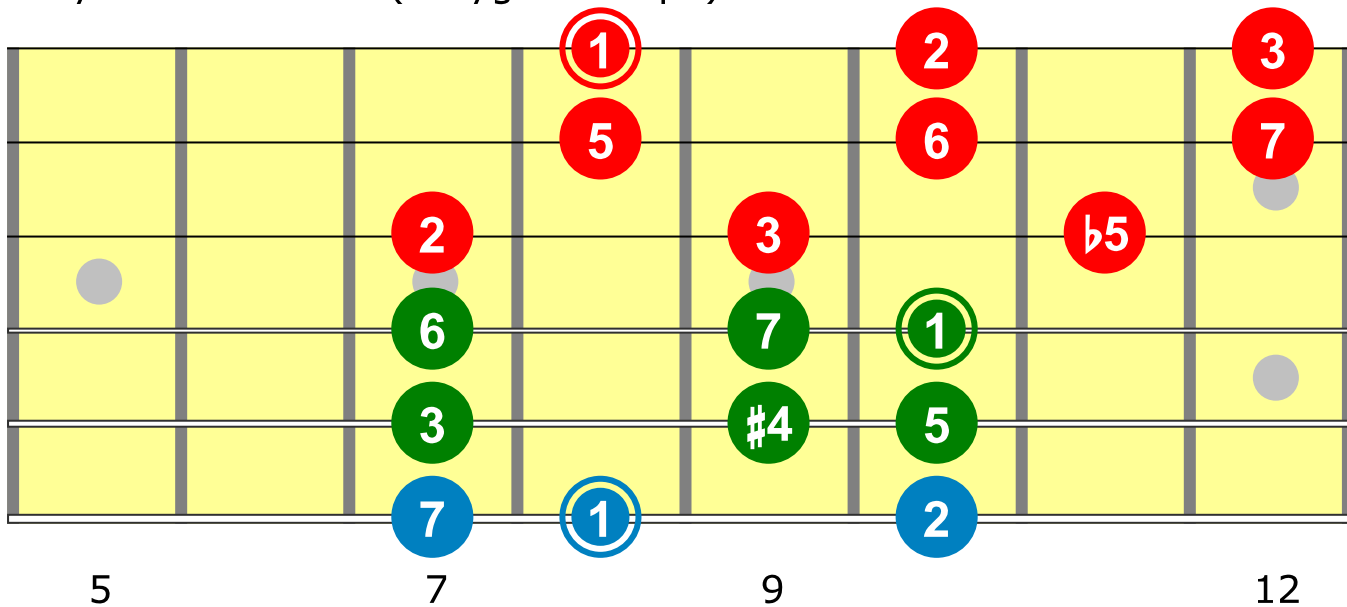
C Mixolydian Position 1 (Mixolydian Shape) caGED
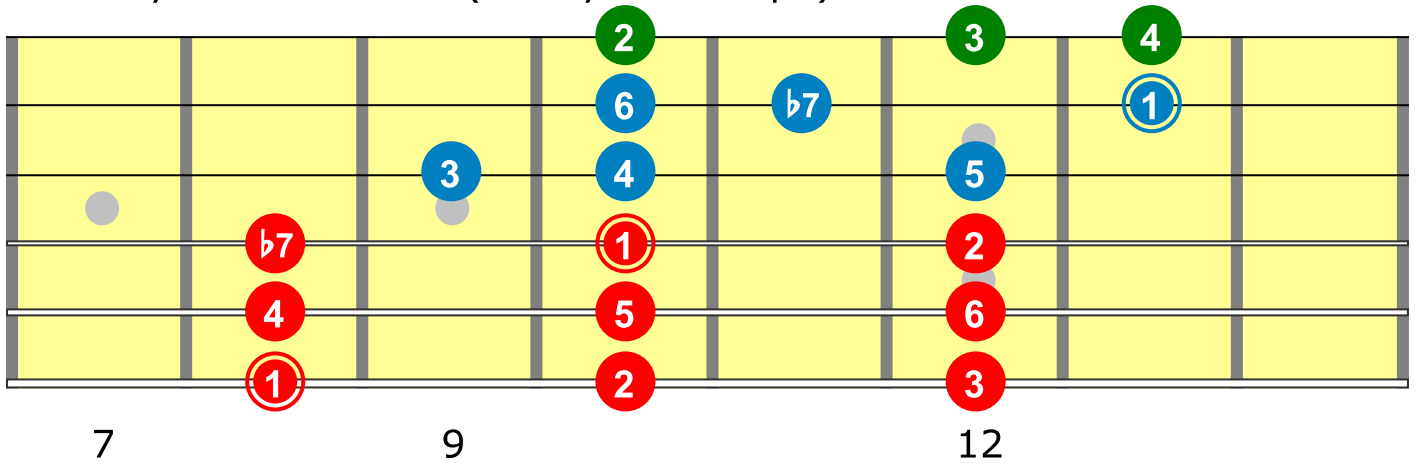
C Mixolydian Position 2 (Aeolian Shape) cagED
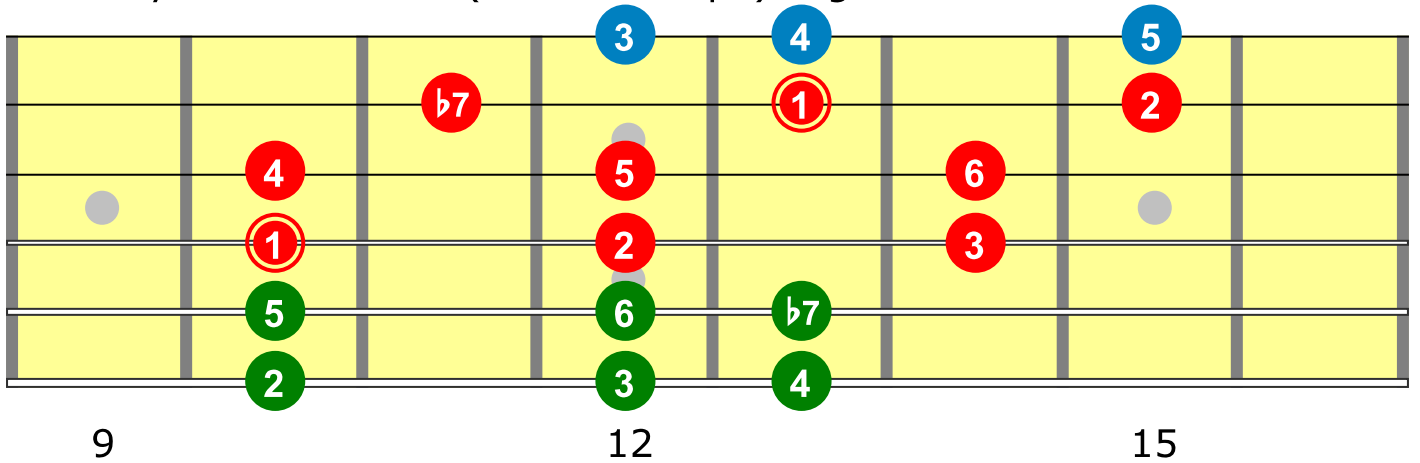
C Mixolydian Position 3 (Locrian Shape) CageD
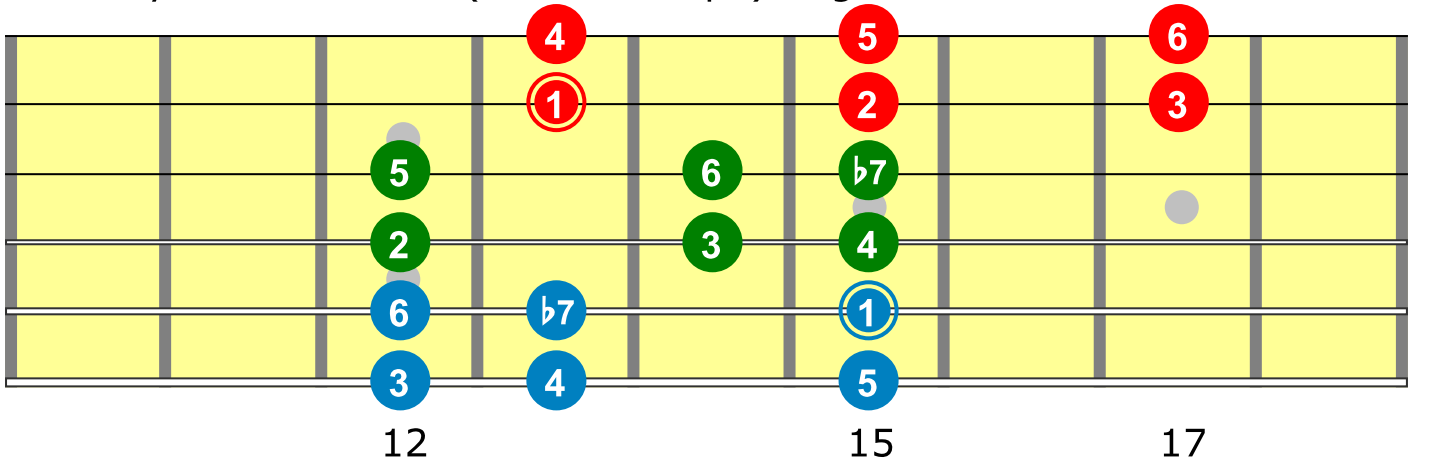
C Mixolydian Position 4 (Ionian Shape) CAged
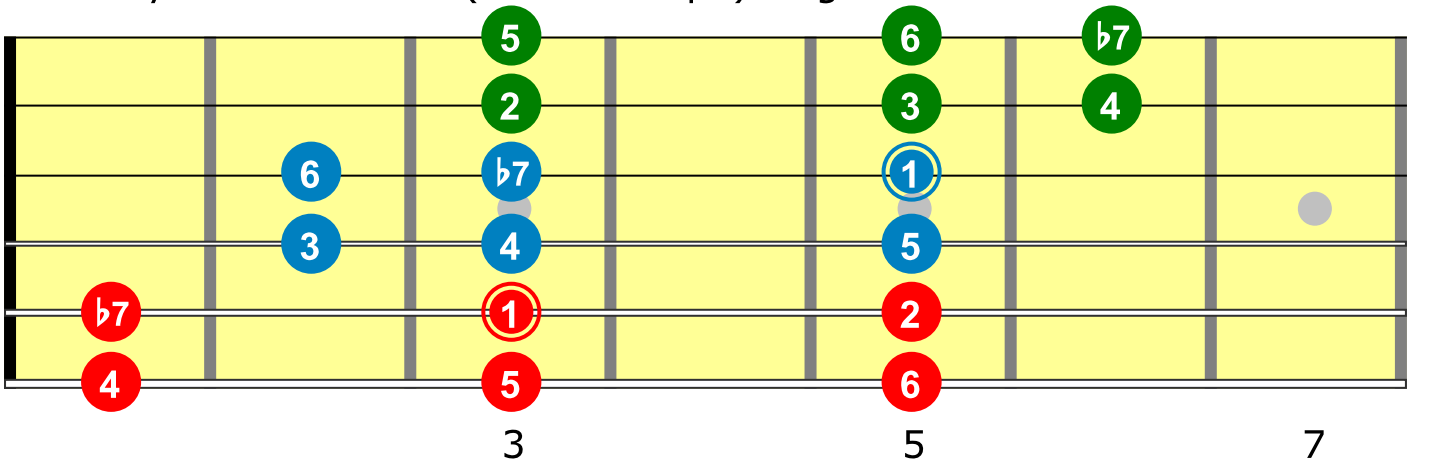
C Mixolydian Position 5 (Dorian Shape)   CAGed
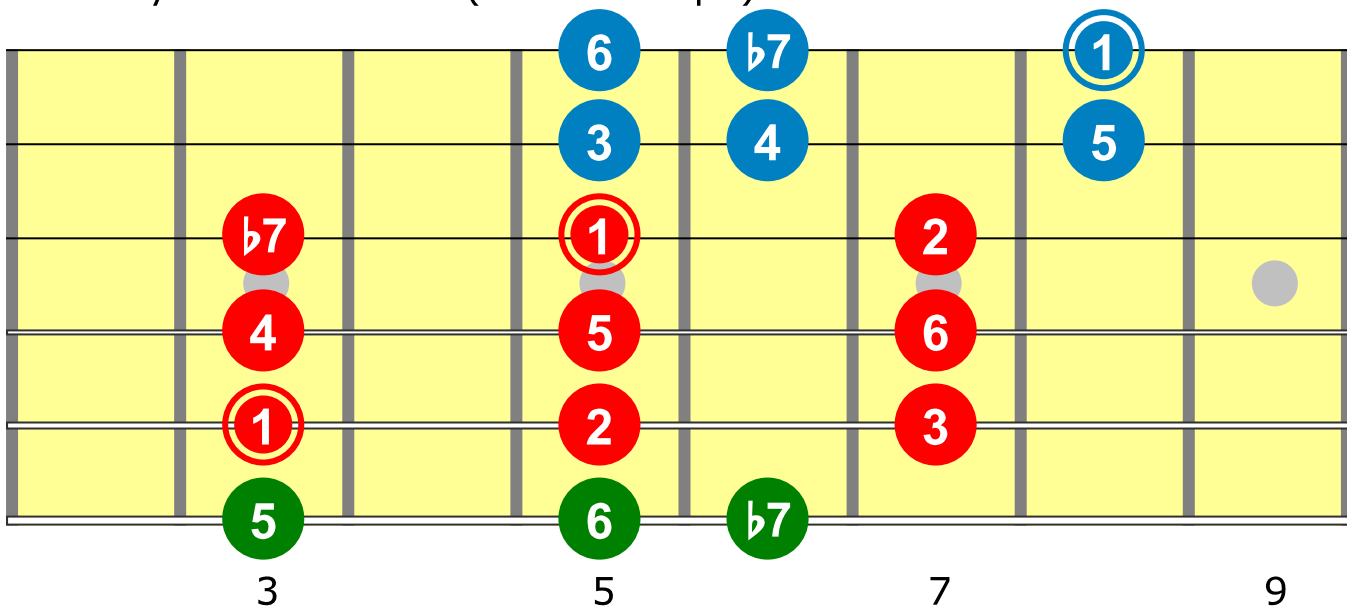
C Mixolydian Position 6 (Phrygian Shape) cAGed

C Mixolydian Position 7 (Lydian Shape) caGEd

C Aeolian Position 1 (Aeolian Shape) caGED

C Aeolian Position 2 (Locrian Shape) cagED

C Aeolian Position 3 (Ionian Shape) CageD

C Aeolian Position 4 (Dorian Shape) CAged

C Aeolian Position 5 (Phrygian Shape) CAGed
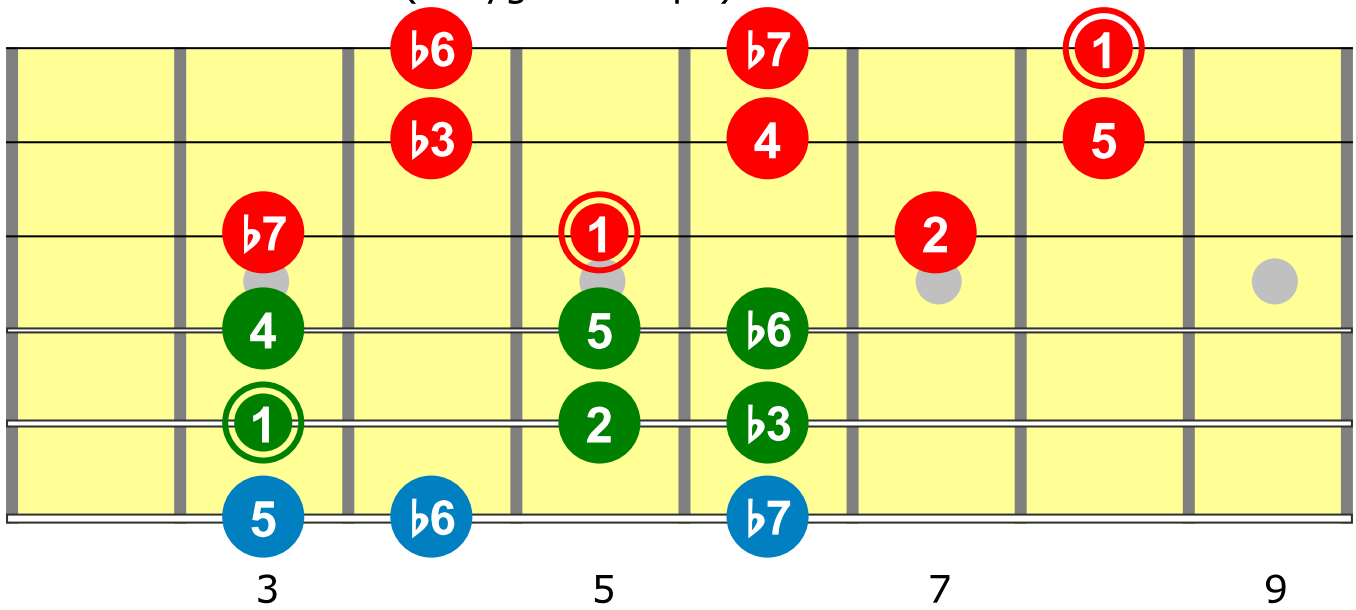
C Aeolian Position 6 (Lydian Shape) cAGed

C Aeolian Position 7 (Mixolydian Shape) caGEd

C Locrian Position 1 (Locrian Shape) caGED
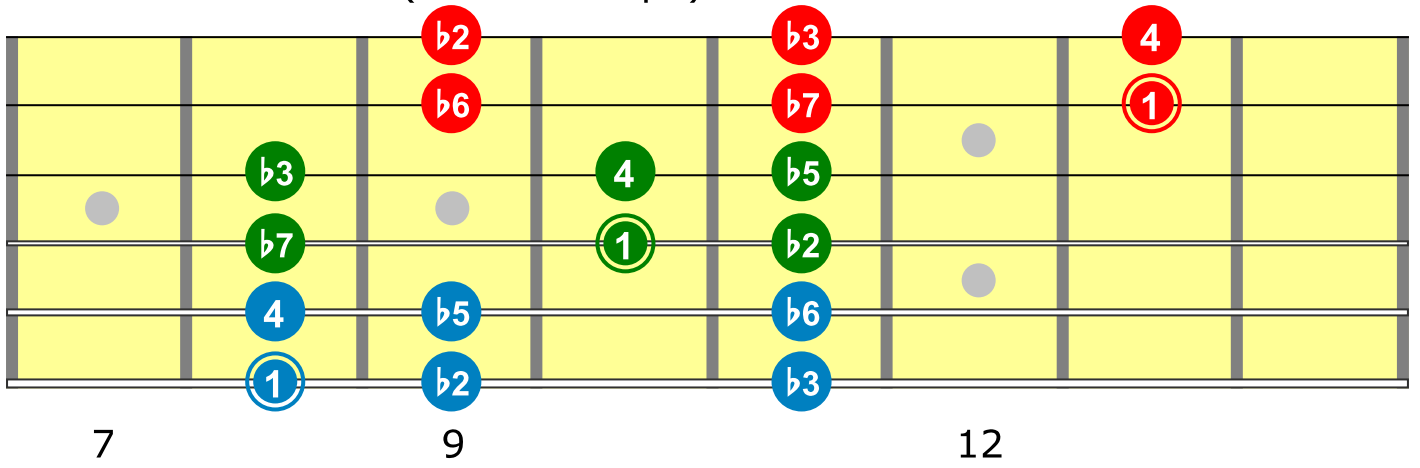
C Locrian Position 2 (Ionian Shape) cagED

