

(Book 3) Lesson 36.

Note Sizes: (Not to be confused with rhythmic time allotment)

In general, notes come in three sizes!

A. Short notes --- called "staccato"



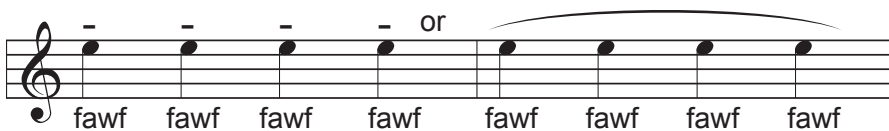
Staccato notes are usually marked with dots placed above them. They have a great deal of space, or light, or dead air between them. They are inclined to sound like:
tic - tic - tic - tic (etc.)

B. Normal notes:



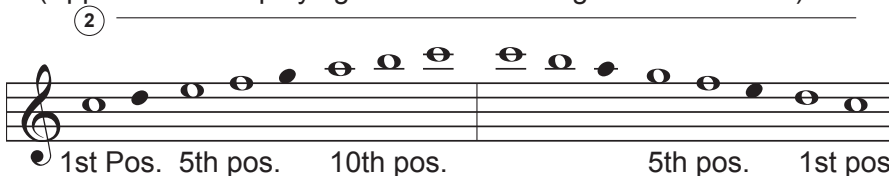
Normal notes have less space, light or air between them and have a tendency to sound like:
fa - fa - fa - fa (etc.)

C. Long notes: (legato)

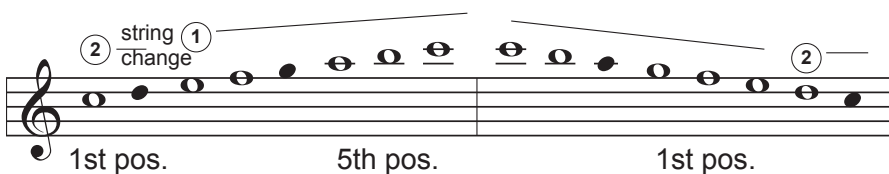


Long notes have little, if any, light between them. The notes just seem to ooze together. They may have a line placed over them or they have a single line placed over them which is called a slur or legato. They tend to sound as: fawf-fawf-fawf-fawf (etc)

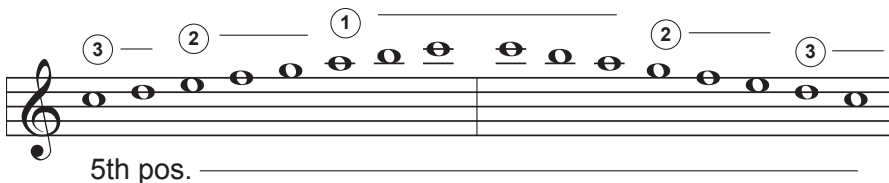
(Applied to scale playing: black notes designate short notes)



Let's now apply this idea to scale playing. If you play a "C" scale on the "B string", at the first fret you will play the note C and then D. Now a position change occurs. The note just prior to the position change will usually be a short note. I think the demonstration shows this idea quite well.



If we play the scale on two strings, it tends to sound like this. Notes tend to be clipped short at the position change and sometimes, during a string change.



When played on three strings, the scale tends to sound more like this.

While it would seem that the fewer position changes, the smoother the music, you must be prepared to play exactly the same way in all of the above scales, eliminating all short notes. In arpeggios, holding the chord down will certainly help towards a more legato style of playing. Practicing the chord changes before playing the arpeggio will help.