

Major - Diatonic Scale: Comments

Scales & Modes:

The notes of the major diatonic scale can be used for all the “modes”. Each mode uses the same set of notes but starts with a different note (or treats a different note as the “root”). This allows for the use of a variety of tonal “colors” from a common set of notes.

It is important to learn the diatonic scale across the whole fretboard - with this you can use the same set of notes in any of the mode “contexts” below:

Mode 1 (Ionian) - This is the standard major scale (in the key of C this uses only the white notes on the piano) (Starting on C in this document)

Mode 2 (Dorian) - This is a minor scale with a “natural” 6th and is commonly used as the minor scale in jazz (starting on D)

Mode 3 (Phrygian) - This has a minor sound with a flat 2nd and has an exotic flavor (starting on E)

Mode 4 (Lydian) - This is a major scale sound with a # 4th giving it a brighter and somewhat more dissonant effect. This is often used in jazz to play over a major tonality (Starting on F)

Mode 5 (Mixolydian) - This is the “dominant” scale, a major scale with a flat 7th. This scale is used over dominant chords (chords that “want to” resolve to the “1” / C - this mode start on G in this document)

Mode 6 (Aolean) - This is the “natural minor” scale and has a traditional minor tonality. This tends to be used in classical or “Latin” flavored sounds (start on A)

Mode 7 (Locrian) - This is the most exotic sounding scale (and the least frequently used - starting on B)

Musical use of these scales will incorporate this set of diatonic notes in a fluid flow. An understanding of the integrated map of all the diatonic notes on the fret board is required, and there are many “sound pallets” that are derived from the diatonic scale. Musical use of these notes involves developing melodic ideas, nuanced phrasing, and creating a direction or arc for a solo.