C Locrian Position 3 (Dorian Shape) CageD

C Locrian Position 4 (Phrygian Shape) CAged

C Locrian Position 5 (Lydian Shape) CAGed
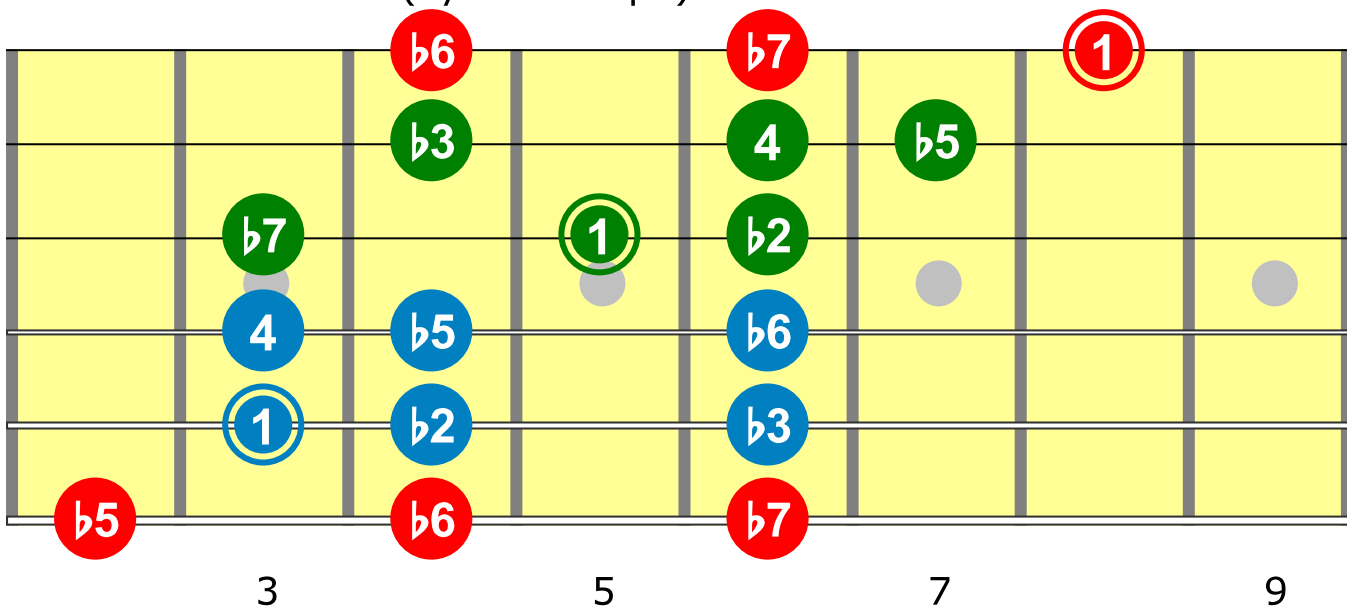
C Locrian Position 6 (Mixolydian Shape) cAGed
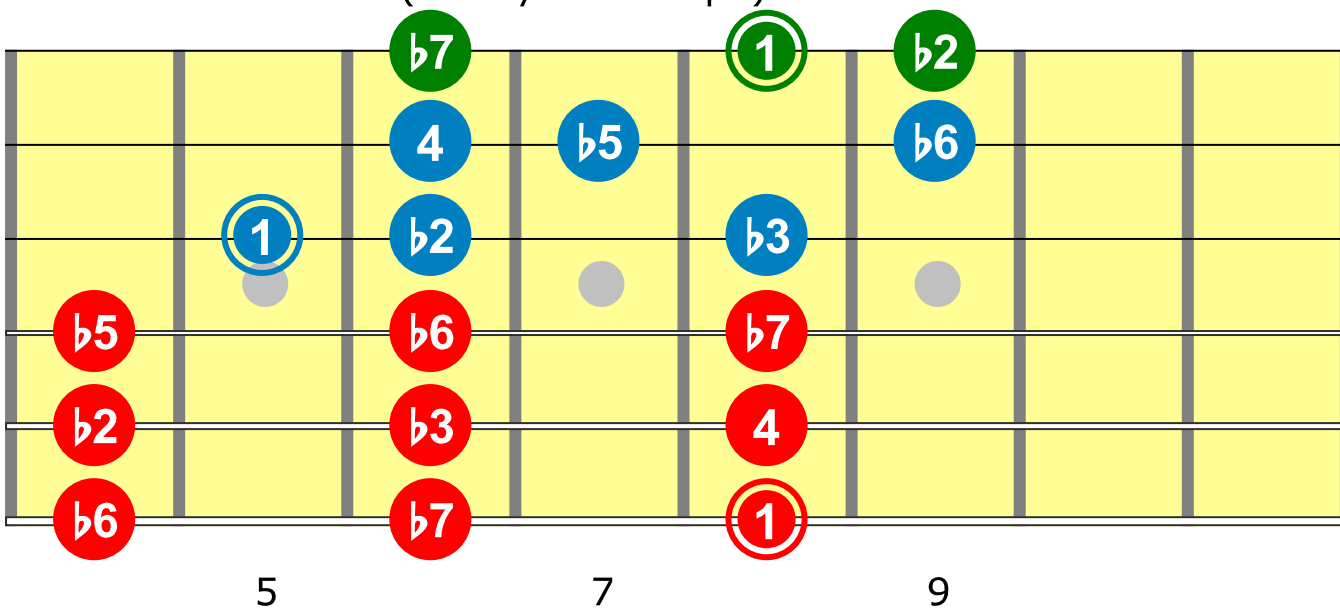
C Locrian Position 7 (Aeolian Shape) caGEd
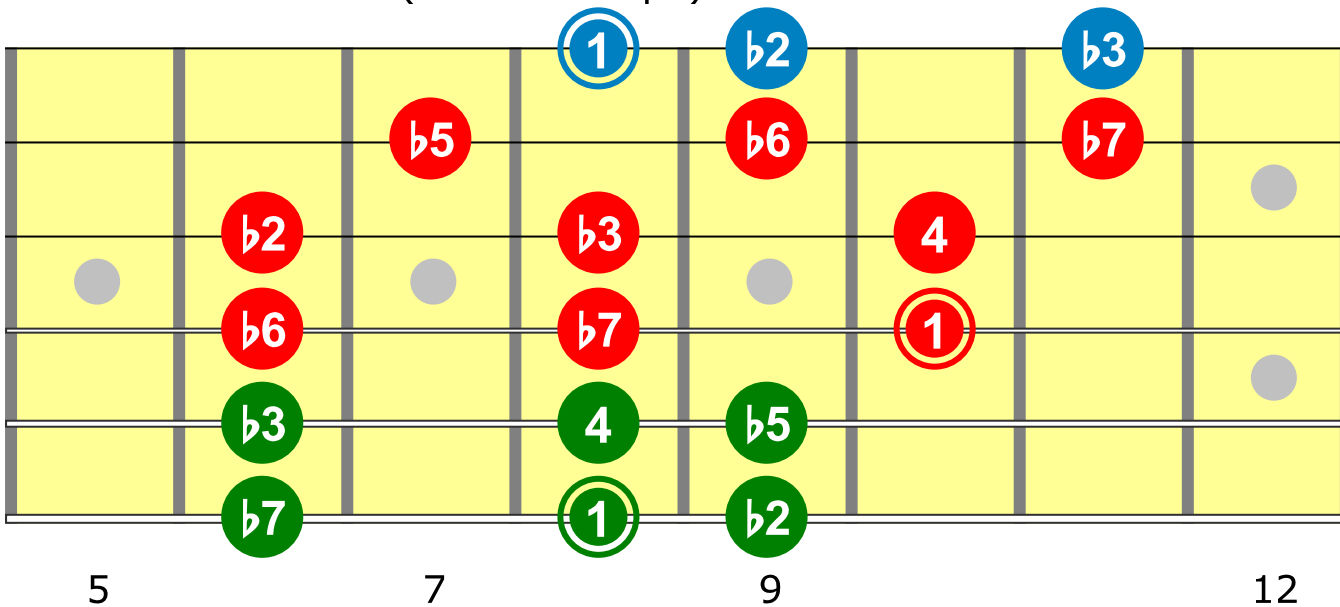
Minor Pentatonic NO major 2nd or flat 6th
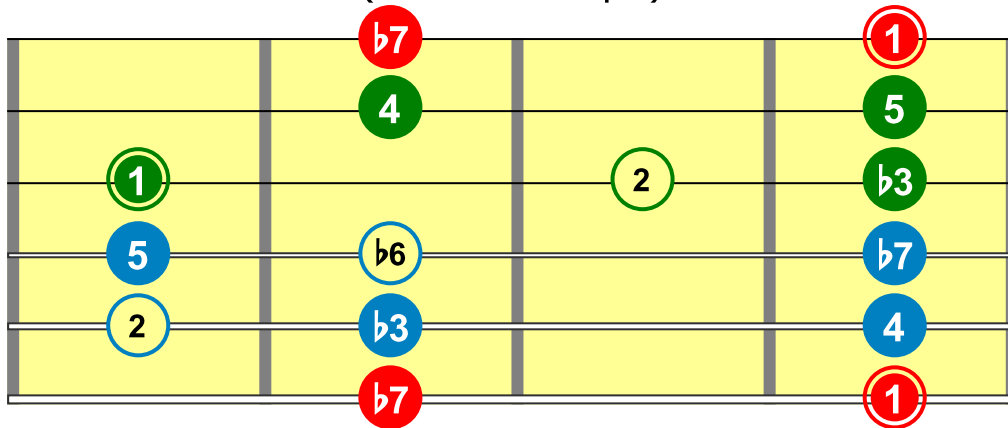
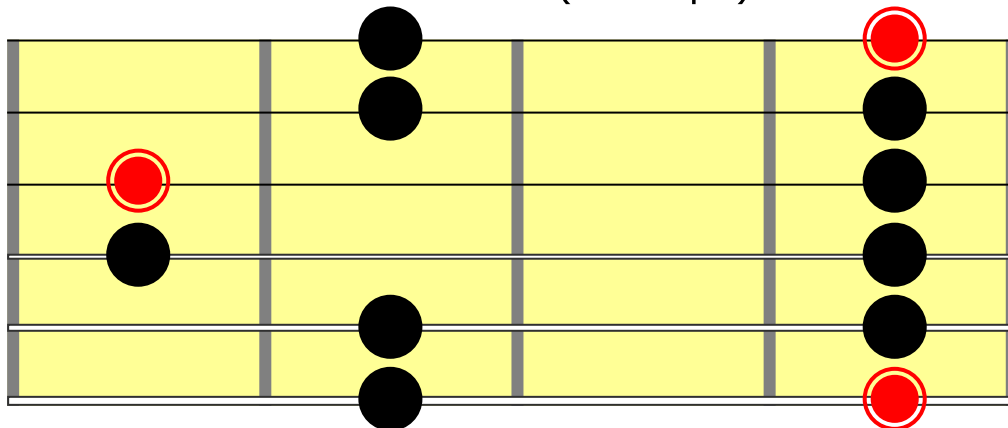## CAGED Position 1 (Aeolian Shape)
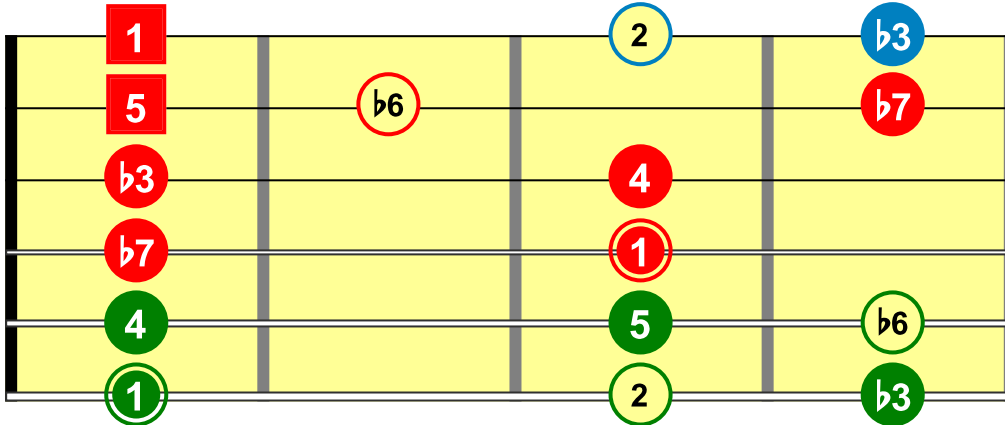
Minor Pentatonic Position 1   (E Shape)
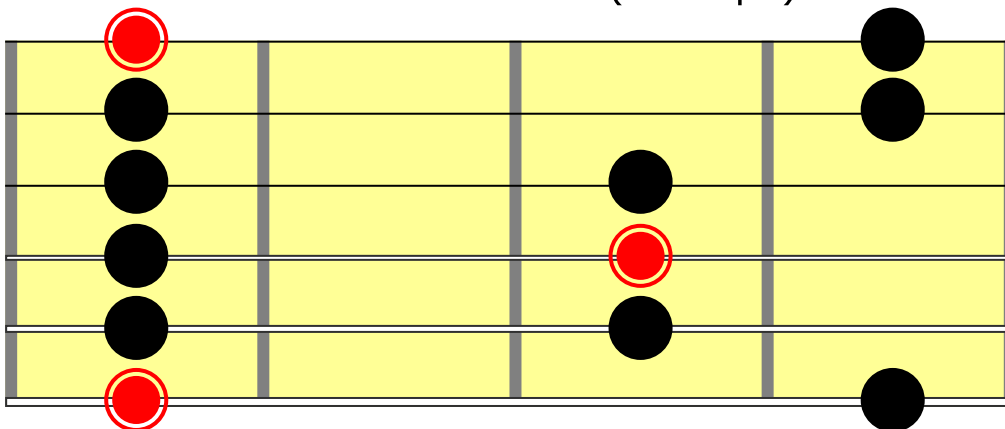
CAGED Position 2 (Aeolian Shape)
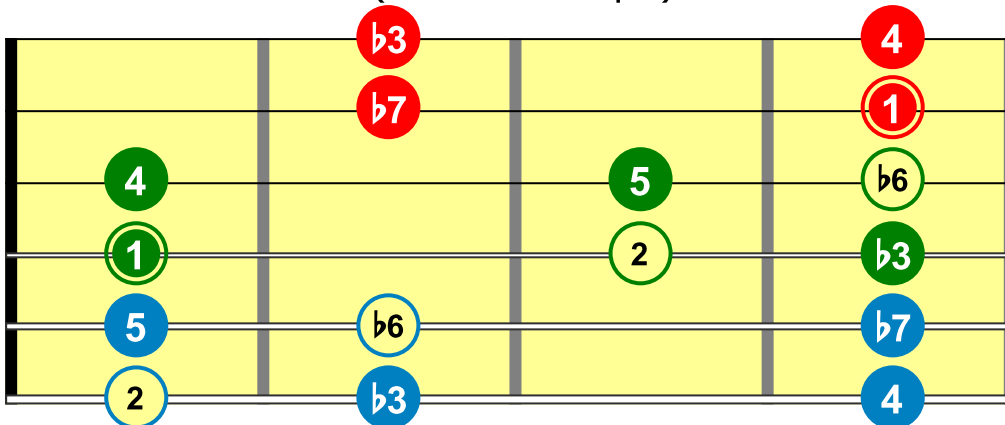
Minor Pentatonic Position 2 (D Shape)
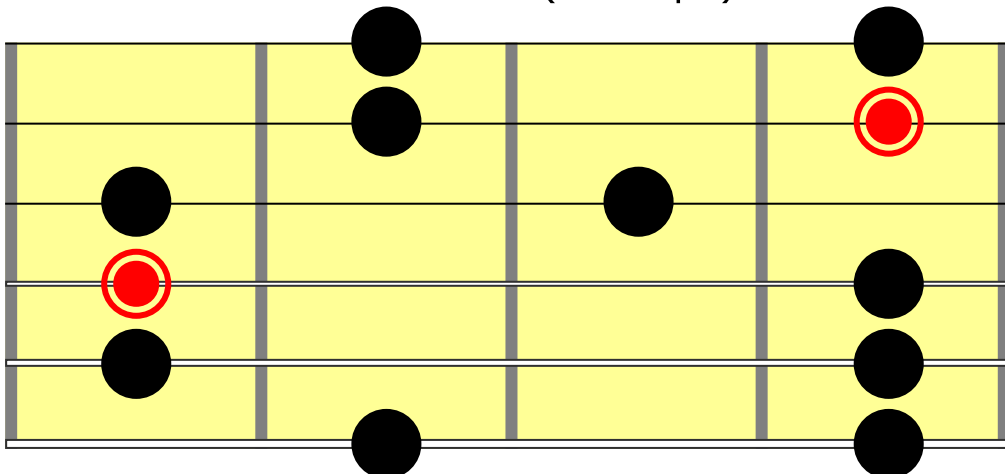
CAGED Position 3 (Aeolian Shape)
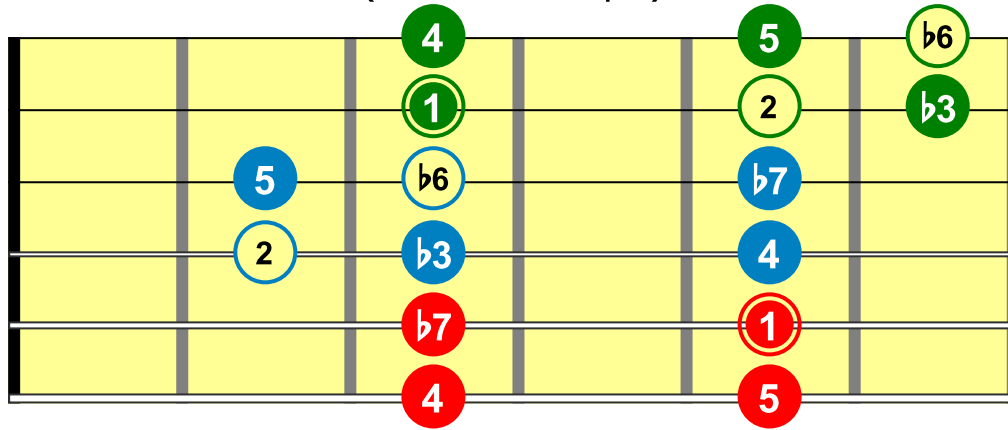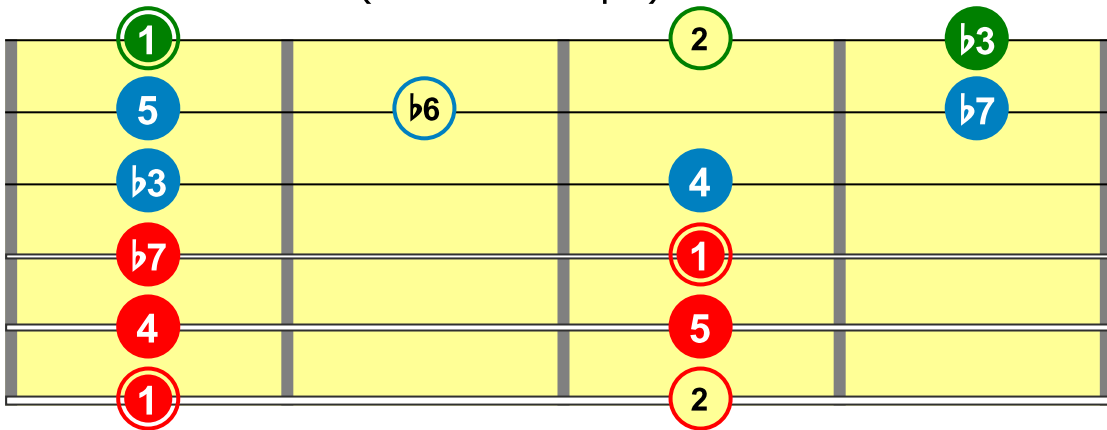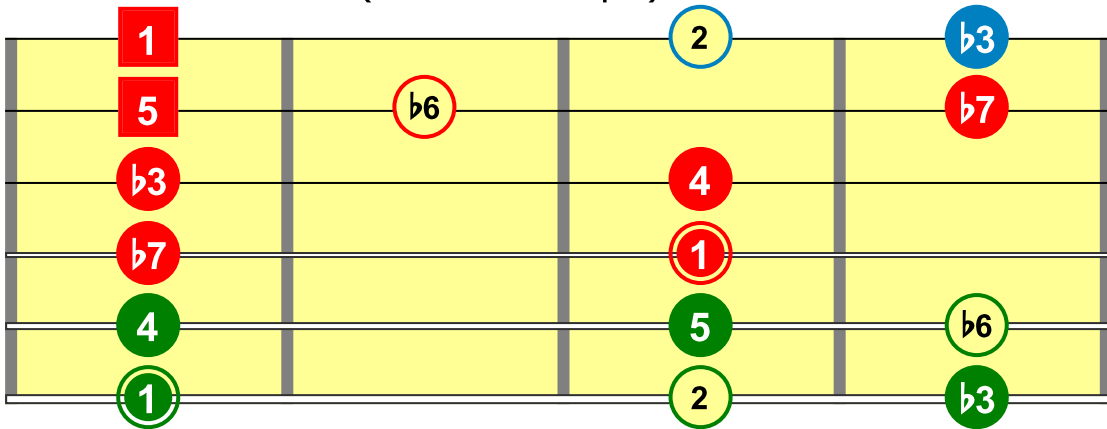
Minor Pentatonic Position 3 (C Shape)
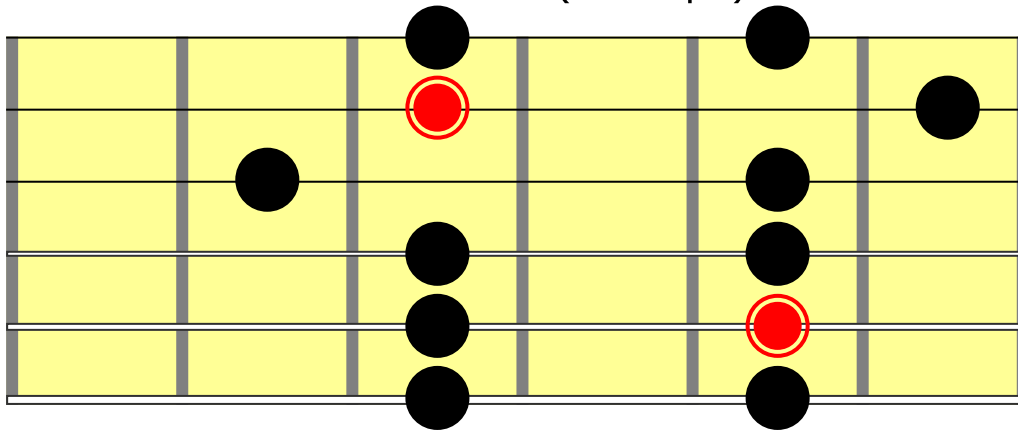
CAGED Position 4 (Aeolian Shape)
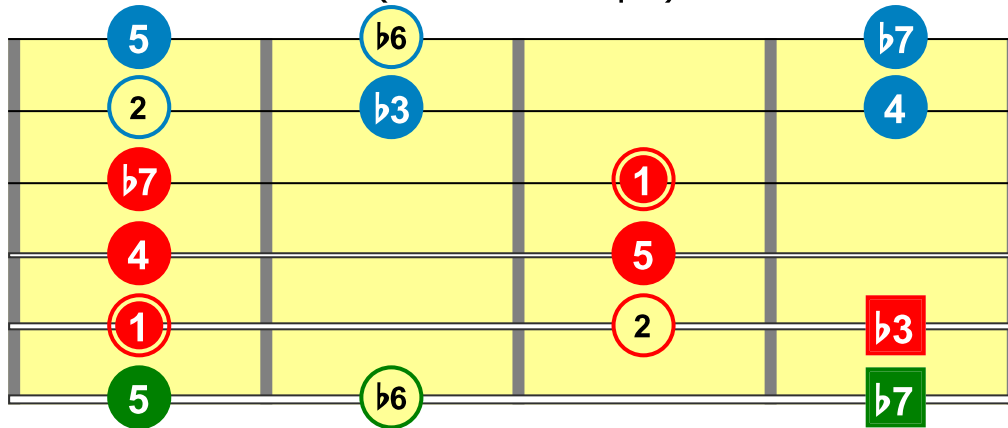
Minor Pentatonic Position 4 (A Shape)
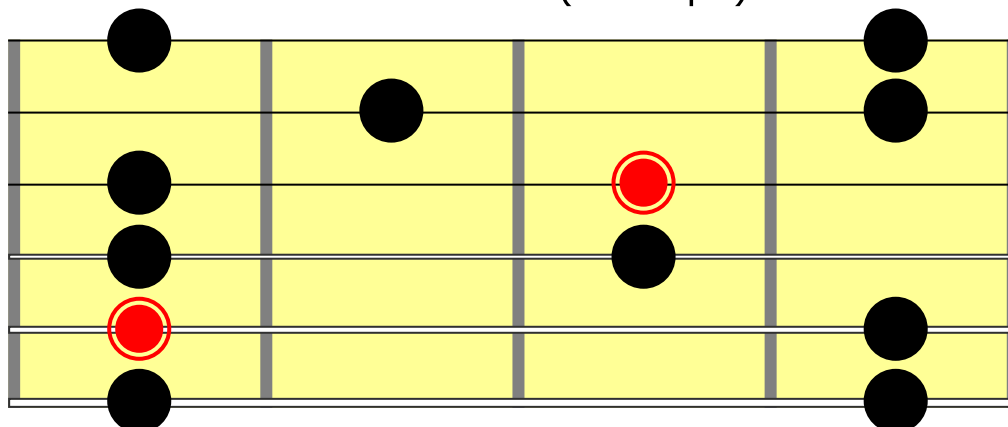
CAGED Position 5 (Aeolian Shape)

Minor Pentatonic Position 4 (A Shape)

