

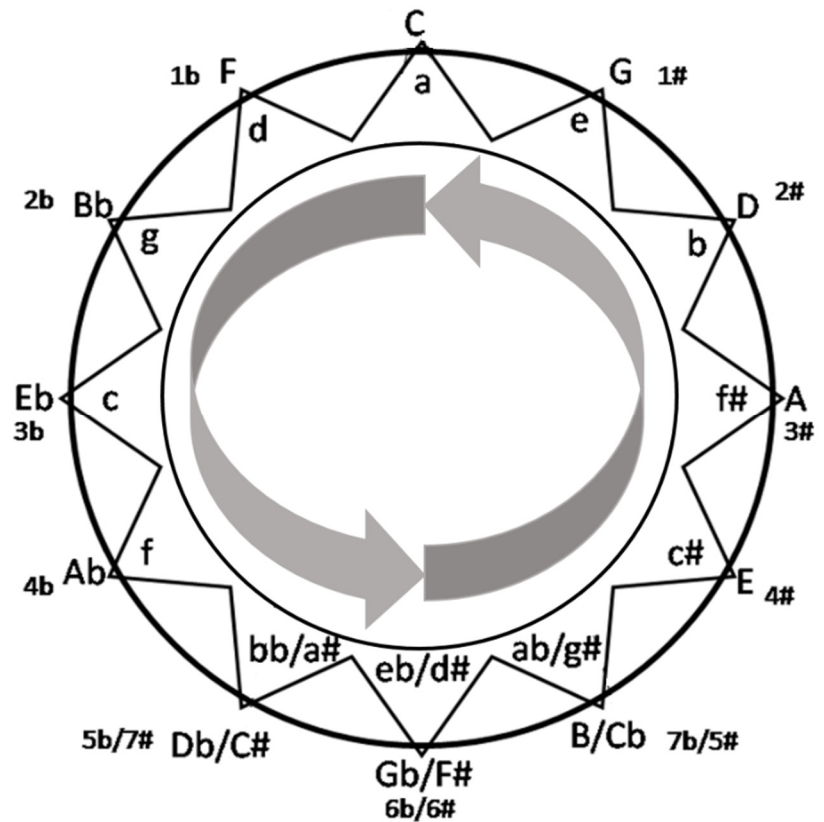
Circle of 5ths Pattern #1—by Ron Hinkle

This single-note pattern follows the Circle of 5ths; refer to the circle chart below:

In short, the Circle is a chart of how our music moves from one key to the next (outer ring is Major keys, inner ring is Minor keys). All of our songs follow the “rules” set forth in the chart, with certain variations and “tendencies” that quickly become obvious (and predictable) with study.

The first step to learning about the Circle is in memorizing the counter-clockwise order of keys, starting with C: **C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db/C#, Gb/F#, B/Cb, E, A, D, G, C**. You can always refer to the chart of course, but memorizing it will save that step—besides, a huge chunk of our music “theory” is based on it; *why not commit it to memory?*

Before we get to the actual pattern, practice this series of descending 7th chords; you’ll want to keep these chords in your ear as you play through the pattern.



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| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| G ⁷ | C ⁷ | F ⁷ | B ^b 7 | E ^b 7 | A ^b 7 |
| 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 12 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 8 |

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| | | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| D ^b 7 | F [#] 7 | B ⁷ | E ⁷ | A ⁷ | D ⁷ | G ⁷ |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

Things to notice:

- There are only two chord shapes; these alternate all the way through the pattern.
- They are all three-string chords.
- The shape on the top two strings stays the same all the way through the pattern.

So anyway, on to the pattern! I have only included fingerings for the first set; use the same fingerings for each set. It should quickly become obvious that the pattern repeats itself; all you’re doing is moving down to a new set of frets (the next key) as you move through it! Use all down strokes until you have learned the pattern, then alternating (down-up-down-up) picking; start slow, and gradually build up speed (use a metronome).

Circle of 5ths Pattern #1

8 *G*⁷ *C*⁷

(fingers)

D 12 13 14 15 12 15 12 13 14 12 15 14 13 11 12 11

B

G

C

3 *F*⁷ *Bb*⁷

etc.

10 11 12 13 10 13 10 11 12 10 13 12 11 9 10 9

5 *Eb*⁷ *Ab*⁷

8 9 10 11 8 11 8 9 10 8 11 10 9 7 8 7

7 *Db*⁷ *Gb*⁷

6 7 8 9 6 9 6 7 8 6 9 8 7 5 6 5

9 *B*⁷ *E*⁷

4 5 6 7 4 7 4 5 6 4 7 6 5 3 4 3

11 *A*⁷ *D*⁷

2 3 4 5 2 5 2 3 4 2 5 4 3 1 2 1

13 *G*⁷ *C*

0 1 2 3 0 3 0 1 2