Major - Diatonic

C Major

● Root

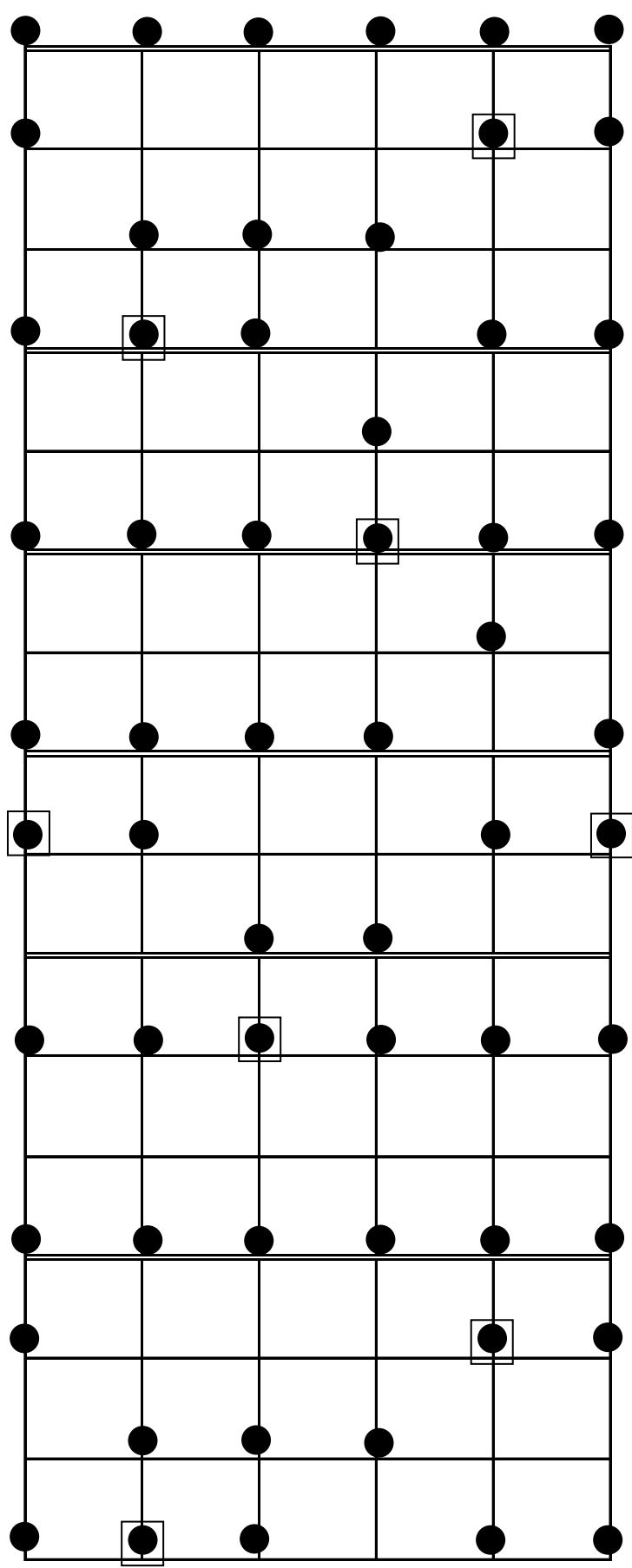
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