15   17   19
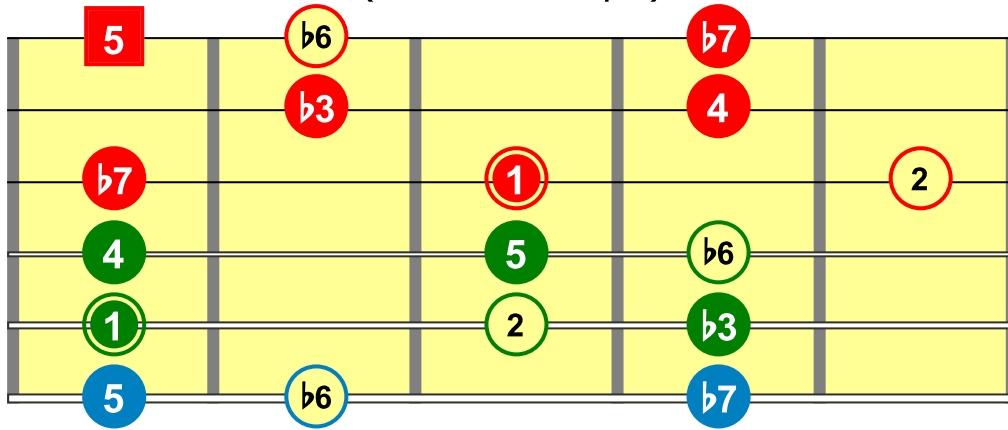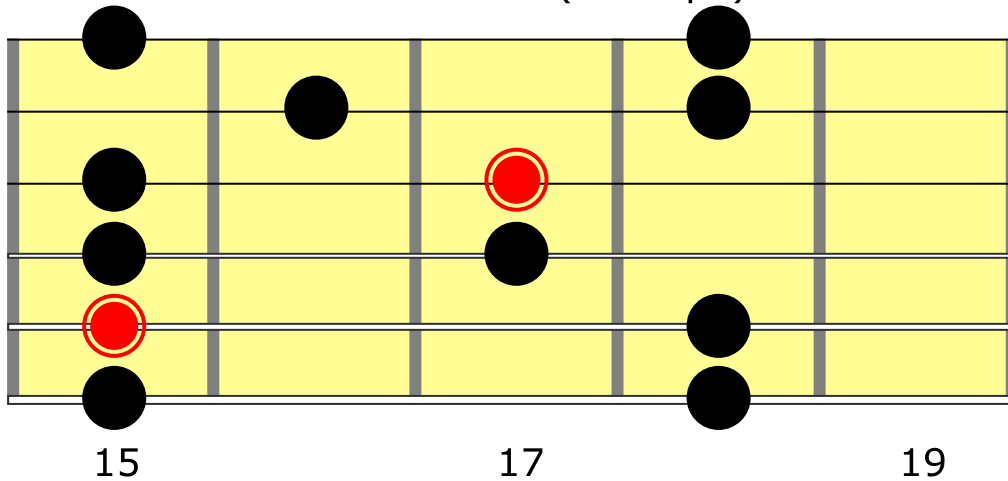
CAGED Position 6 (Aeolian Shape)

Minor Pentatonic Position 5 (G Shape)

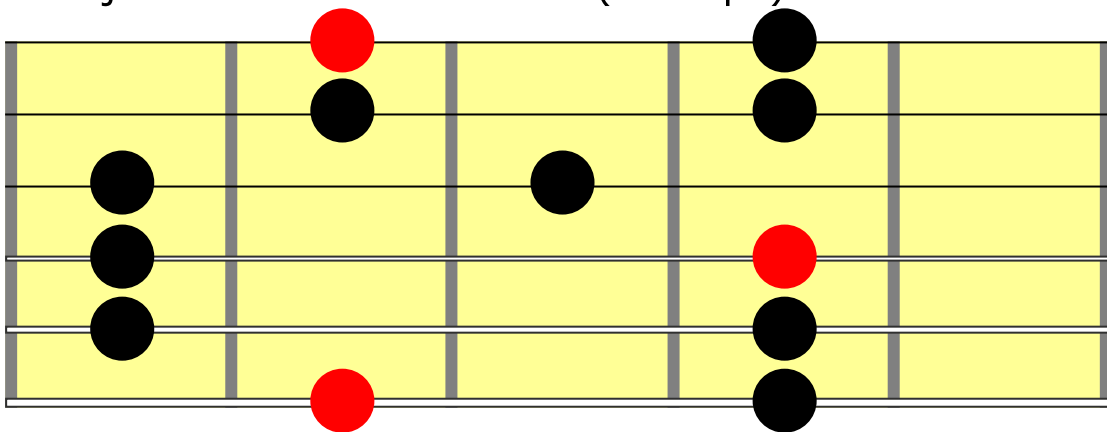## CAGED Position 7 (Aeolian Shape)
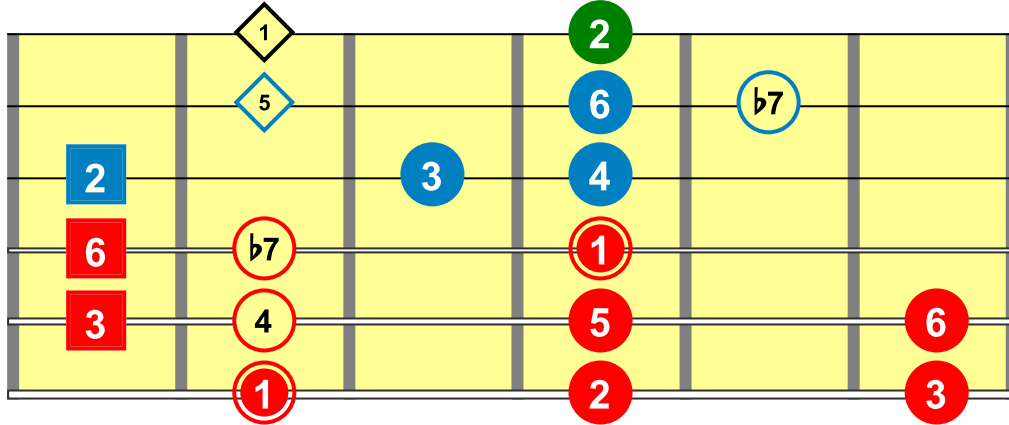

OR

CAGED Position 1 (Aeolian Shape)

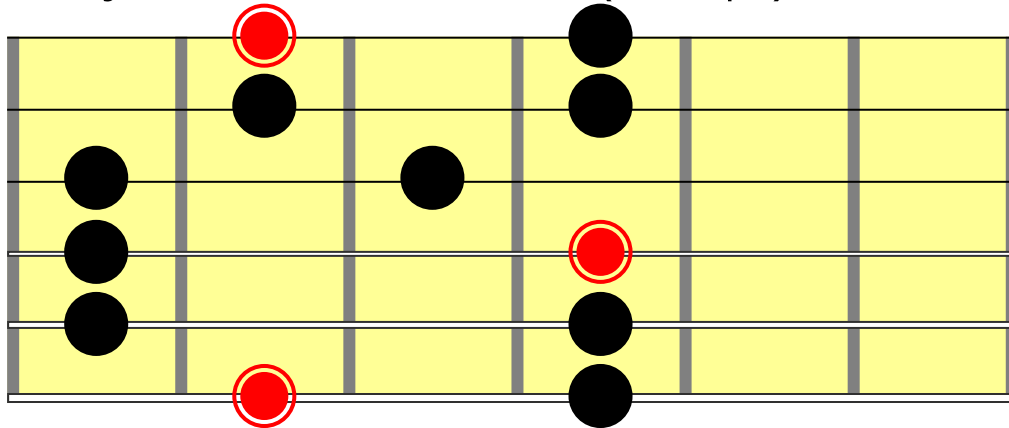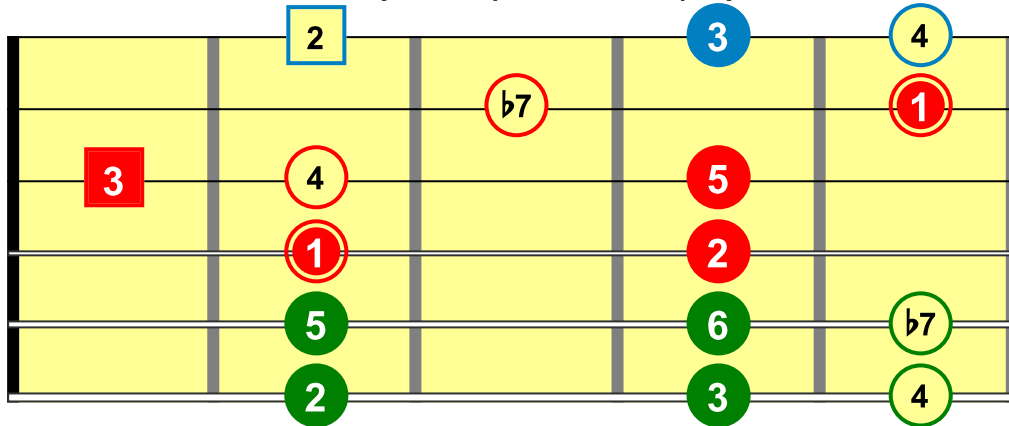## C Major Pentatonic Position 1 (E Shape)

MAJOR Pentatonic NO perfect 4th or flat 7th

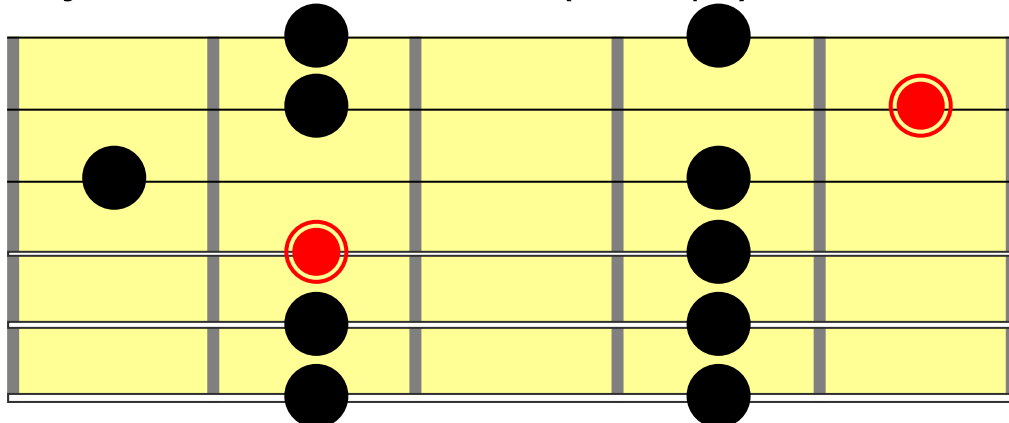## CAGED Position 1 (Mixolydian Shape)

C Major Pentatonic Position 1 (E Shape)
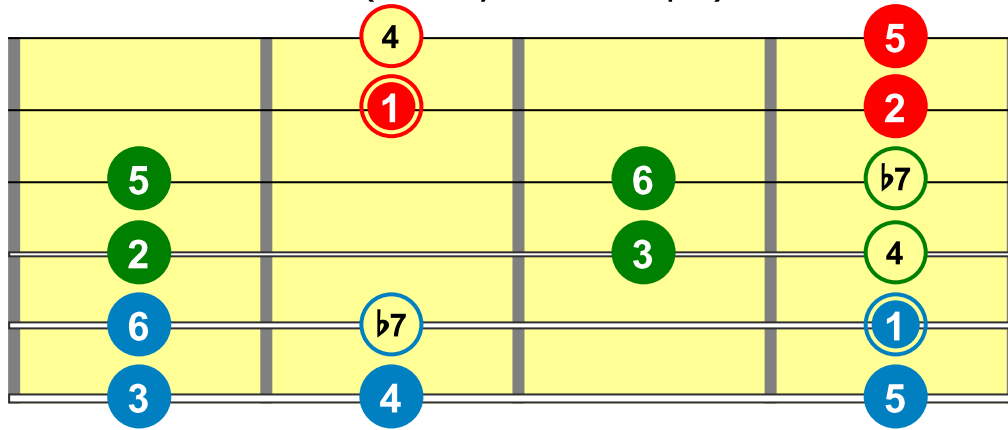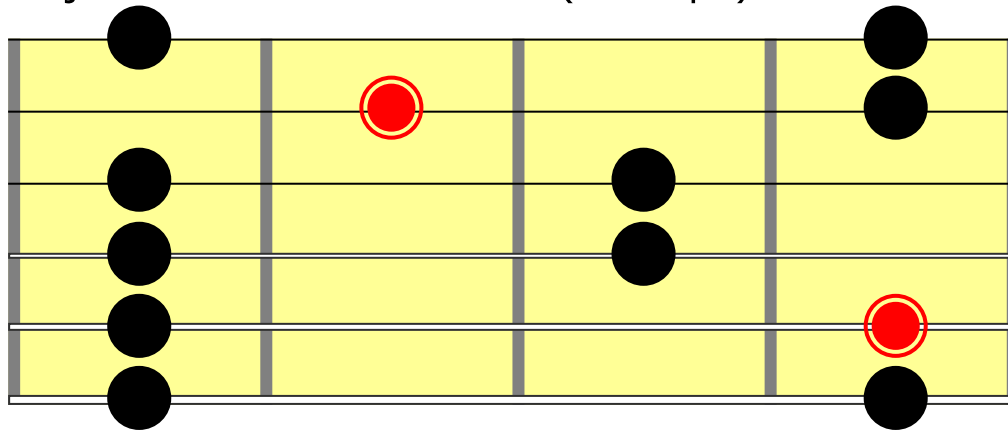

CAGED Position 2 (Mixolydian Shape)

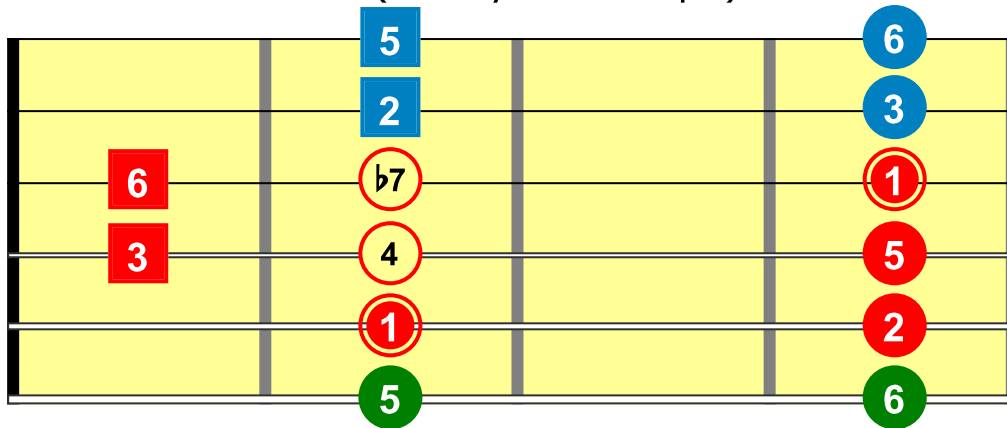## Major Pentatonic Position 2 (D Shape)

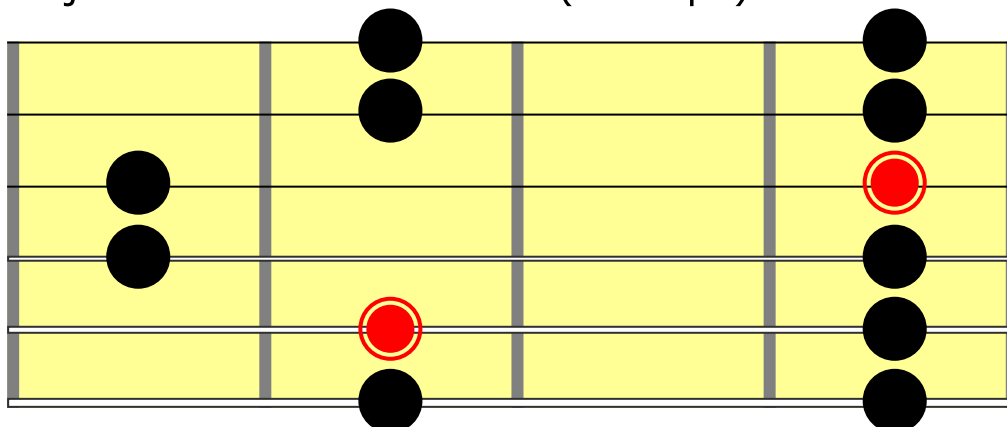## CAGED Position 3 (Mixolydian Shape)

Major Pentatonic Position 3 (C Shape)
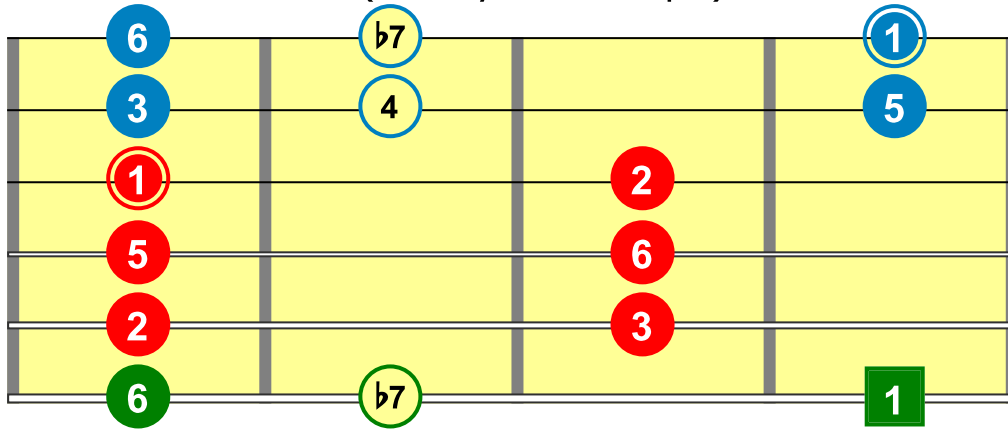

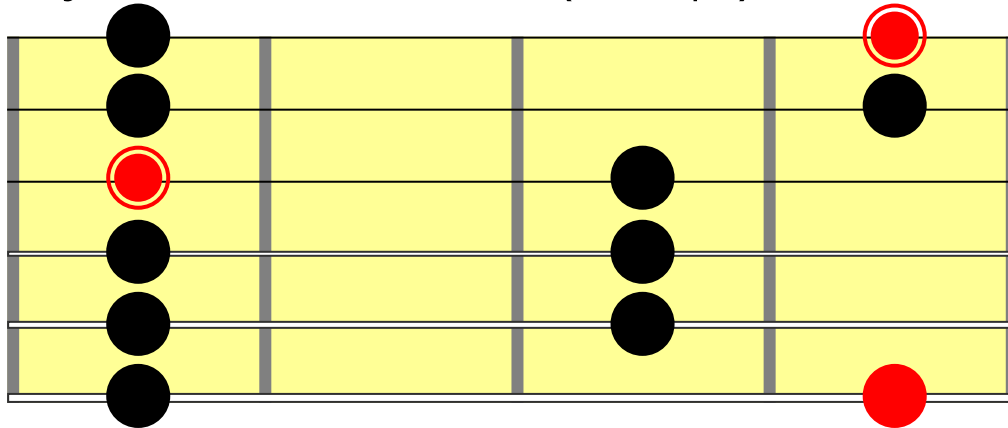## CAGED Position 4 (Mixolydian Shape)

Major Pentatonic Position 4 (A Shape)
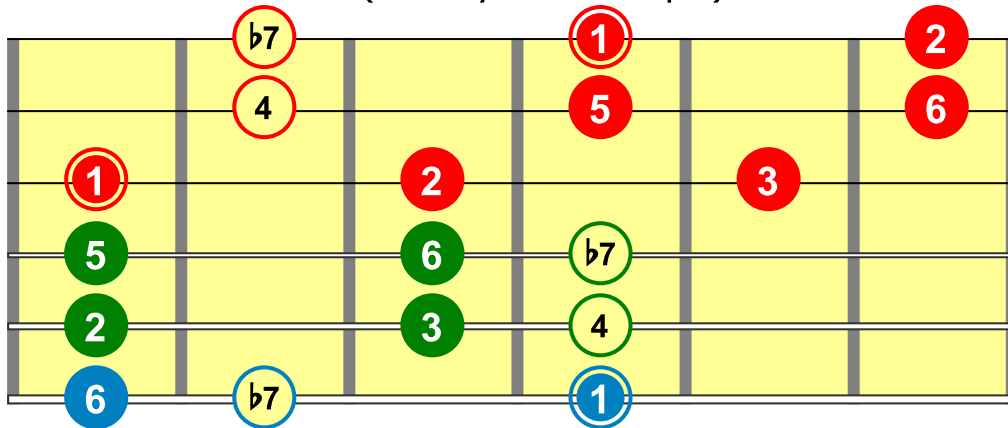
CAGED Position 5 (Mixolydian Shape)

Major Pentatonic Position 5 (G Shape)

17   19

CAGED Position 6 (Mixolydian Shape)

