

The Fretboard Roadmap for guitar players who want the neck to finally click.

This is a simple way to structure your practice so scales, chord shapes, and progressions start connecting. It is not about memorizing everything at once. It is about building one usable layer at a time.

Step 1: Lock in the 5 minor pentatonic positions

Start with the shape system most guitar players touch first. Learn the five minor pentatonic boxes, but do not stop at memorizing them. Use FretScope to see how each position overlaps the next one, and practice moving between two adjacent shapes in one key.

Step 2: Find your roots quickly

Once the shapes are familiar, make the root notes visible and start identifying them on the 6th, 5th, and 4th strings. This is what lets the fretboard stop feeling random. If you know where the roots are, every shape becomes portable and more musical.

Step 3: Connect the CAGED shapes to the scale patterns

The goal is not just to know C, A, G, E, and D shapes as theory terms. The goal is to see how each shape creates a region on the neck where scales and chord tones live together. Move between single-shape and two-shape windows until you can feel where one region hands off to the next.

PRACTICE BLOCK 01

Single shape focus

Pick one shape and stay inside it. Play the scale, then locate the chord tones inside the same region.

PRACTICE BLOCK 02

Shape-to-shape connection

Expand into two connected positions and practice sliding or shifting between them without losing the key center.

PRACTICE BLOCK 03

Chord view cross-check

Switch to chord mode and compare the chord shape against the notes you just practiced in scale mode.

Step 4: Target chord tones inside a progression

As soon as possible, stop practicing scales in a vacuum. Enter a progression and click through each chord. Watch how the chord tones move inside the same shape window. This is where the fretboard starts turning into music instead of diagrams.

- Start with a simple progression like `C - Am - F - G`.
- Stay in one position and track roots, thirds, and sevenths.
- Then repeat the same progression in a different shape window.

Step 5: Save and compare useful setups

Once you find a view that helps, save it. Compare a few recurring practice setups: one for scale connection, one for chord tones, and one for progressions. This turns the app into a real practice tool instead of a one-time diagram viewer.

Suggested 10-minute daily routine

2 minutes on one pentatonic shape, 2 minutes finding roots, 4 minutes on a progression, 2 minutes comparing the same idea in chord mode.

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