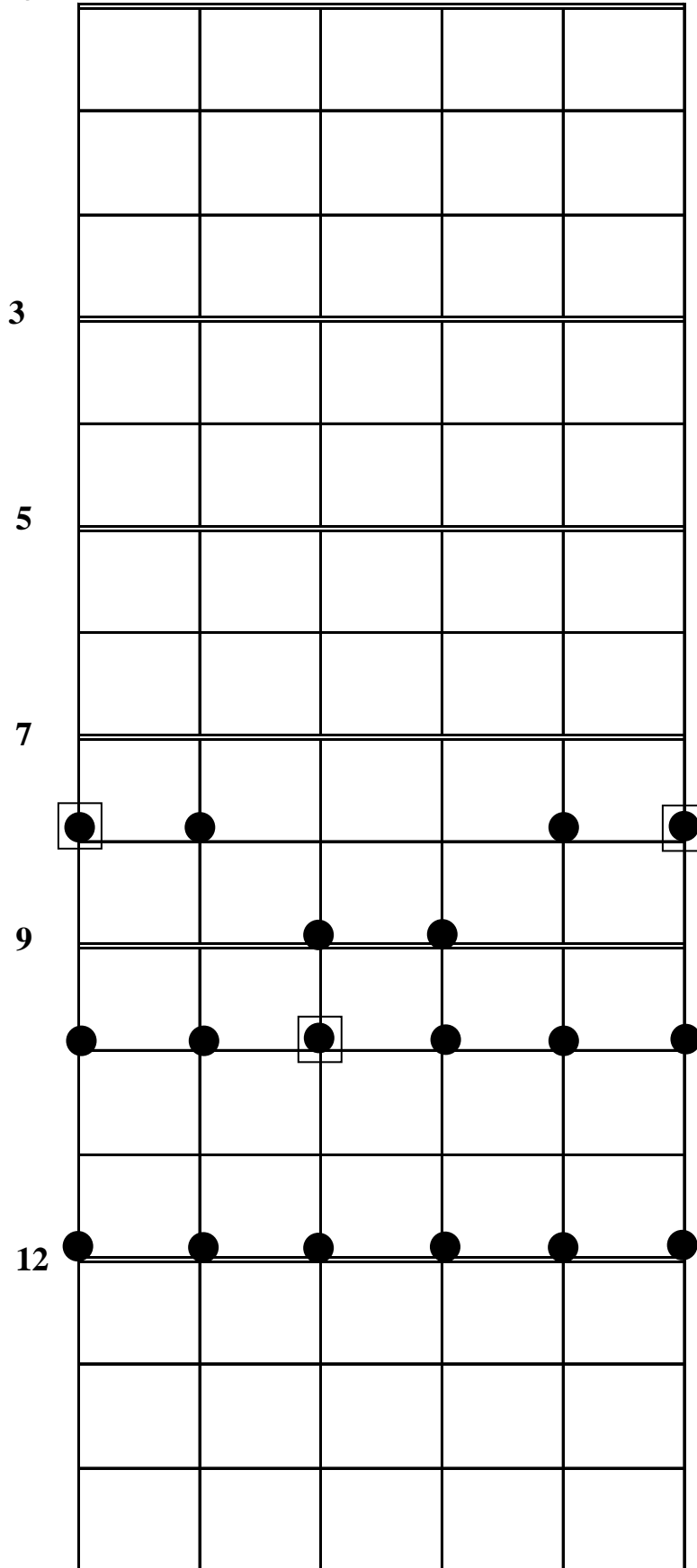
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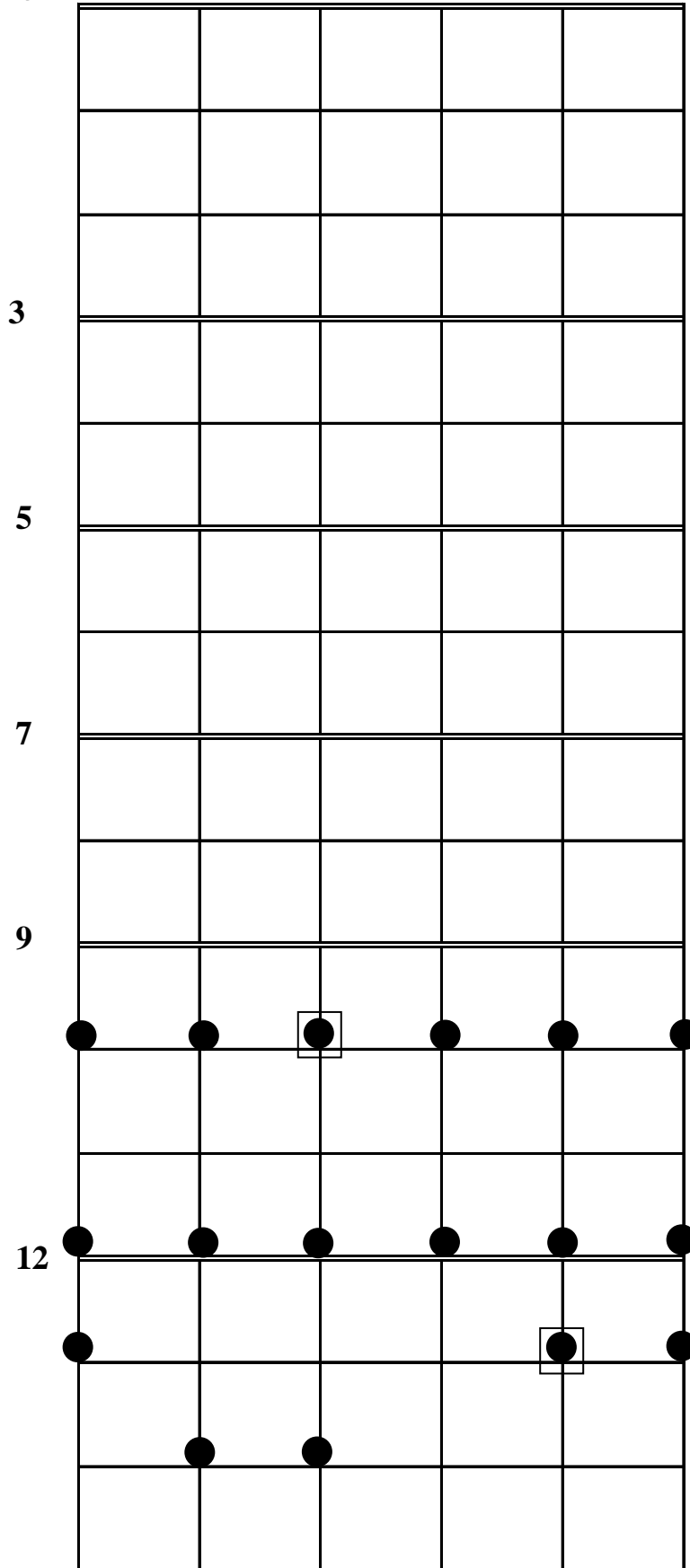
Major - Diatonic