C Major Pentatonic Position 1 (E Shape)
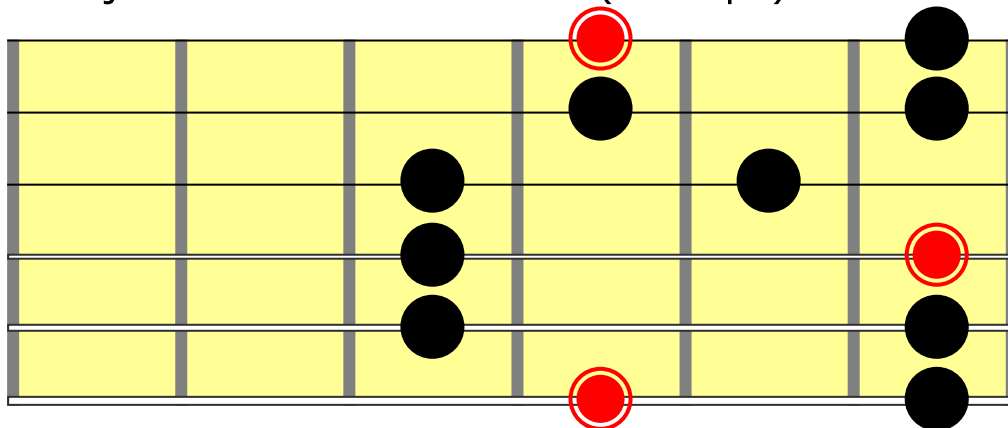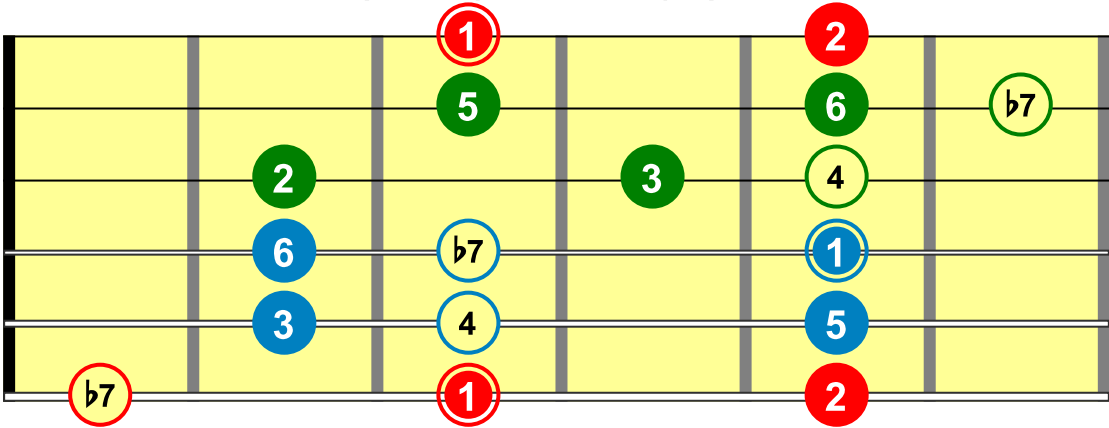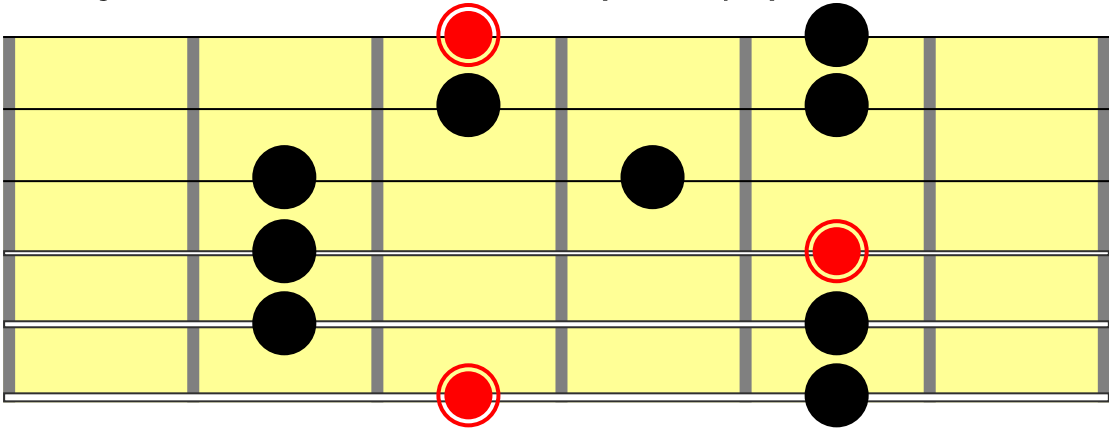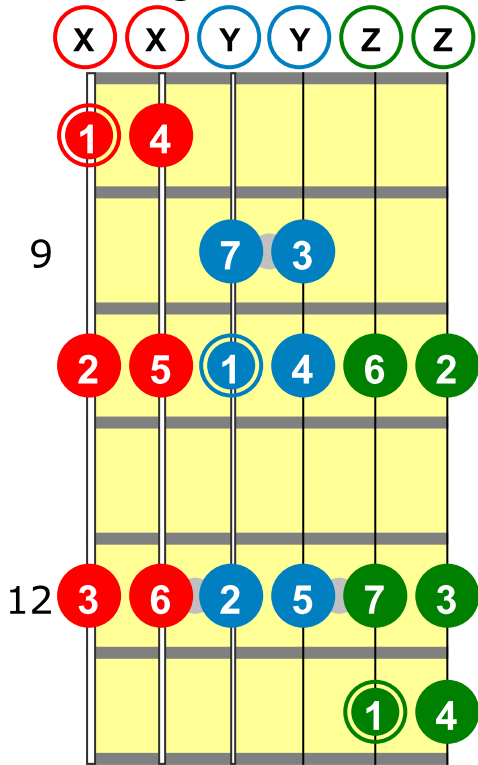
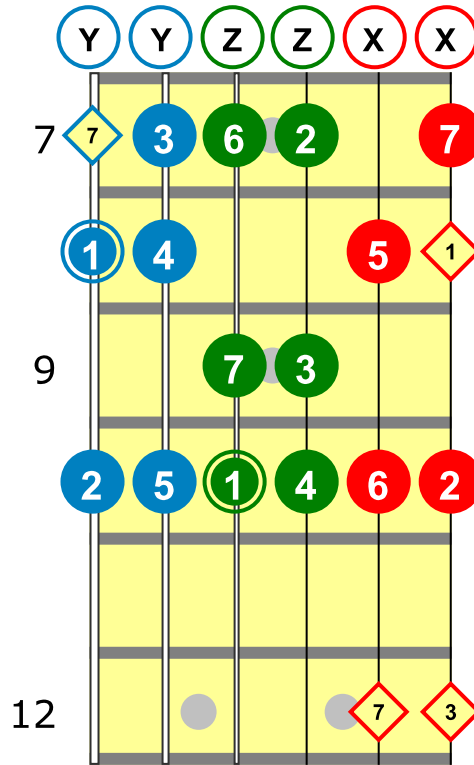CAGED Position 7 (Mixolydian Shape)

C Major Pentatonic Position 1 (E Shape)

C Major 3 note per string NPS
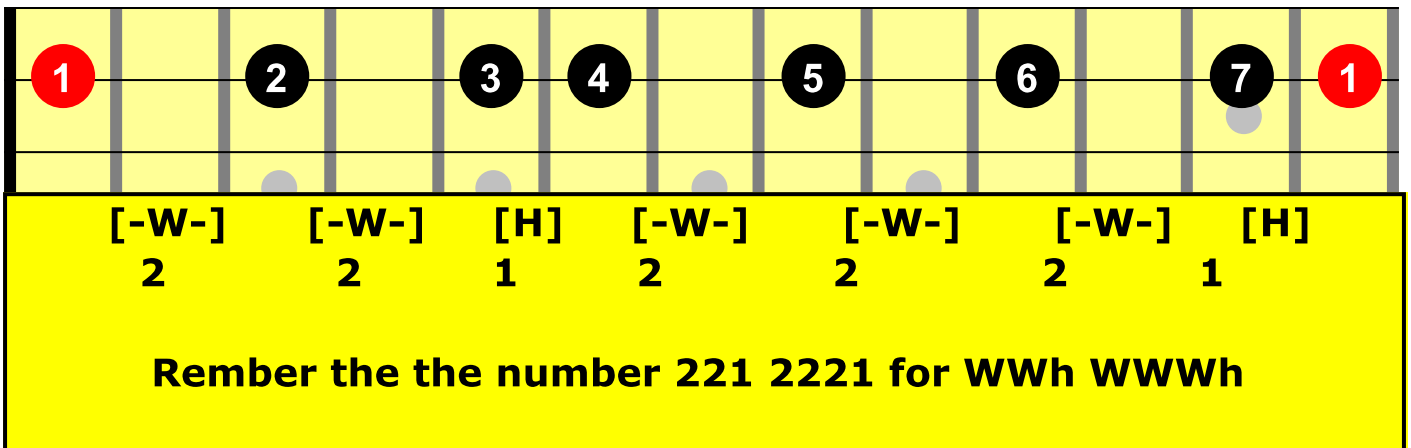

C Major 2 to 3 note per string NPS

Major Scale Formula

[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]
2	2	1	2	2	2	1

Rember the the number 221 2221 for WWh WWWh

C Natural minor Scale (Aeolian)
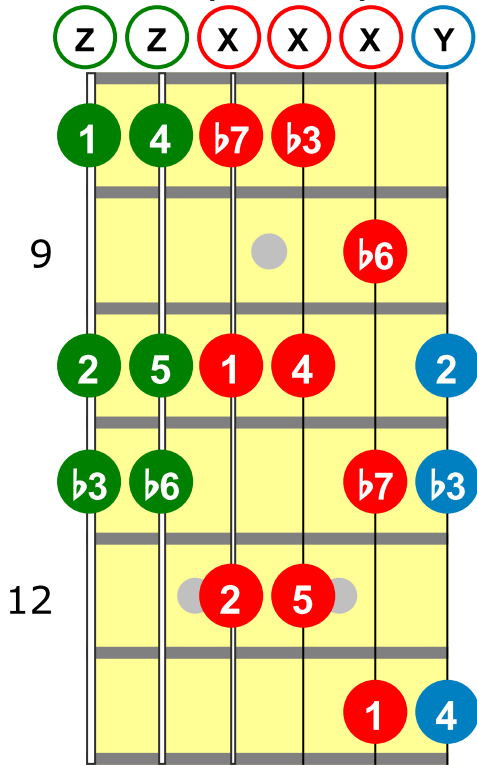
C Major 2 to 3 NPS
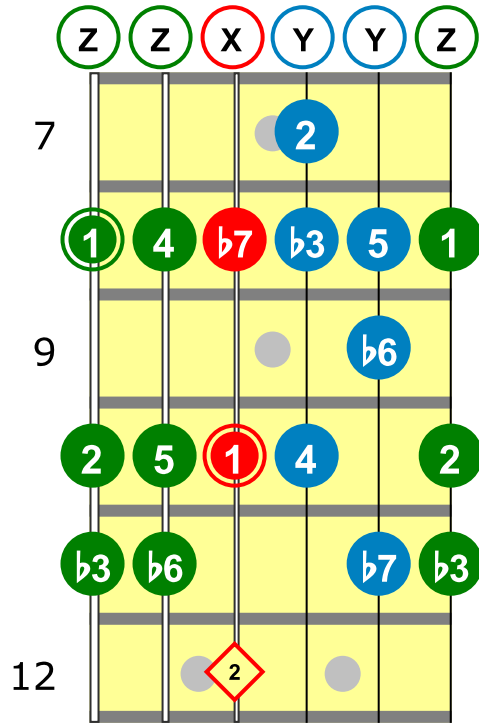
Natural minor Scale Formula

[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]	[H]	[-W-]	[-W-]
2	1	2	2	1	2	2

Rember the the number 212 2122 for WhW WhWW

The 5 Major Penatonic Scales

5 Scale Positions	Starting Shapes	Root Position
1	XX	Strings 5 & 3
2	ZZ	Strings 6 & 3 & 1
3	XX	Strings 6* & 4 & 1
4	XX	Strings 4 & 2
5	YY	Strings 6* & 4 & 2

*Root Starting Sequence

The 5 minor Penatonic Scales

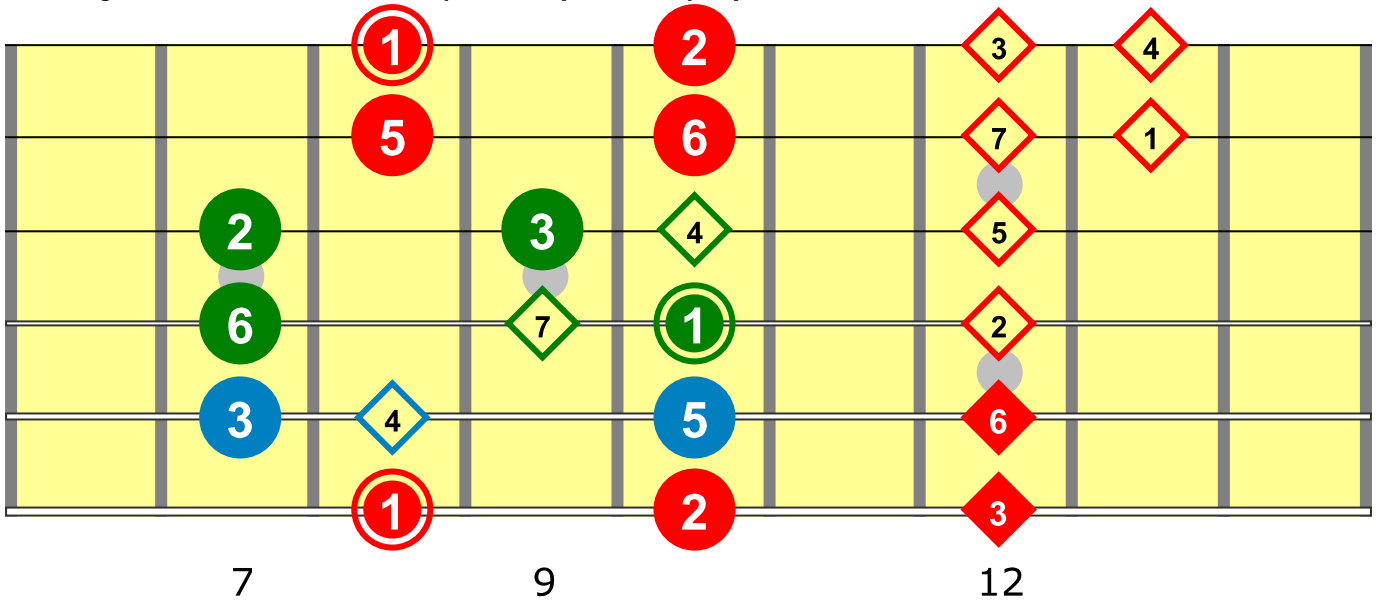| 5 Scale Positions	Starting Shapes	Root Position
1	ZZ	Strings 6* & 4 & 1
2	XX	Strings 4* & 2
3	XX	Strings 5 & 2
4	YY	Strings 5* & 3
5	XX	Strings 6 & 3 & 1

*Root Starting Sequence
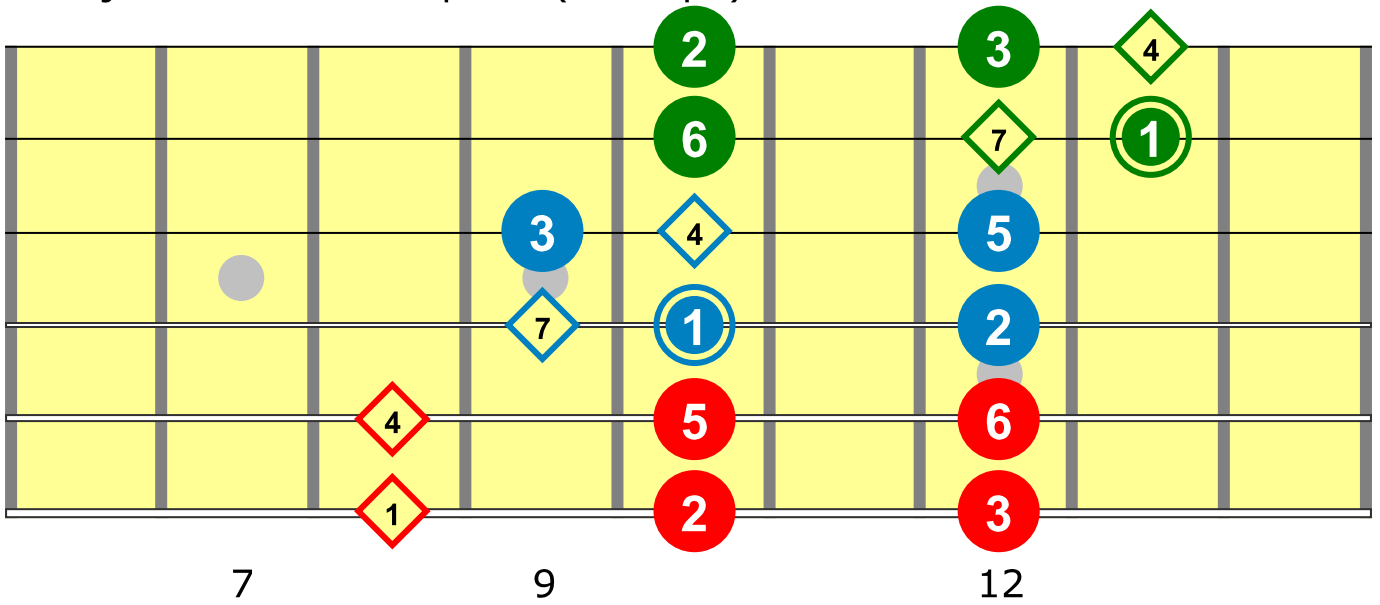
C Major Penatonic Shape 1 (G Shape)
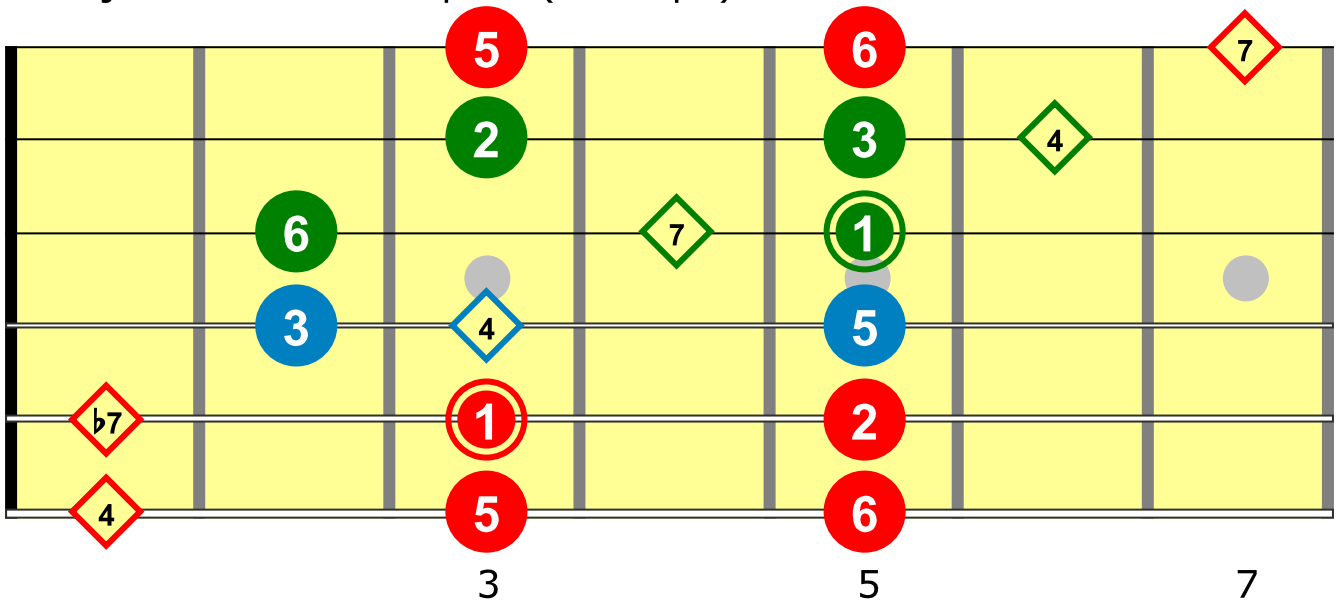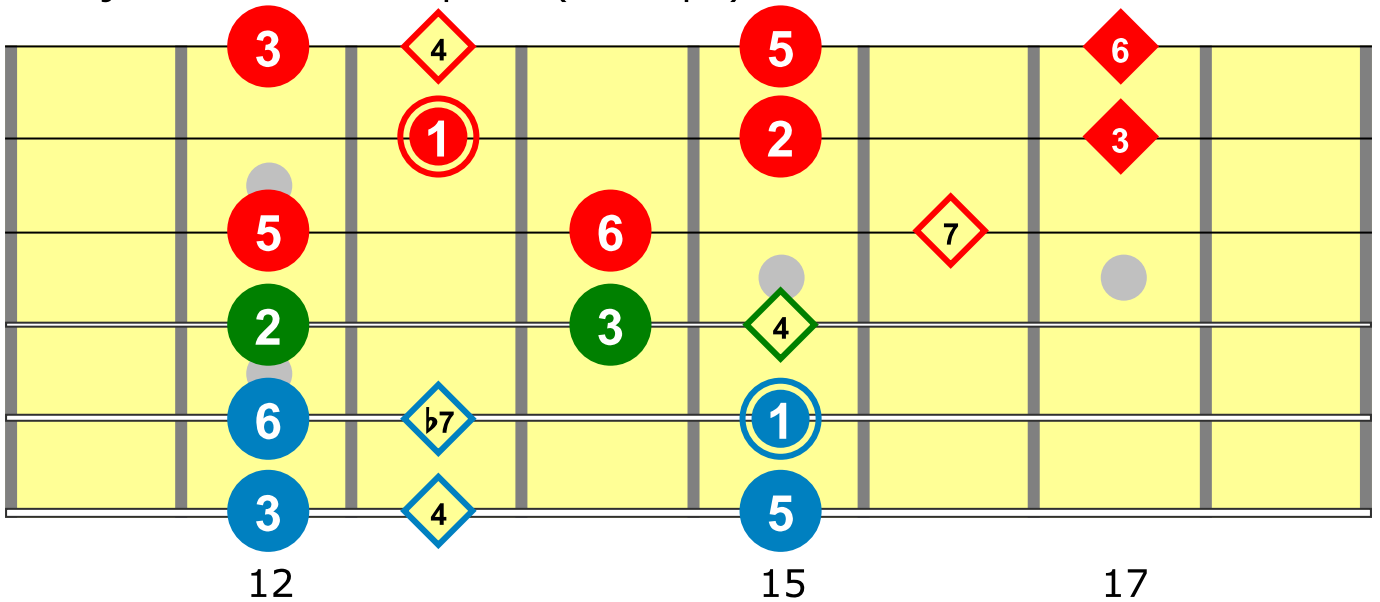

