(Book 4) Lesson 31.
This study will join together, for the first time, all six strings of the guitar. The scales will still be based in "C" major so the half tones will be the same: B-C and E-F. You are at liberty to devise your own fingering using the concepts previously studied. Open position scales will normally have one fingering. Closed position scales (no open strings) will have three fingerings based on the finger that is used in starting the scale.


The dotted line between the last two notes means that you play backwards.


A scale starting with the 2nd (or 3rd) finger will be called "In Hand Fingering" meaning that the notes will fit under the fingers, some with stretches and some without.

Scales starting with the 1st finger will be called a "Fore Hand Fingering" meaning that the notes will fall ahead of the first finger.

Scales starting with the 4th finger will be called "Back Hand Fingering" meaning that the notes will fall below the fourth finger.

A position change in any scale is acceptable. You may also move in and out of extension fingerings as the situation demands. A norm is suggested in the first three staves on this page using the C Major scale as an example, starting on the 8th fret of the sixth string.

On some scales, not all six strings may be needed.

Remember that this is still a learning process. Control is the final goal. It all happens in your brain.

A unique problem occurs on the "B" alphabet if you begin with the second finger as suggested for the "in hand" fingering. A more convenient "in hand" fingering would result by starting with the third finger.
(In an "in hand" fingering, the starting finger stays at that fret. In effect, the starting finger is controlling the actual position.)

These scales may now be practiced in all the major keys, or at least as many as your will power will allow. There is no need to rewrite the scales in other keys. Just use the alphabet that is shown and substitute the new key signature.

Remember that it is up to you to invent the appropriate fingerings.

