

# Playing Tips for Flute Players by Zoë Booth

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This month: Groovy Scales

Major Pentatonics: if you know your major scales, a pentatonic can be played by missing out the 4th and 7th notes

Five musical staves showing major pentatonic scales in various keys: D major, E major, F# major, G major, and A major. Each staff shows the scale in a 4/4 time signature, with the 4th and 7th notes omitted. The scales are written in treble clef. The fifth staff ends with 'etc.' and a double bar line.

To make these even more fun, why not add a swing rhythm to the patterns: can you do this with the others, with or without the music in front of you? For instance:

A musical staff showing a major pentatonic scale in D major with a swing rhythm. The notes are grouped into triplets, and the rhythm is indicated by a '3' under each group.

Minor Pentatonics: take a natural minor, miss out the 2nd and 6th notes and you've got a minor pentatonic! These can be practised with swing rhythm too!

Two musical staves showing minor pentatonic scales in D minor and E minor. Each staff shows the scale in a 4/4 time signature, with the 2nd and 6th notes omitted. The scales are written in treble clef.

Blues Scale: my favourite! Between the third and fourth notes of the minor pentatonic (above) add the semitone, and you've got the blues under your fingers! As well as swing rhythm, try these on your alto flute, which is well-suited to jazz.

A musical staff showing a blues scale in D minor. The scale is written in treble clef, and the semitone between the third and fourth notes is clearly marked with a sharp sign.

More of Zoë's hints and tips can be found in her book:

**Warm-Ups for Flute Players - Improve Your Playing by Exercises by Zoë Booth**  
RRP £8.95 + postage and packing

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