C Major Penatonic Shape 2 (E Shape)
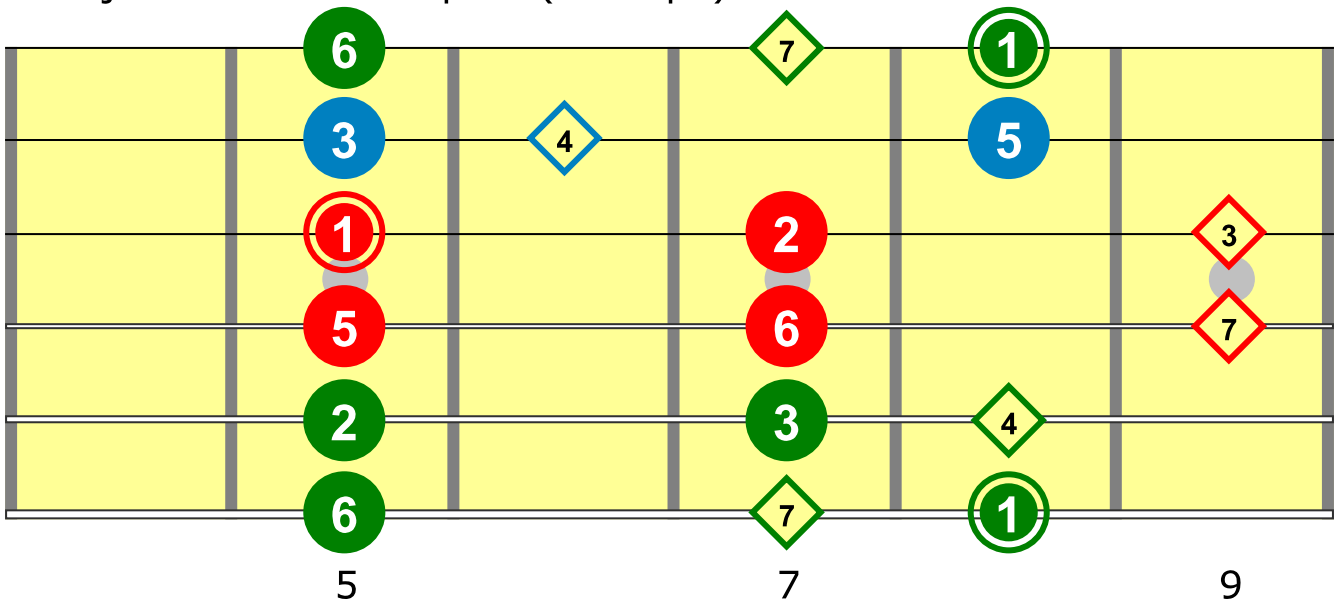
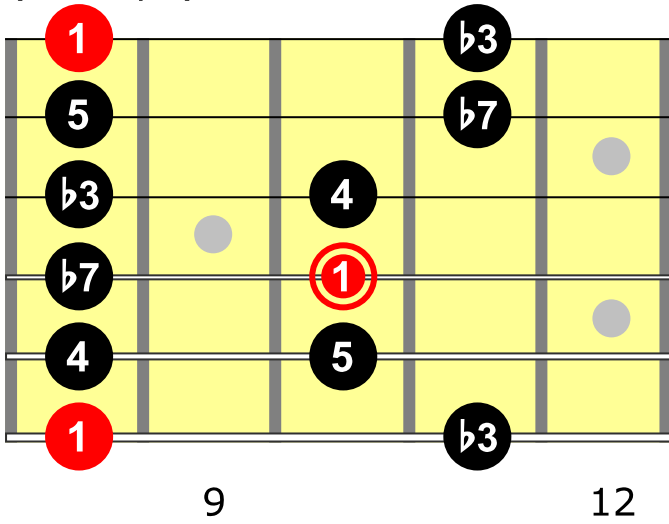C Major Penatonic Shape 3 (D Shape)
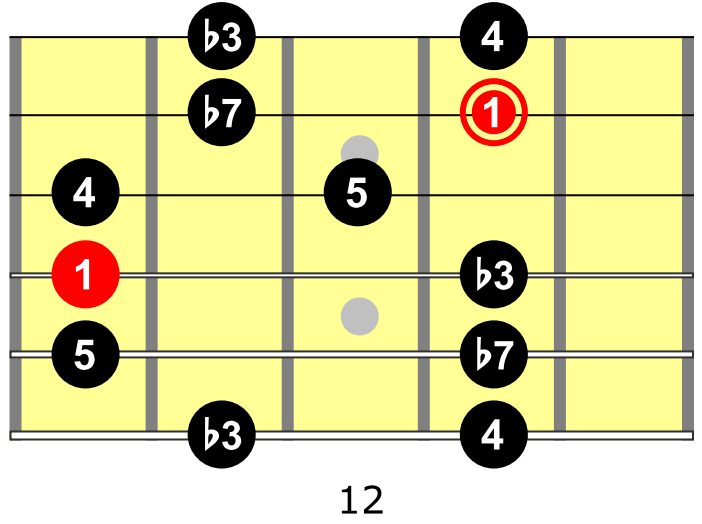
C Major Penatonic Shape 4 (C Shape)
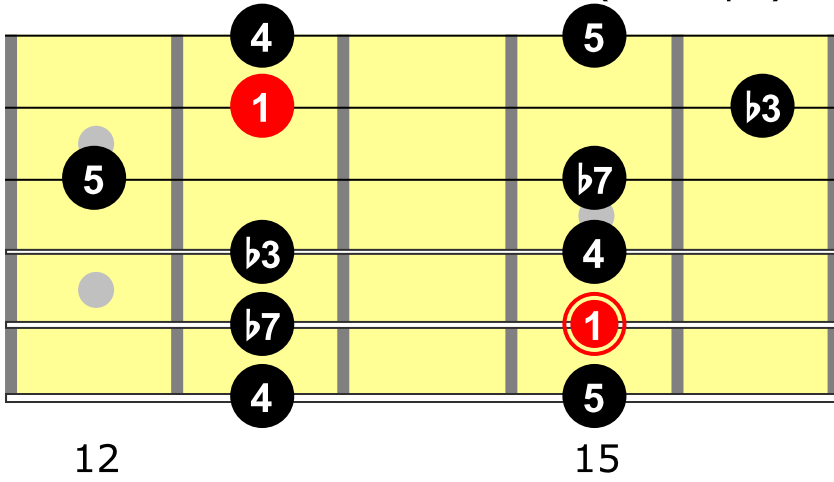
C Major Penatonic Shape 5 (A Shape)

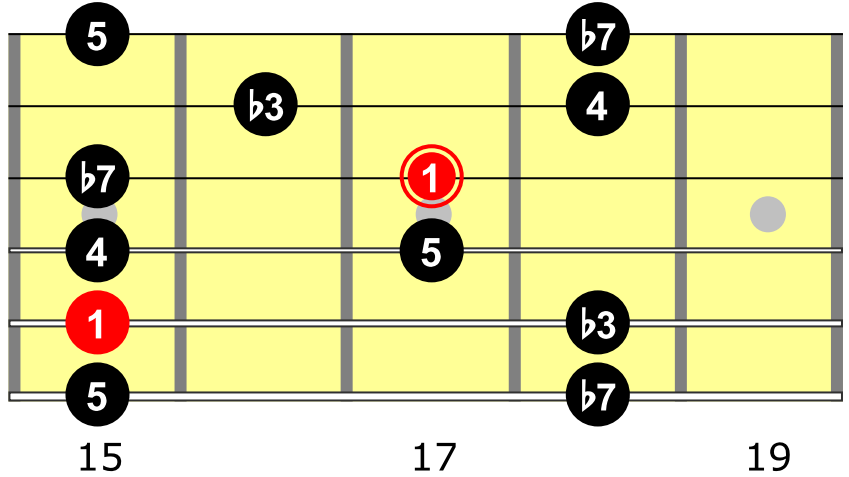C Minor Pentatonic Position 1
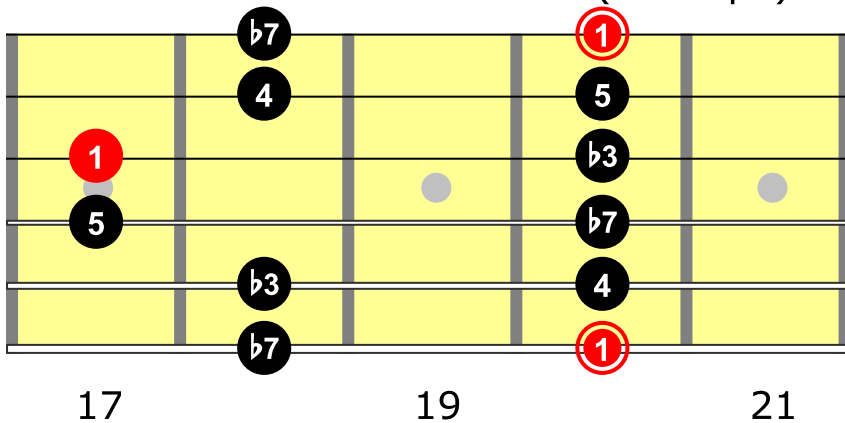(E Shape)

C Minor Pentatonic Position 2
(D Shape)
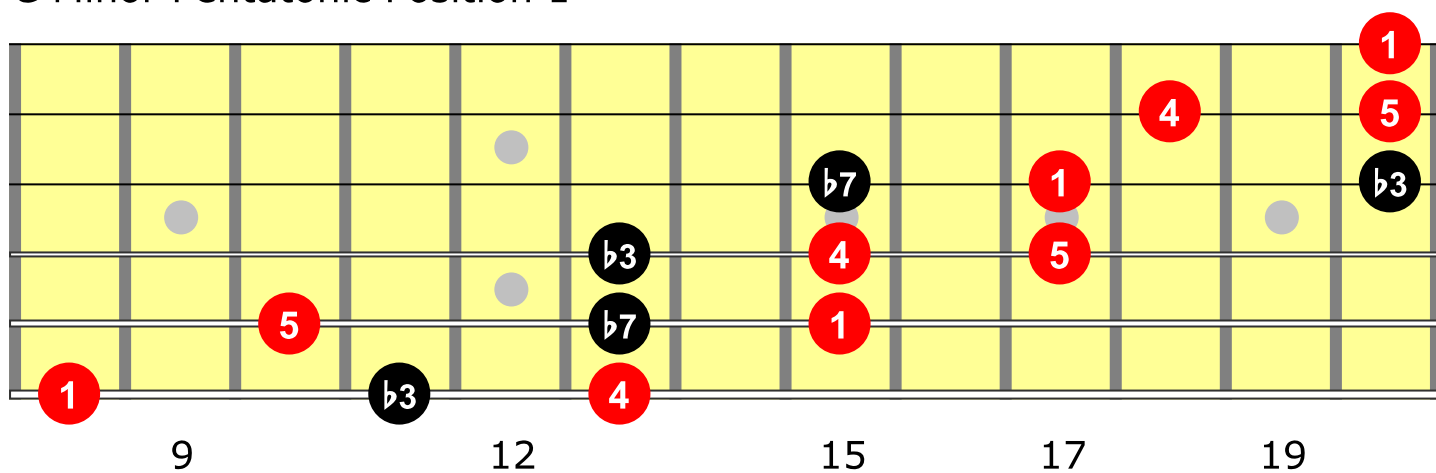
C Minor Pentatonic Position 3 (C Shape)

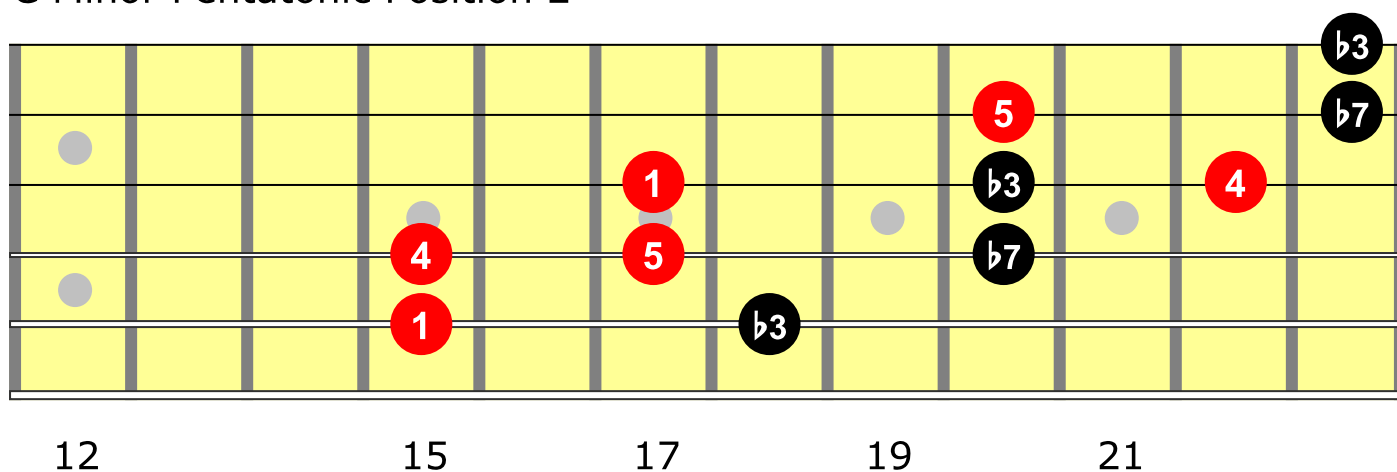C Minor Pentatonic Position 4 (A Shape)

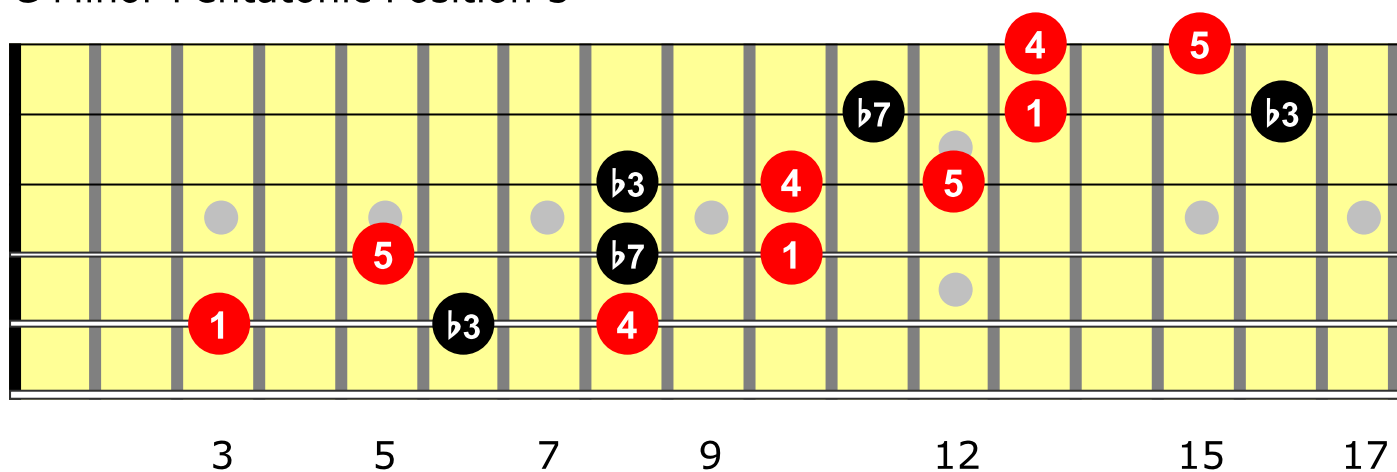C Minor Pentatonic Position 5 (G Shape)
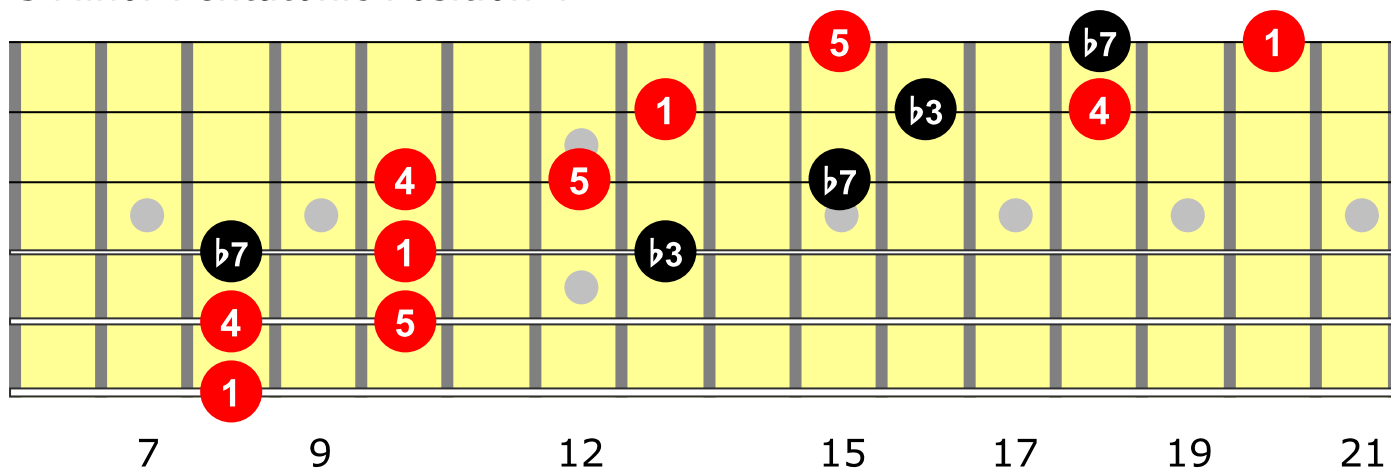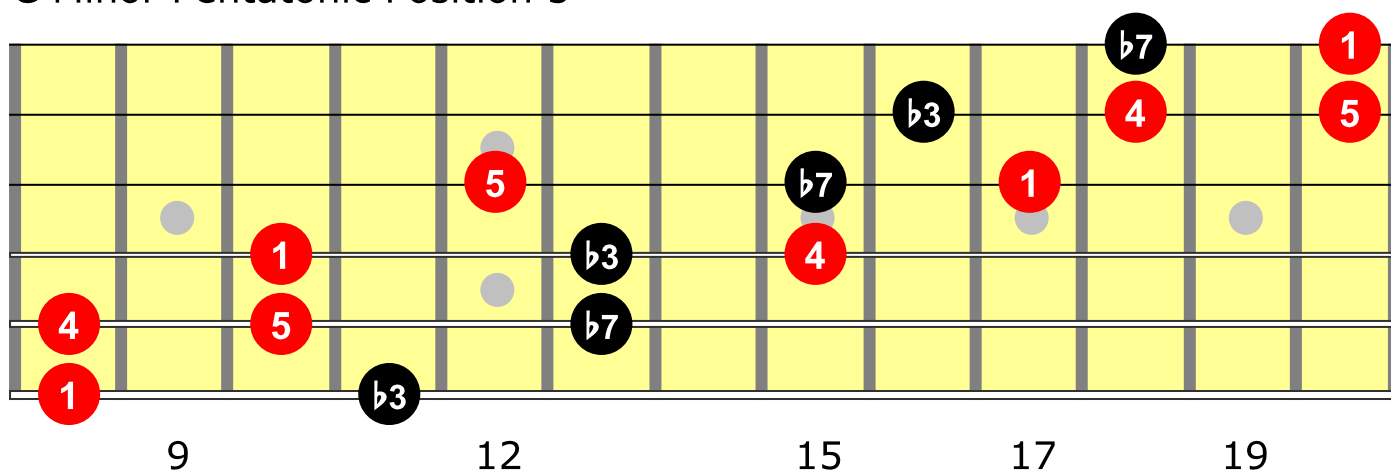
C Minor Pentatonic Position 1

C Minor Pentatonic Position 2
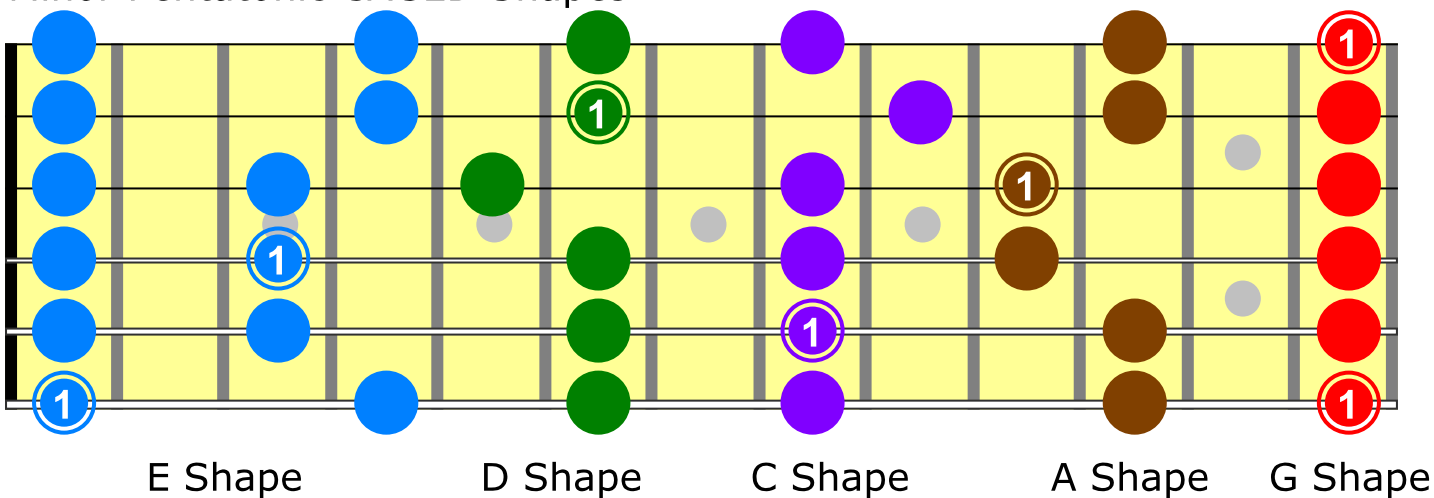

C Minor Pentatonic Position 3

C Minor Pentatonic Position 4

C Minor Pentatonic Position 5

Minor Pentatonic CAGED Shapes

E Shape   D Shape   C Shape   A Shape   G Shape

Minor C Pentatonic CAGED Shapes

D Shape   C Shape   A Shape   G Shape   E Shape   D Shape
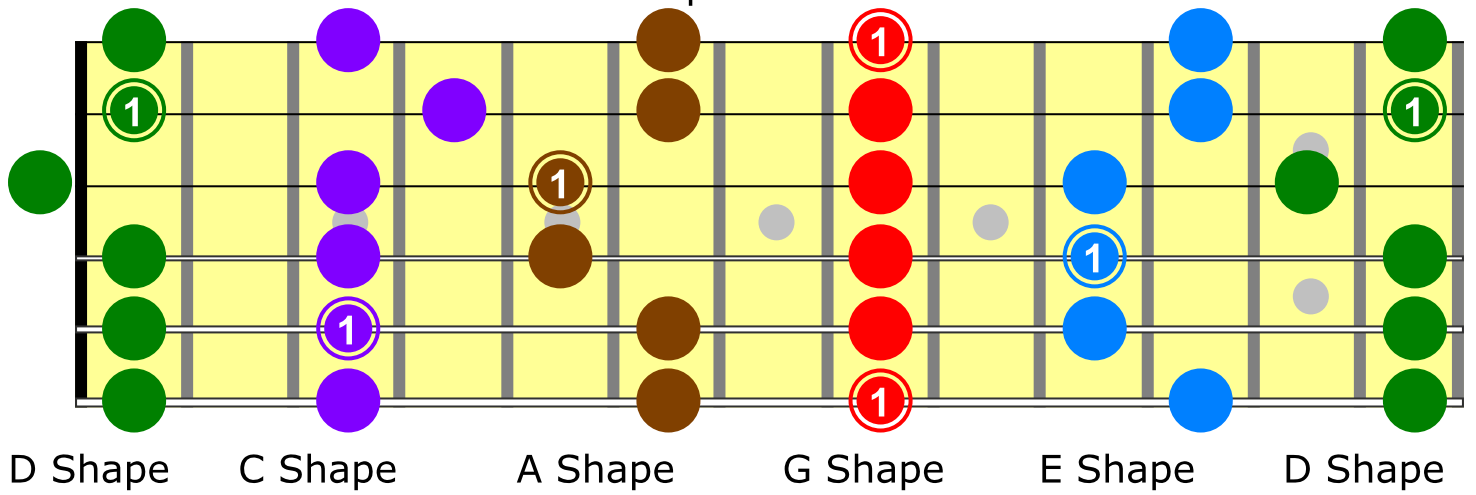
Minor A Pentatonic CAGED Shapes