C Scale Starting on C



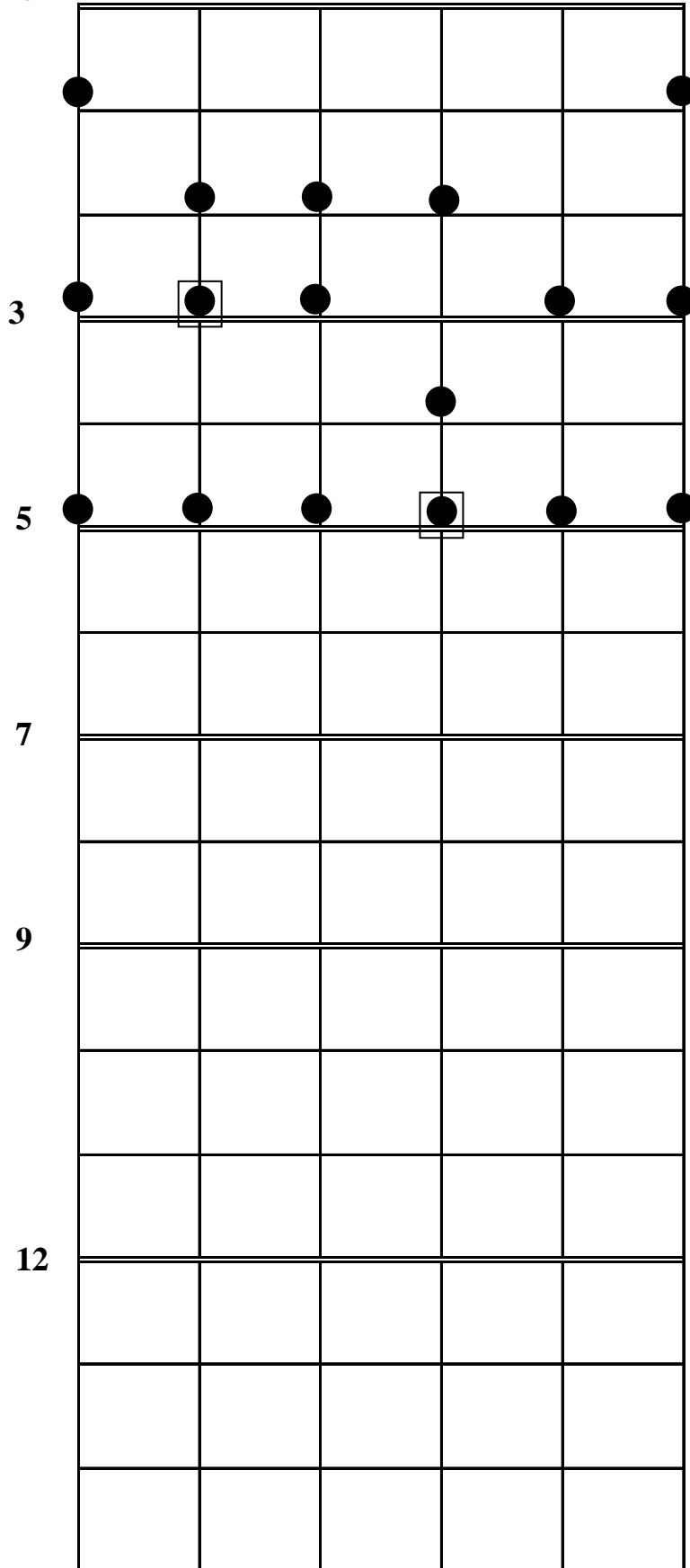
Major - Diatonic

C Scale Starting on D



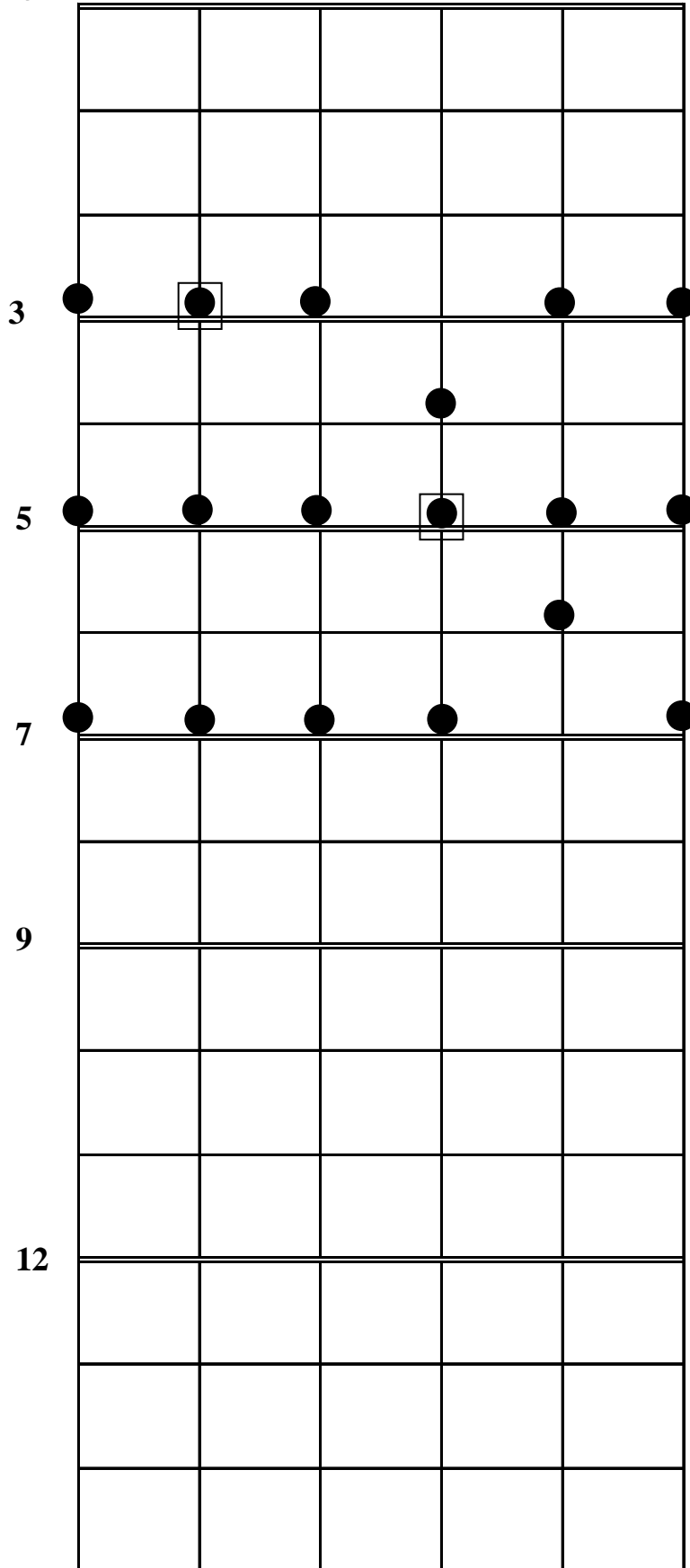
Major - Diatonic

