

# Taking Minor Pentatonic Scales to the Next Level

by Ioannis Anastassakis

Hello everybody and welcome back to the Guitar Sessions' Rock/Blues column!

This month I will show you some examples of how you can approach playing the Minor Pentatonic scale, using more advanced rock guitar techniques like tapping, sweeping, hybrid picking (pick & fingers) and more!

As always, make sure you practice everything slowly, using a metronome. Both left-hand and right-hand fingerings are included in the music examples, so take your time and do not give up! Finally, take care to avoid creating extraneous string noise, especially when changing strings.

I'd like to sincerely thank Stephen Rekas for giving me the opportunity to share my guitar lessons with all of you! For more music examples and free audio and video lessons, please visit my website at [www.ioannis.org](http://www.ioannis.org). If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for future articles, feel free to email me at [ioannis@ioannis.org](mailto:ioannis@ioannis.org).

See you soon!

Ioannis

## Sweeping Pentatonics Lick #2

The image displays a musical score for a guitar lick. It consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a single melodic line. The middle staff is a guitar staff showing fret numbers for the right hand: 15-12-10, 12-10-15-12-10, 12-9-14-12-9, and 12-9-12-14. The bottom staff is a bass clef staff with fret numbers: 15-12-10, 12-10-15-12-10, 12-9-14-12-9, and 12-9-12-14. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above the notes. The notation includes various rhythmic values and articulation marks like 'v' and 'm'.

String Skipping Pentatonics  
Lick #4

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1

a m a m a m a m a m a m a m a m a m

5 8 7 10 10 12 12 14 12 15 17

T  
A  
B

Pick & Fingers Pentatonics  
Lick #10

1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1

a m m a m m a m m a m m a m m a m m a m m v

12 15 16 10 12 14 12 14 12 14 17 12 14 17 14

T  
A  
B

Tapping Pentatonics  
Lick #11

(2) 4 3 1 (2) 4 2 1

19 17 15 12 19 17 15 12 19 17 15 12 17 15 12 10 17 15 12 10 17 15 12 10 17 15 12 10

(2) 4 3 1 (2) 4 2 1

15 12 10 7 15 12 10 7 15 12 10 7 15 12 10 7 17 15 12 10 17 15 12 10 17 15 12 10 17 15 12 10