C Shape   A Shape   G Shape   E Shape   D Shape   C Shape
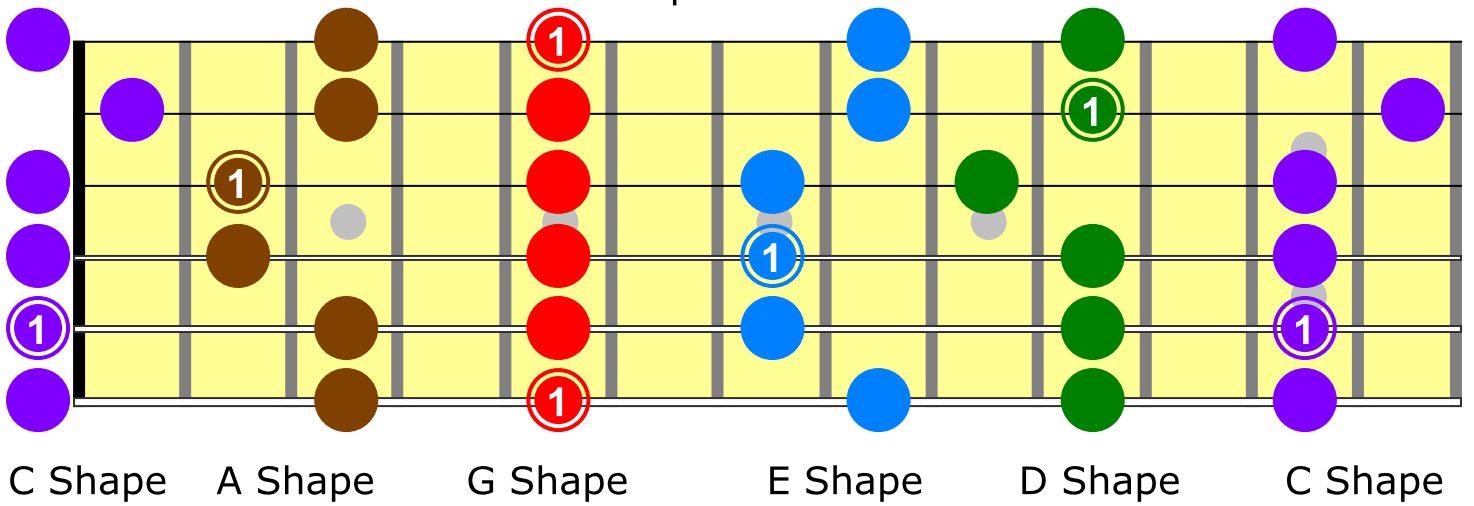
Minor G Pentatonic CAGED Shapes

A Shape   G Shape   E Shape   D Shape   C Shape   A Shape
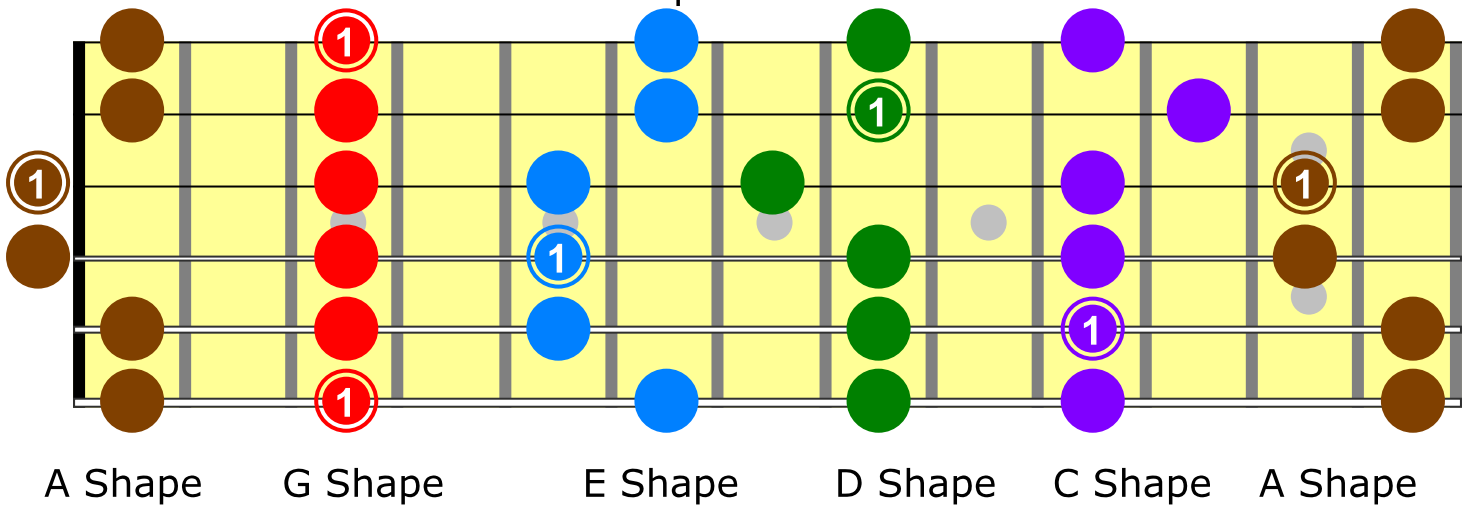
Minor   E Pentatonic CAGED Shapes

G Shape   E Shape   D Shape   C Shape   A Shape   G Shape
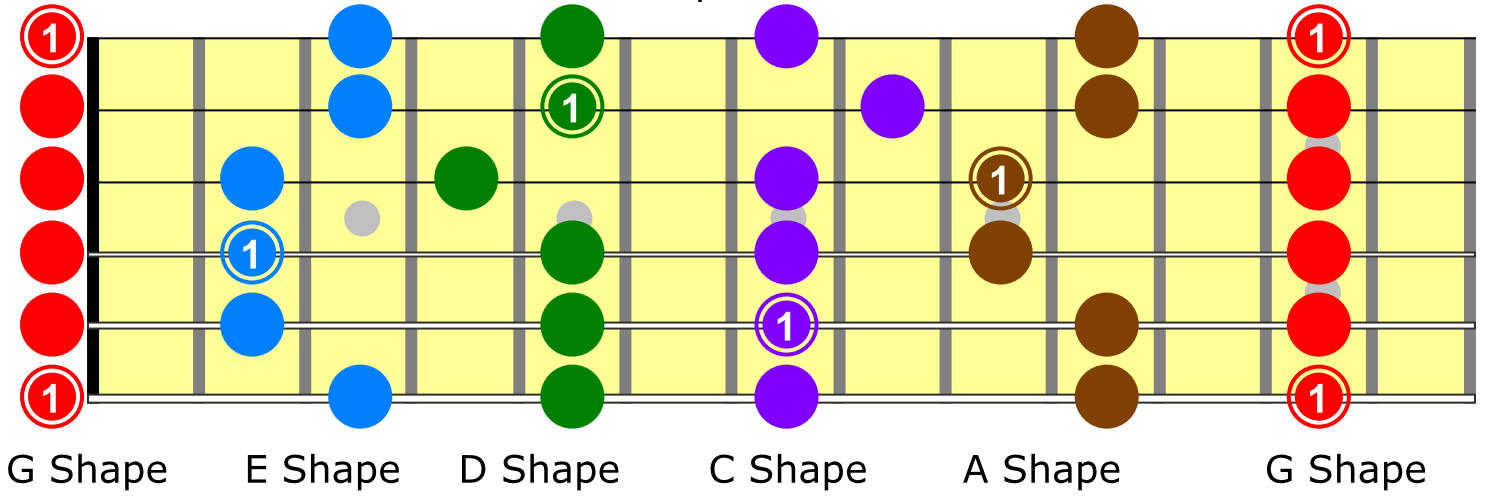
Minor   D Pentatonic CAGED Shapes

E Shape   D Shape   C Shape   A Shape   G Shape   E Shape
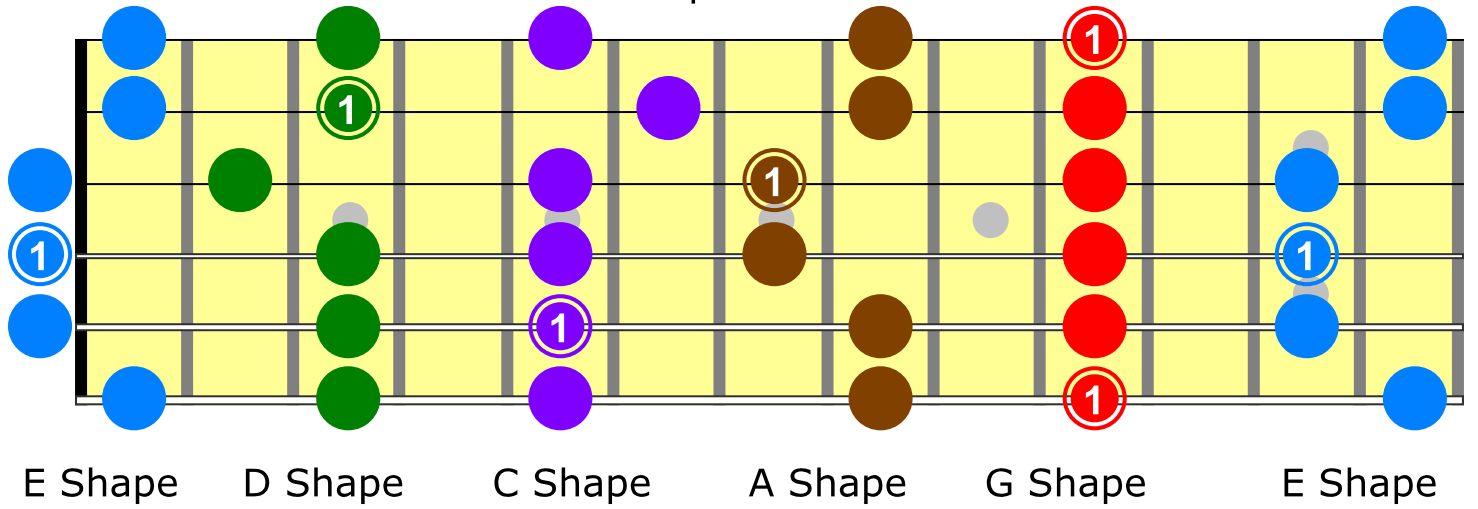
Open G Turning

Rule I
When progessing from shape X to shape Y, the first finger shifts up one fret.
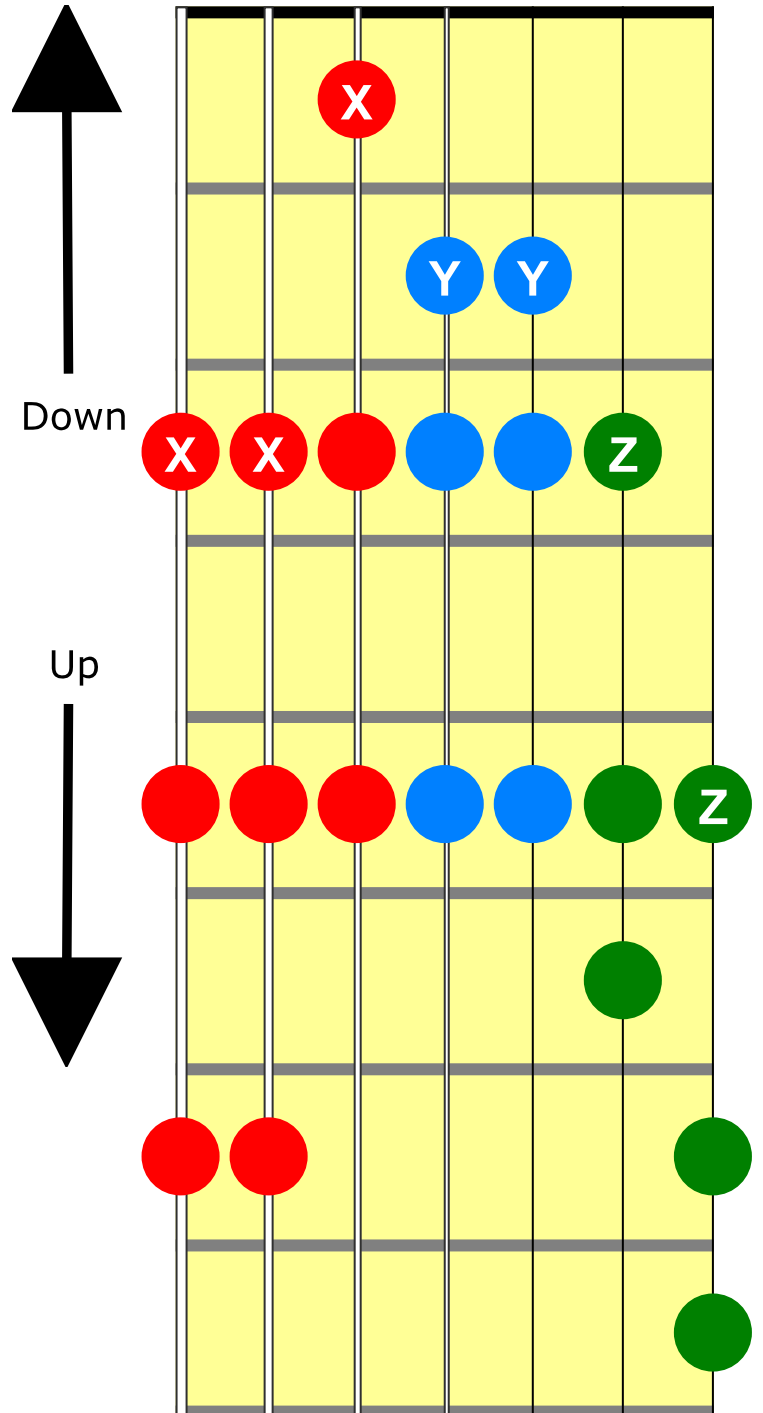
Rule 2
When progessing from the 3rd string to the 2nd string, the first finger shifts up one fret.
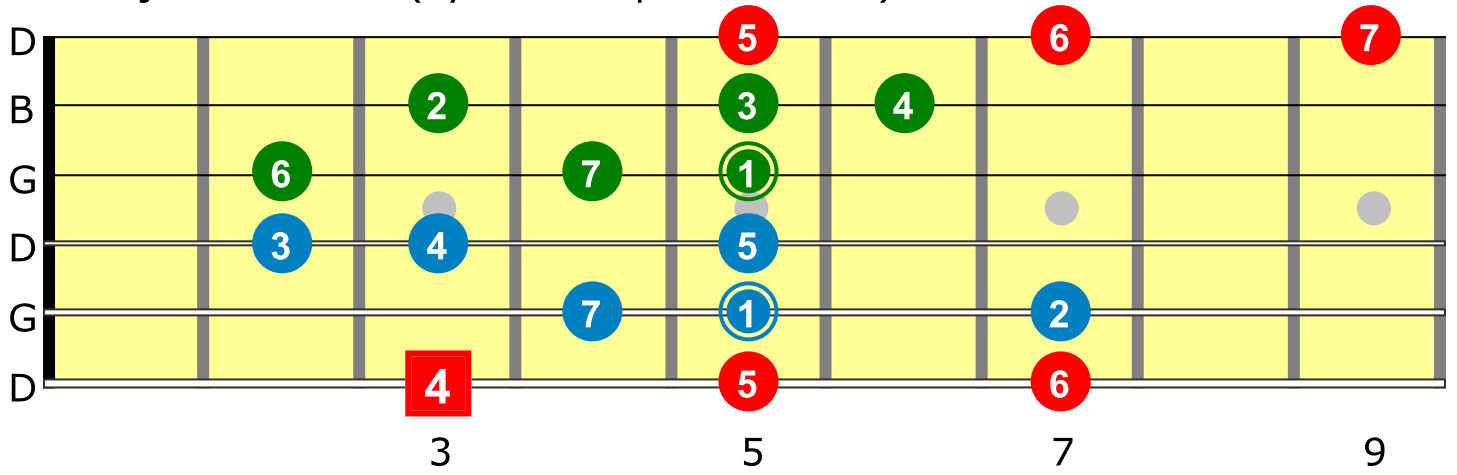
Rule 3
When progessing from the 5th string to the 4th string, the first finger shifts down two fret.
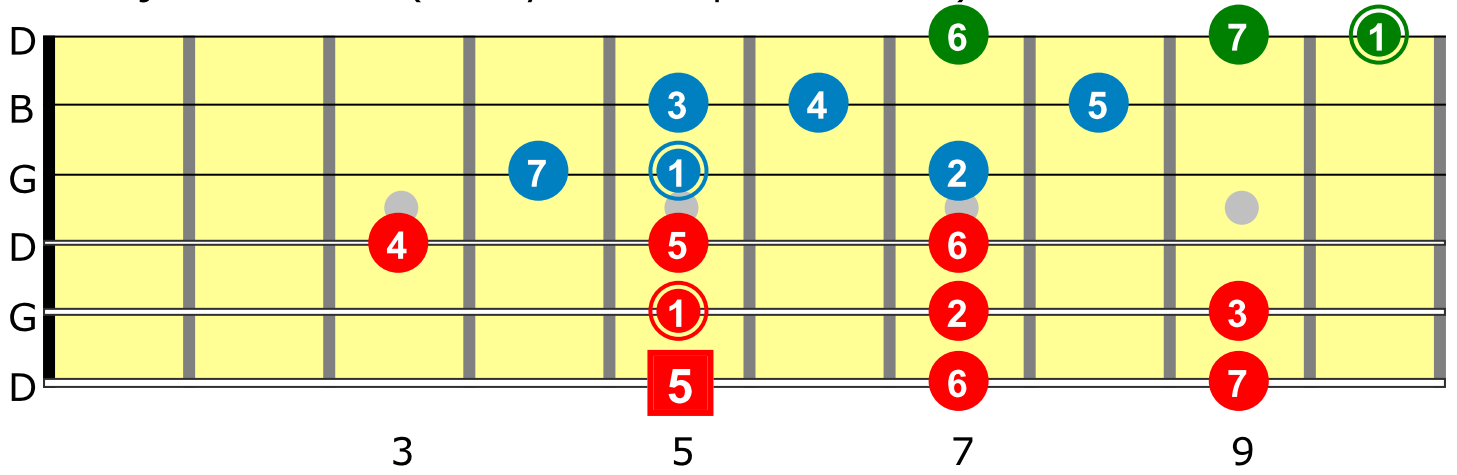
Rule 4
When progessing from the 2nd string to the 1st string, the first finger shifts down two fret.
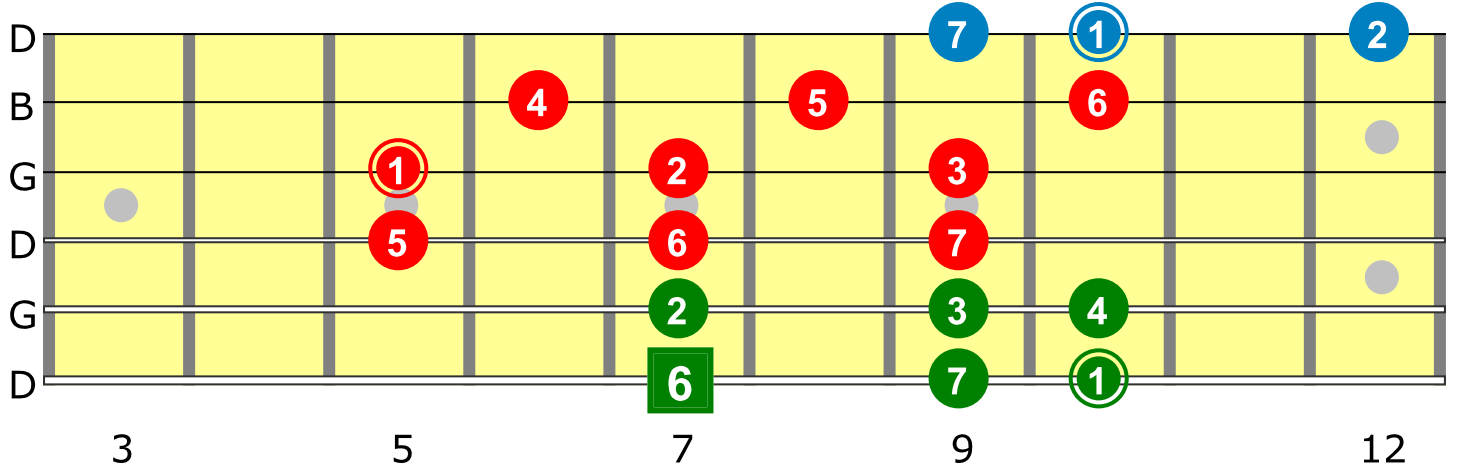
Down

Up

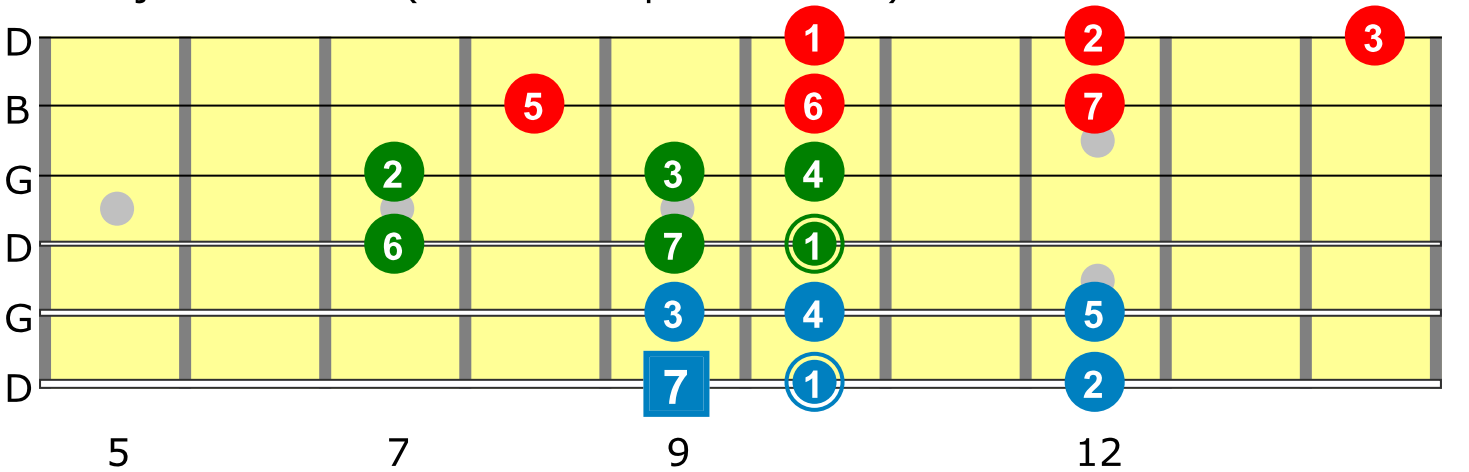C Major Position 1 (Lydian Shape 4th mode)

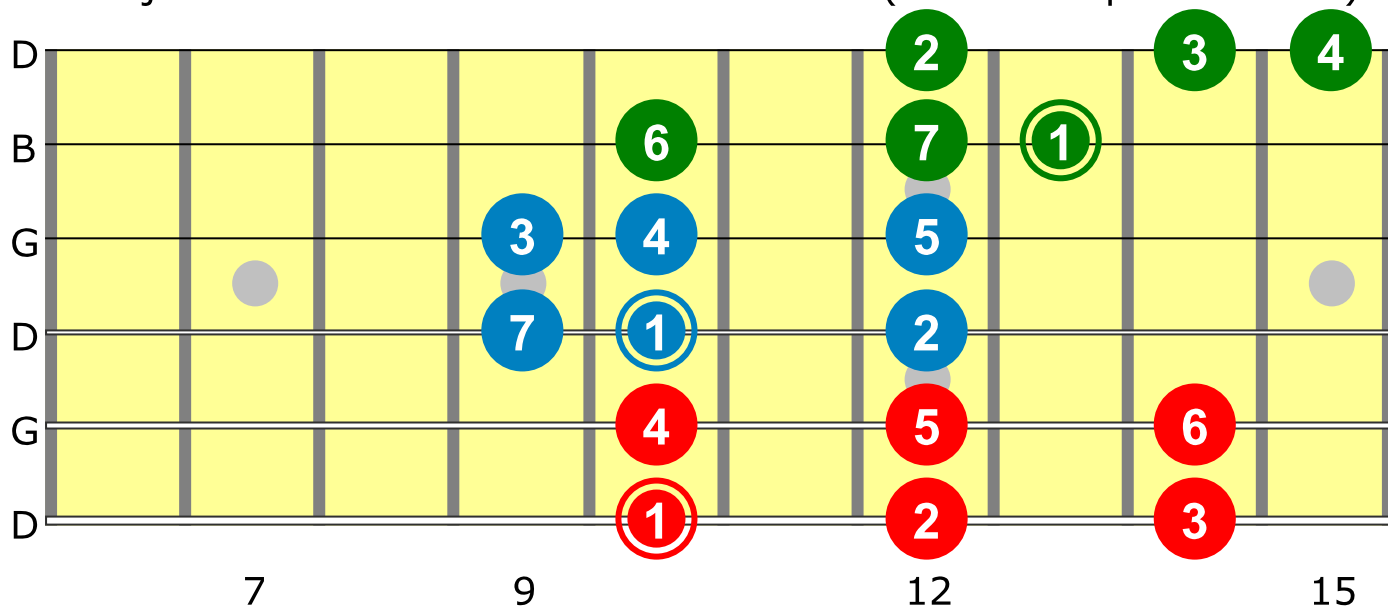C Major Position 2 (Mixolydian Shape 5th mode)

