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MELODIC PATTERNS

Once you have the scale patterns under your fingers, you can begin to develop *melodic patterns* using the scale tones. Melodic patterns are groups of two or more notes in a specific shape that can be generated from every scale degree. Usually, they are *motives* (short distinctive musical ideas) using the scale notes in a particular pattern that are then sequenced (repeated on different pitches). For instance, in a 1–2–3–1 pattern, we play the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and then the 1st notes of the scale. Then, we proceed to sequence this pattern through the scale (2–3–4–2, 3–4–5–3, etc.). Here are some melodic patterns using the G Major scale with the ⑥2 fingering:

-2-3-

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VIDEO EXAMPLE

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. It features a continuous series of sixteenth-note patterns. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fingerings for the strings T (Treble), A (Alto), and B (Bass). The tablature uses numbers below the strings to indicate which fret to play. The first measure starts with a 3 on string T, followed by a 5 on string A, and a 2 on string B. The second measure starts with a 3 on string T, followed by a 5 on string A, and a 2 on string B. The third measure starts with a 3 on string T, followed by a 5 on string A, and a 2 on string B. The fourth measure starts with a 3 on string T, followed by a 5 on string A, and a 2 on string B. The fifth measure starts with a 3 on string T, followed by a 5 on string A, and a 2 on string B. The sixth measure starts with a 3 on string T, followed by a 5 on string A, and a 2 on string B.

1-3-2-1

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VIDEO EXAMPLE

T
A
B

3 2 5 3 5 3 2 5 2 5 3 2 3 2 5 3 | 5 4 2 5 4 2 4 2 5 4 5 4 2 5

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

Top Staff Fingerings:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Bottom Staff Fingerings:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15