C Scale Starting on F



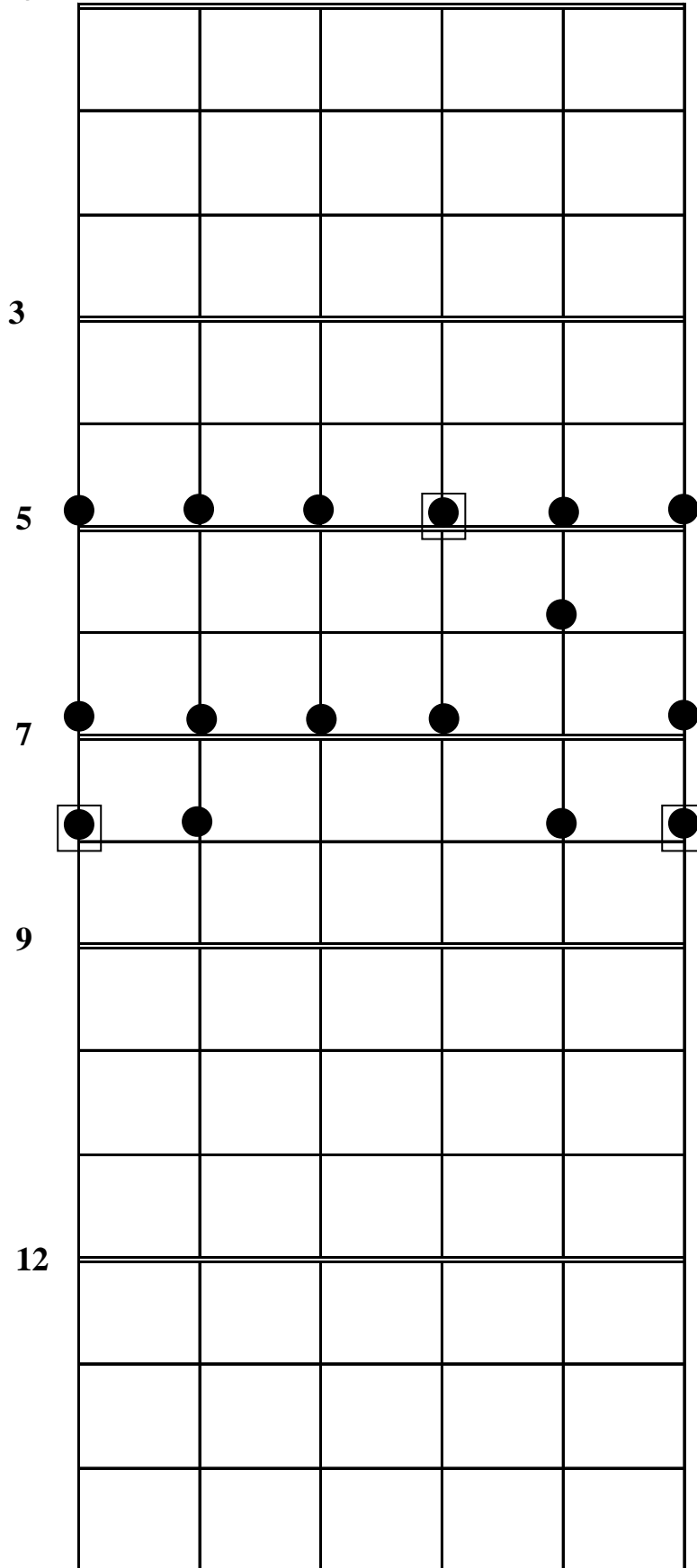
Major - Diatonic

C Scale Starting on G



Major - Diatonic

C Scale Starting on A



Major - Diatonic

C Scale Starting on B