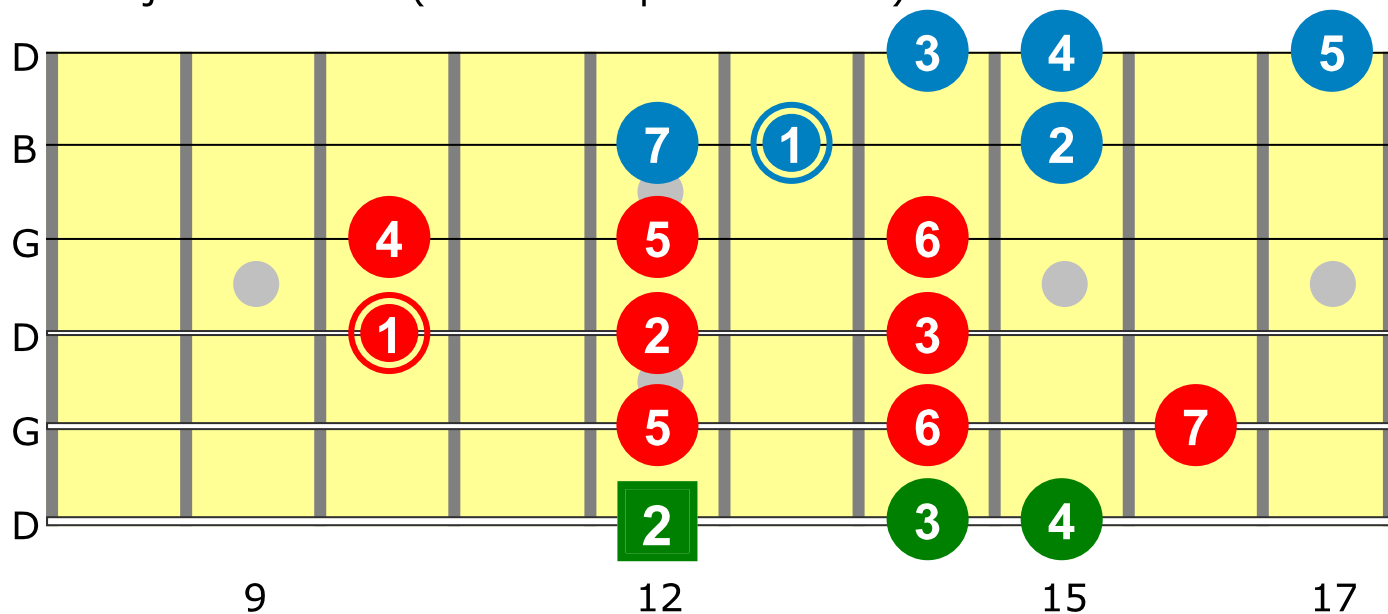C Major Position 3 (Aeolian Shape 6th mode)

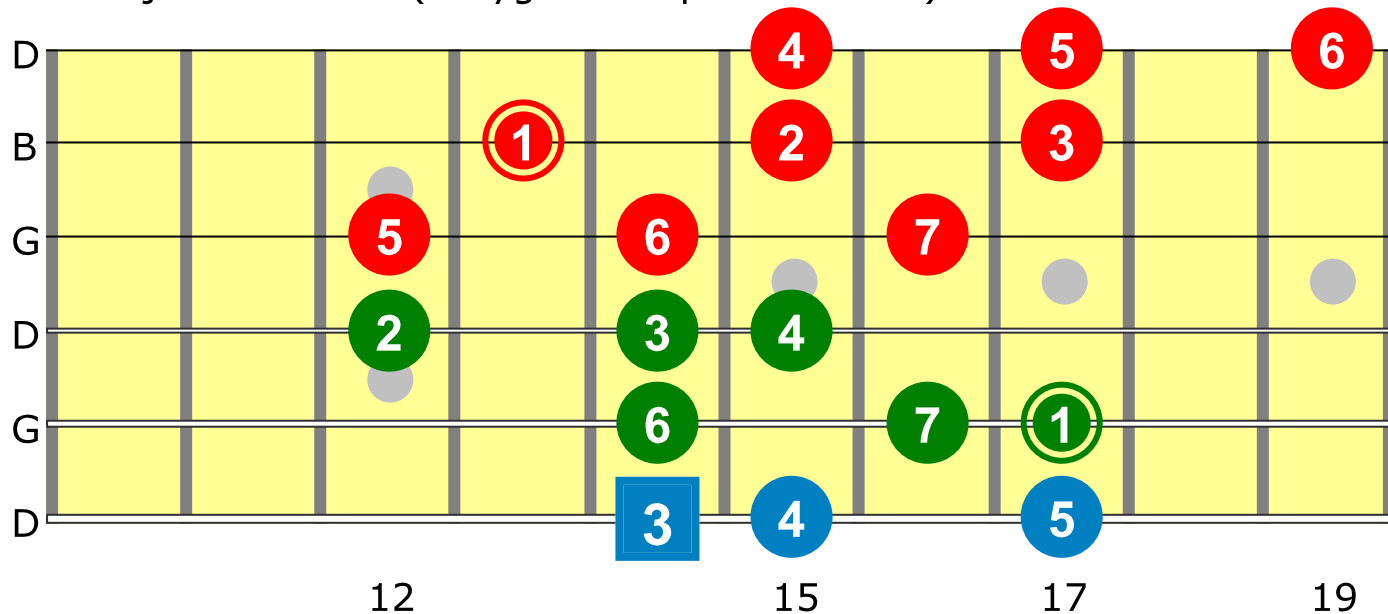C Major Position 4 (Locrian Shape 7th mode)

C Major Position 5 Starts on Two rows of X (Ionian Shape 1st mode)

C Major Position 6 (Dorian Shape 2nd mode)

C Major Position 7 (Phrygian Shape 3rd mode)

Open D Turning

Rule I
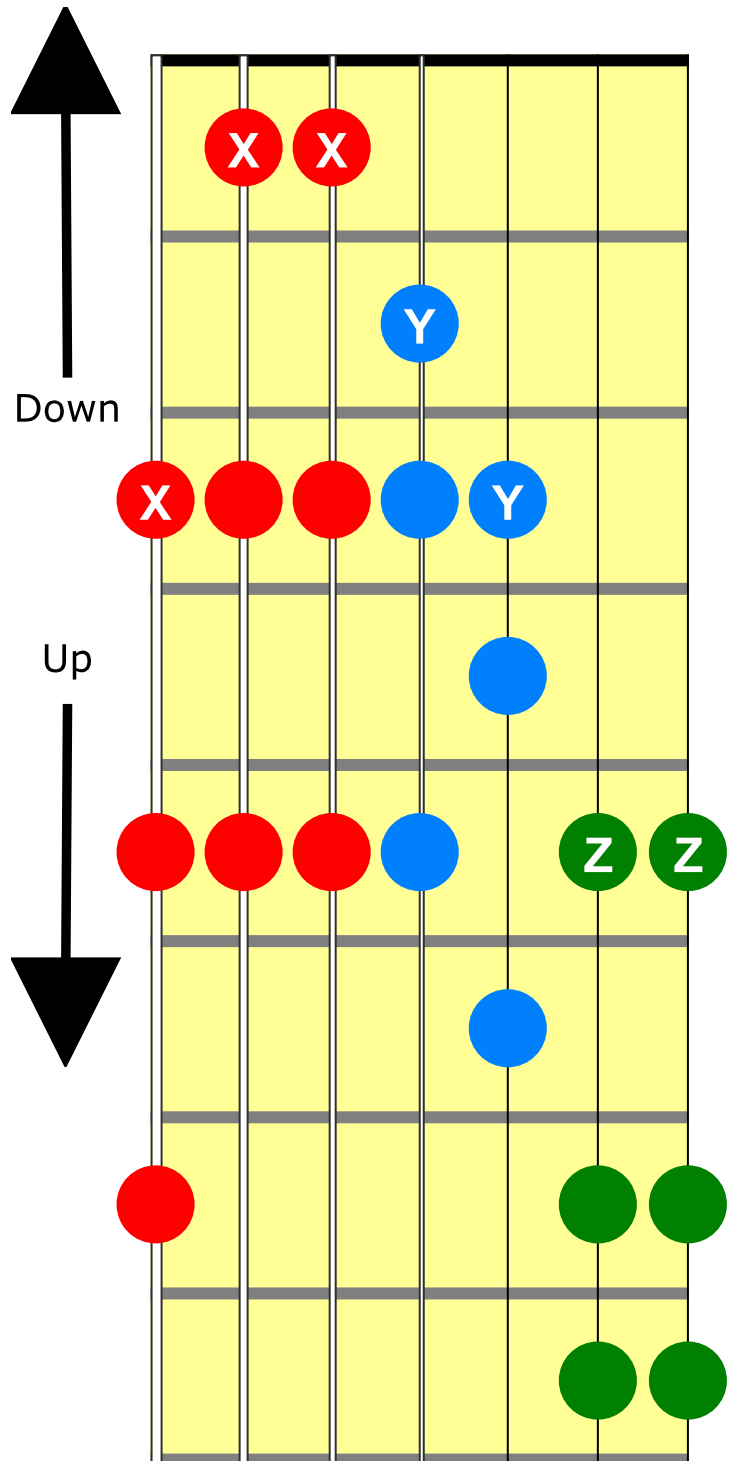When progessing from shape X to shape Y, the first finger shifts up one fret.

Rule 2
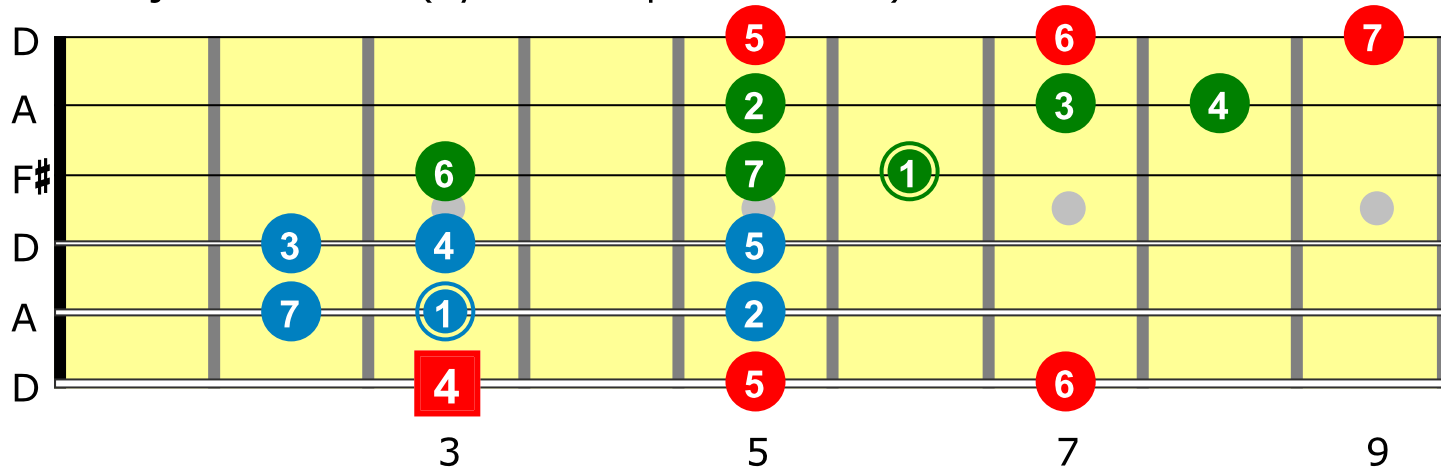When progessing from the 3rd string to the 2nd string, the first finger shifts up two fret.

Rule 3
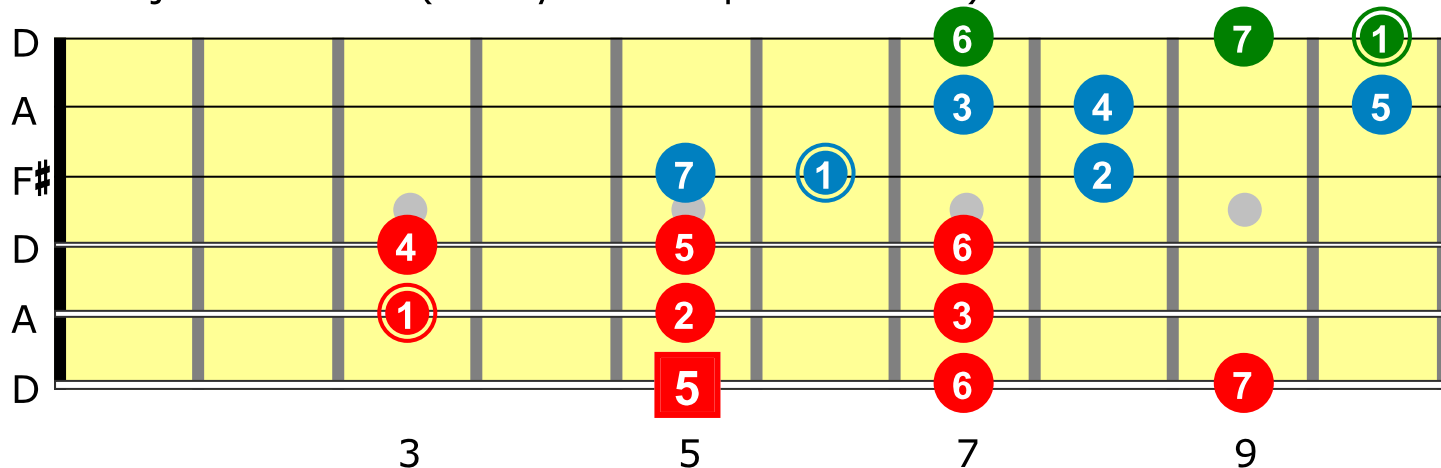When progessing from the 6th string to the 5th string, the first finger shifts down two fret.

Rule 4
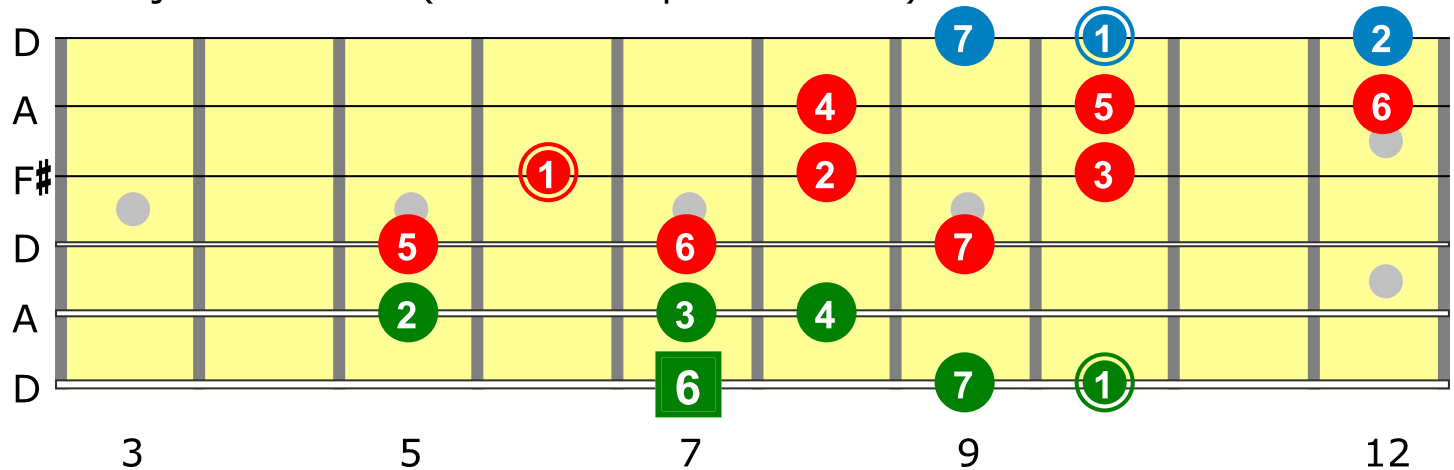When progessing from the 4th string to the 3rd string, the first finger shifts up one fret.

Down

Up

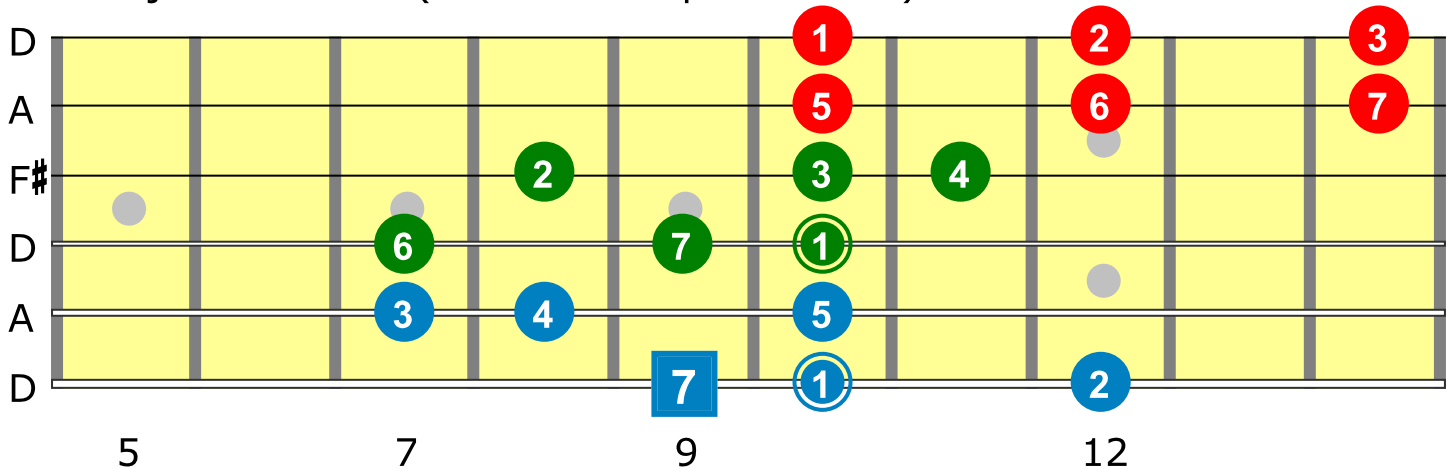# C Major Position 1 (Lydian Shape 4th mode)

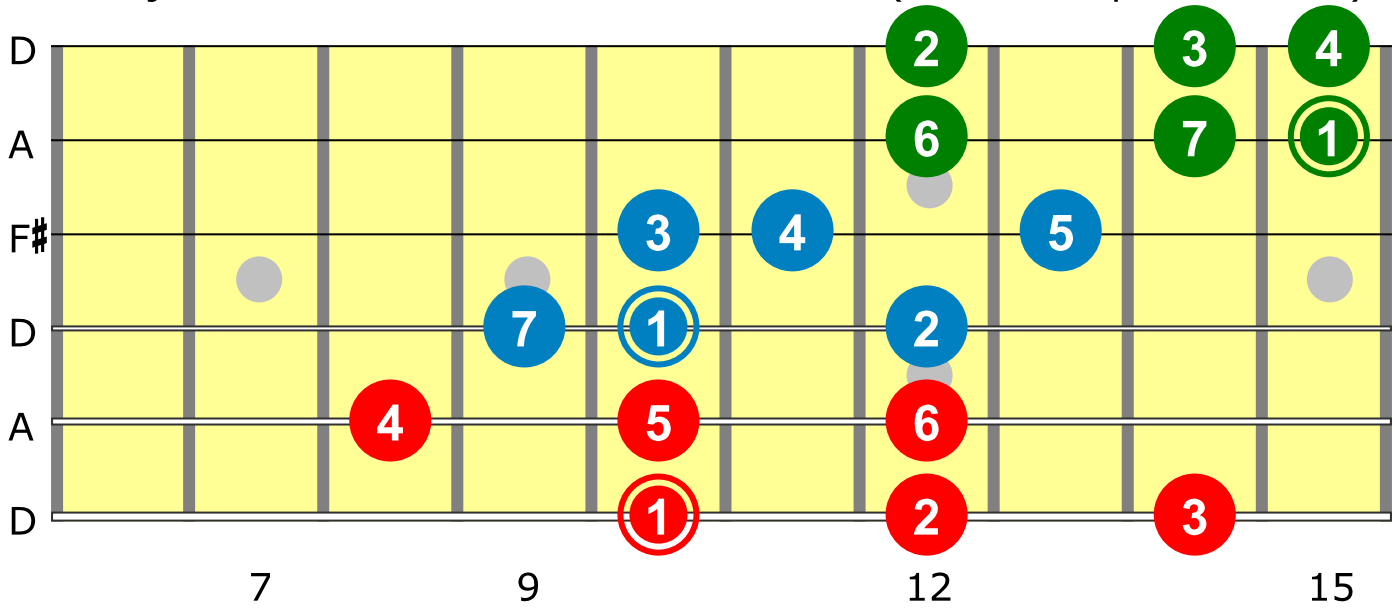# C Major Position 2 (Mixolydian Shape 5th mode)

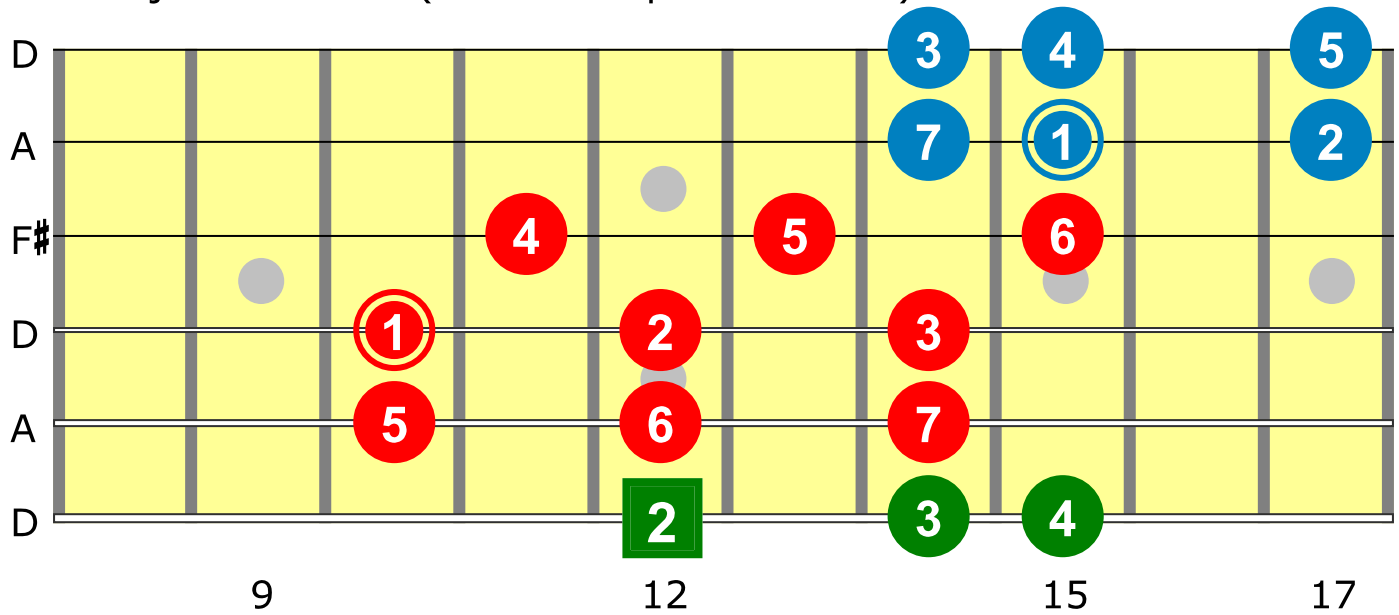# C Major Position 3 (Aeolian Shape 6th mode)

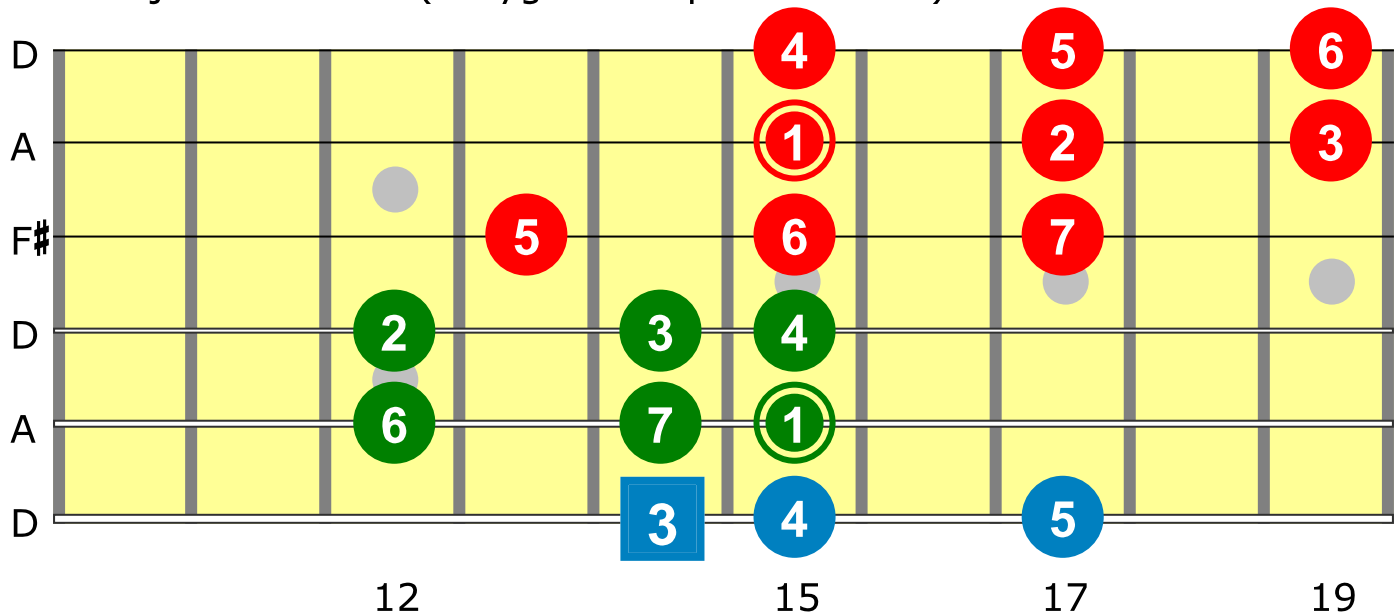# C Major Position 4 (Locrian Sharp 7th mode)

C Major Position 5 Starts on Two rows of X (Ionian Shape 1st mode)

C Major Position 6 (Dorian Shape 2nd mode)

C Major Position 7 (Phrygian Shape 3rd mode)

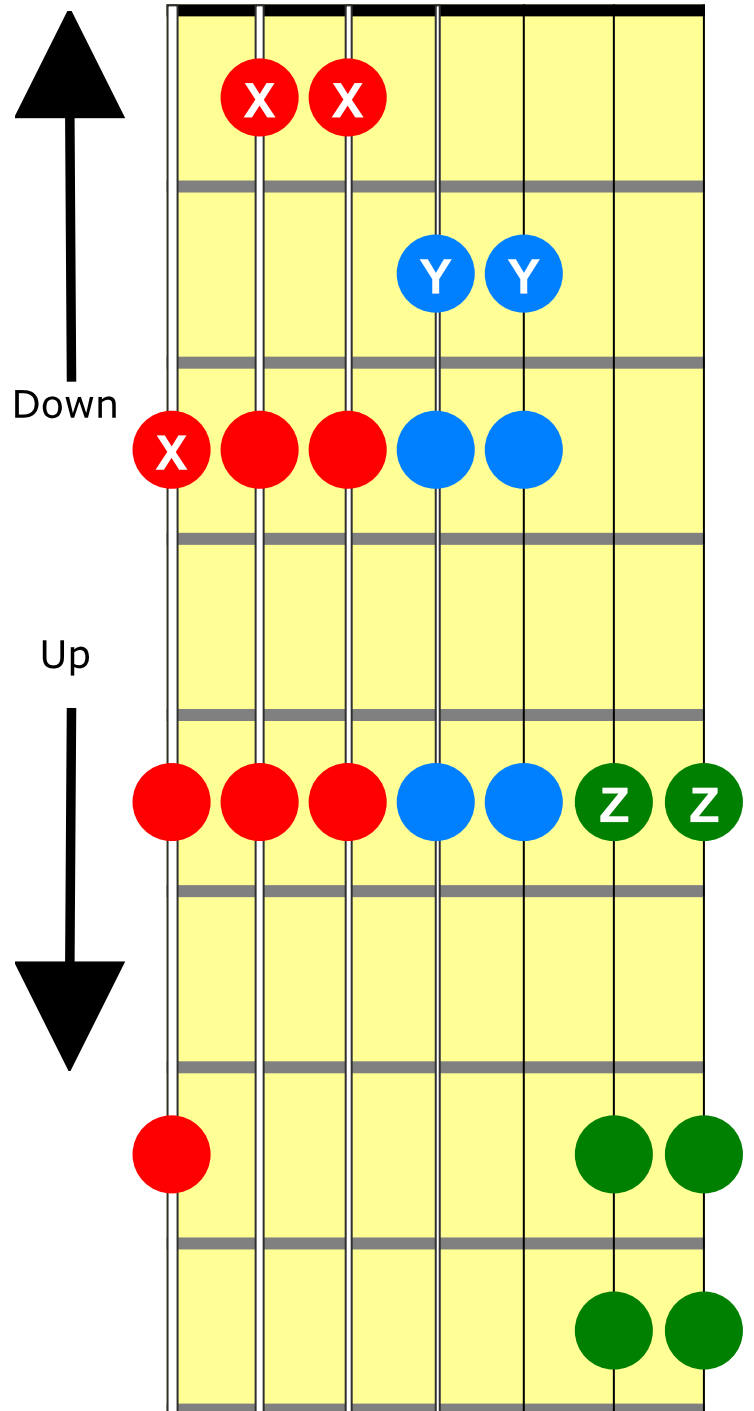# Open DADGAD Turning

Rule I
When progessing from shape X to shape Y, the first finger shifts up one fret.
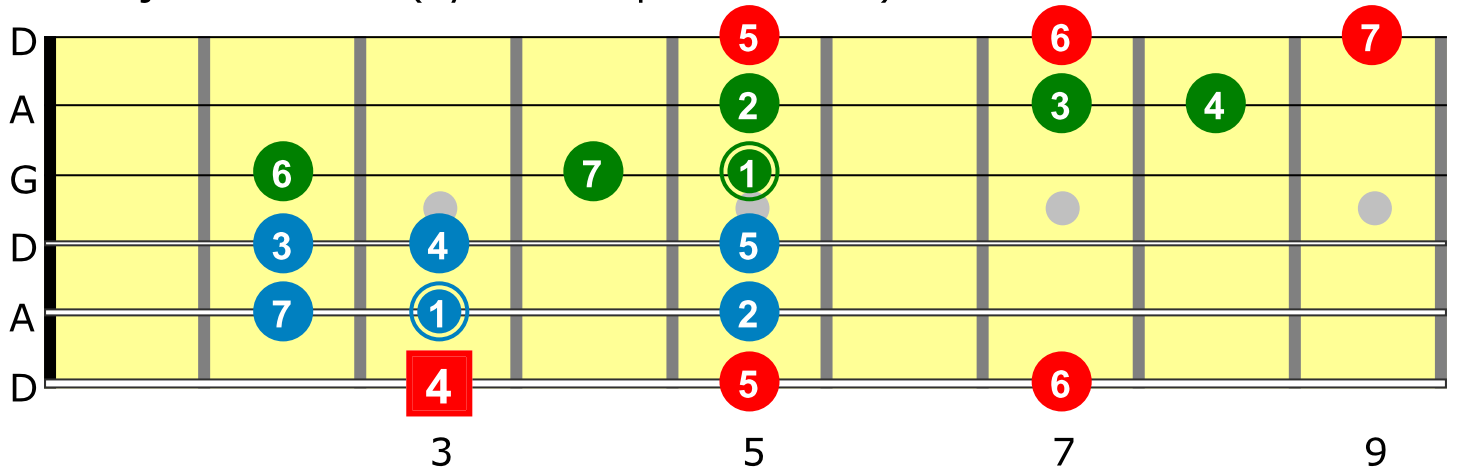
Rule 2
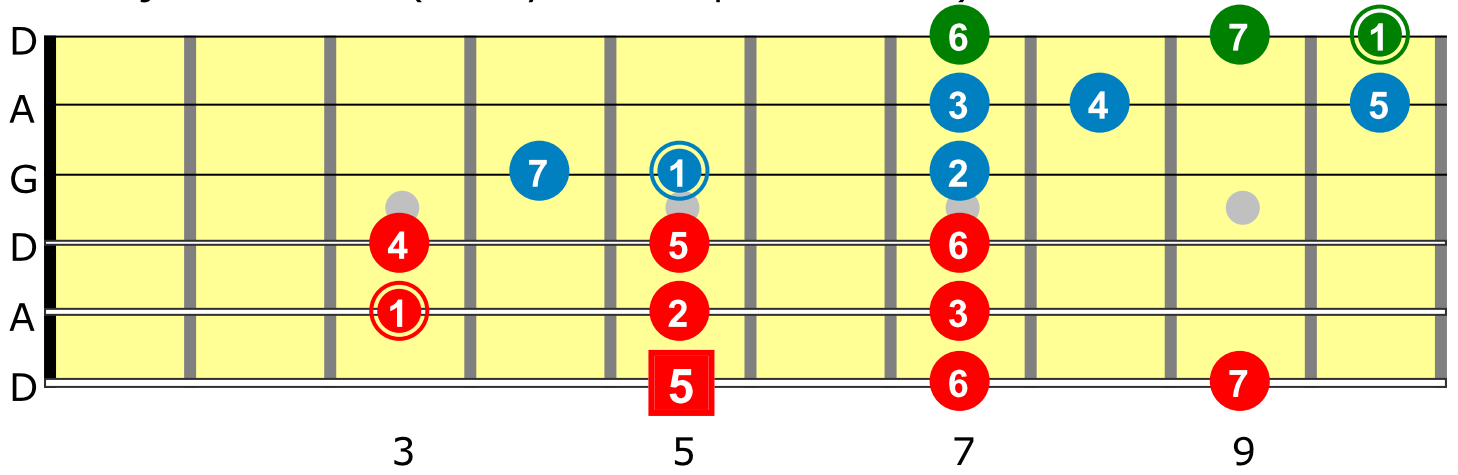When progessing from the 3rd string to the 2nd string, the first finger shifts up three frets.

Rule 3
When progessing from the 6th string to the 5th string, the first finger shifts down two fret.
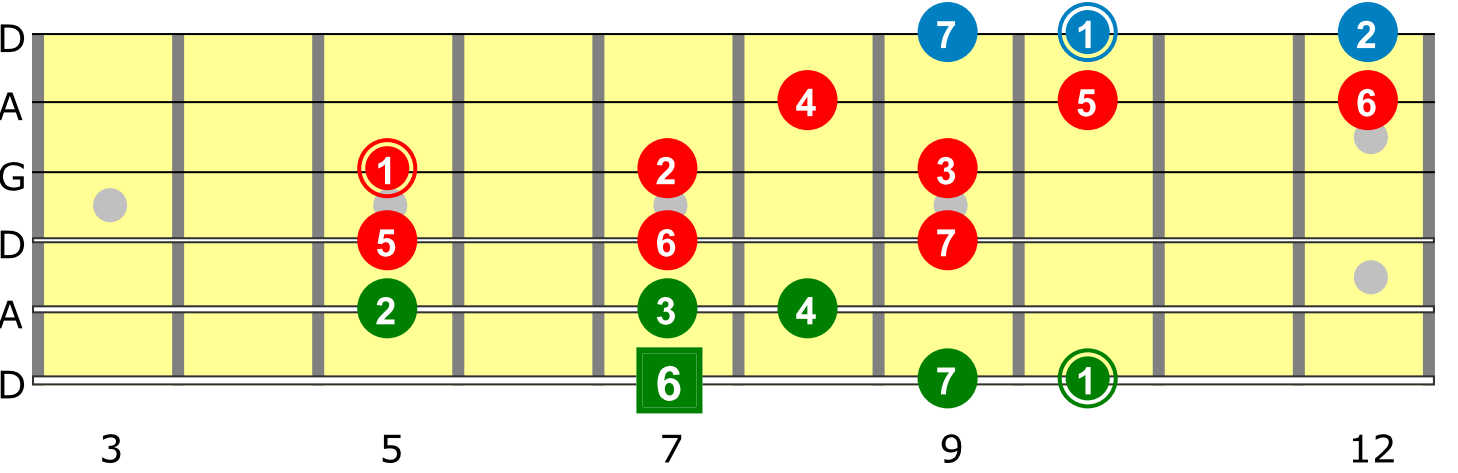
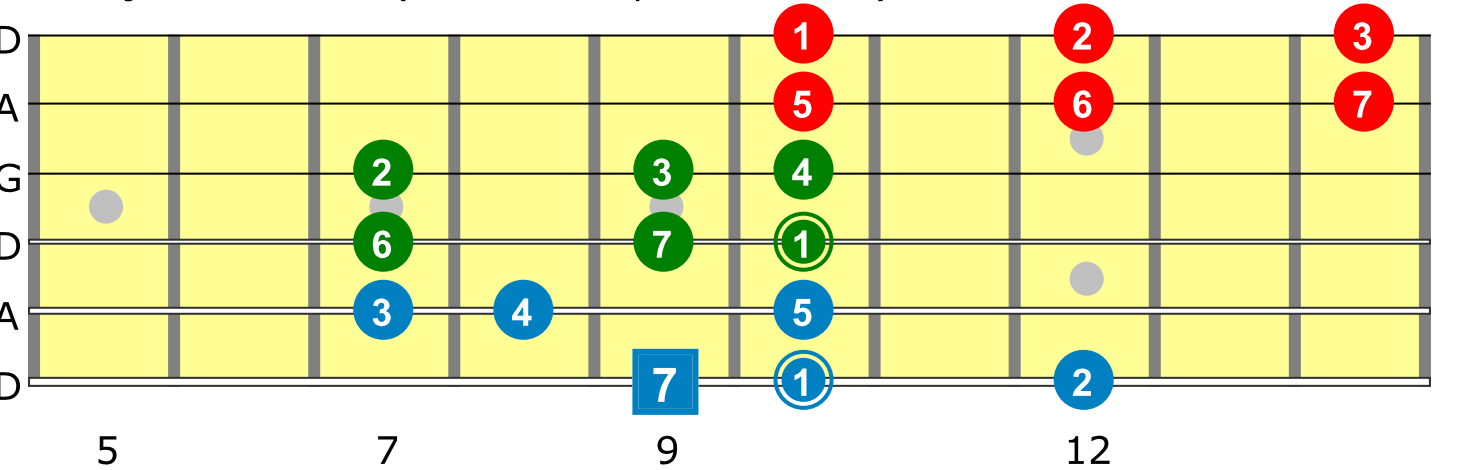Down

Up

C Major Position 1 (Lydian Shape 4th mode)

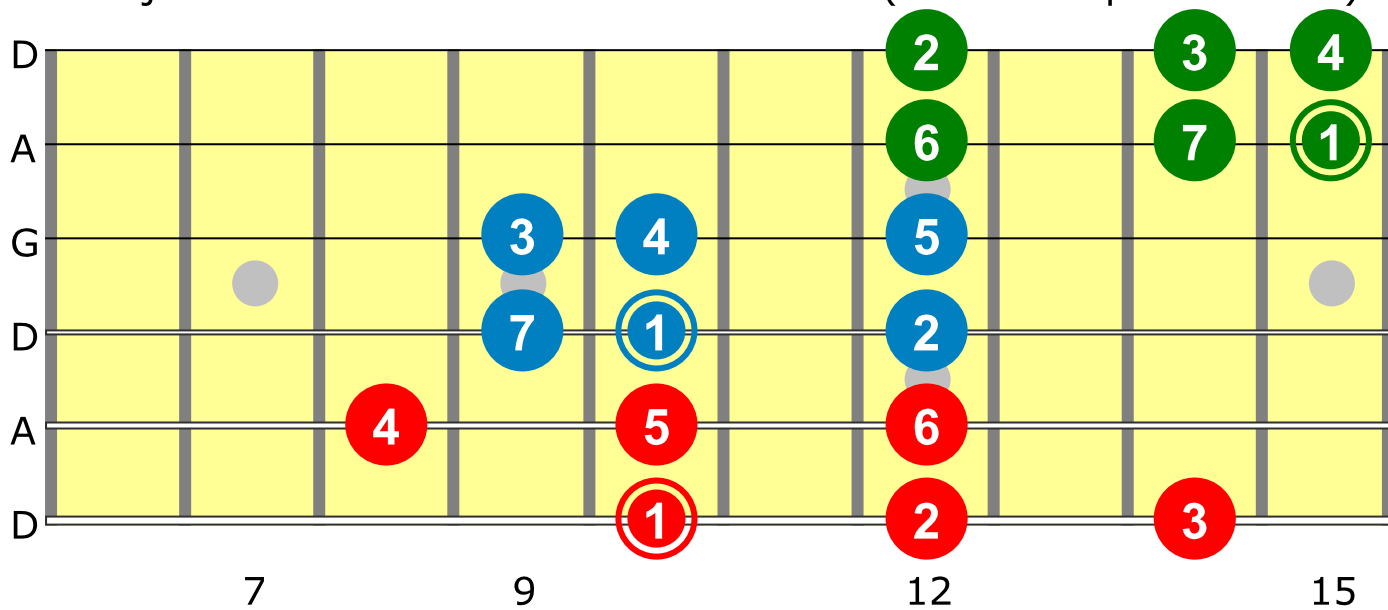C Major Position 2 (Mixolydian Shape 5th mode)
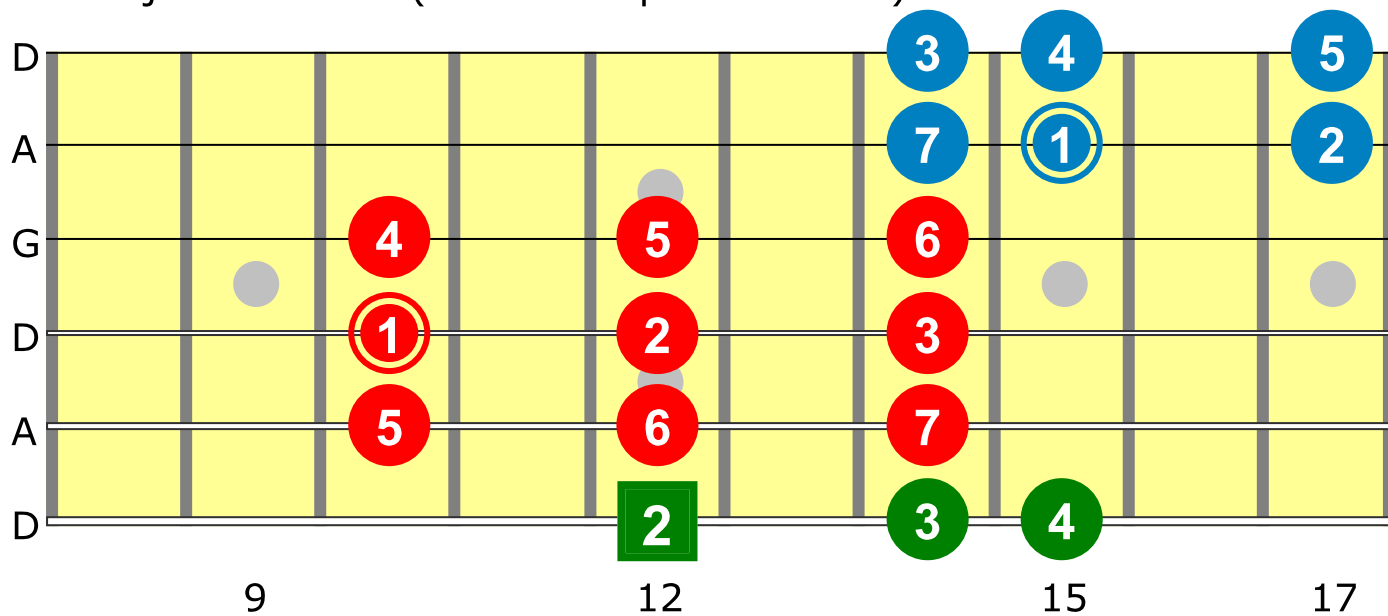
C Major Position 3 (Aeolian Shape 6th mode)

C Major Position 4 (Locrian Shape 7th mode)

C Major Position 5 Starts on Two rows of X (Ionian Shape 1st mode)

C Major Position 6 (Dorian Shape 2nd mode)

C Major Position 7 (Phrygian Shape 3rd mode)