Pattern practice

When learning a new scale, after you have comfortably memorized the order of scale tones you should apply it to a variety of scale patterns. There are a number of benefits from doing this, the main reason as I see it, is to give you an idea of the melodic possibilities found within the new scale. You will find more often than not, a great melodic statement is made up from the use of intervallic movement between the notes within a scale. There is also a practical benefit to your technique, as you will be exploring new fingering combinations.

I have used a numerical analysis of the Major scale (including analysis for two octaves) as a starting point so you can transpose these patterns to any key center. I also did this so you could easily apply the patterns to different scales. Below is the numerical analysis for a C Major scale and a C Mixolydian b9 b13 scale. Using these two scales, you can see the notes that would need to be changed within examples to play them using a Mixolydian b9 b13 scale. I will demonstrate this using the first pattern.
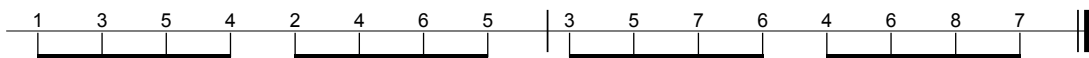
C MAJOR

C-1(8)   D-2(9)   E-3(10)   F-4(11)   G-5(12)   A-6(13)   B-7(14)

C MIXOLYDIAN b9 b13
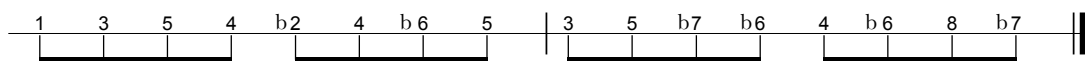
C-1(8)   Db-b2(b9)   E-3(10)   F-4(11)   G-5(12)   Ab-b6(b13)   Bb-b7(b14)

Pattern 1 using a Major scale

| 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 |

Pattern 1 using a Mixolydian b9 b13 scale

| 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | b2 | 4 | b6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | b7 | b6 | 4 | b6 | 8 | b7 |

I have written ten patterns that incorporate a number of different elements that will enable you to explore any scale and really get inside the sound of it. Play each pattern both forward AND backwards five times for each scale you are looking at and you will have hit one hundred, just like Australian Guitar Magazine! Happy birthday.

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1  3  5  4  | 2  4  6  5  | 3  5  7  6  | 4  6  8  7

1  3  5  7  | 8  6  4  2  | 3  5  7  9  | 10 8  6  4

1  5  3  1  | 2  6  4  2  | 3  7  5  3  | 4  8  6  4

1  5  3  7  | 2  6  4  8  | 3  7  5  9  | 4  8  6  10

1  3  7  5  | 8  2  4  6  | 3  5  9  7  | 10 4  6  8

6  4  2  1  2  4  6 | 7  5  3  2  3  5  7 | 8  6  4  3  4  6  8

1  3  5  2  4  6  3  5 | 7  4  6  8  5  7  9  6 | 8  10 7  9  11 8  10 12

1  3  5  4  6  2  3  5 | 7  6  8  4  5  7  9  8 | 10 6  7  9  11 10 12 8

1  4  2  5  3  6  4  7  8  6  7  5  6  4  5  3 | 2  5  3  6  4  7  5  8  9  7  8  6  7  5  6  4

1  6  3  8  5  10 2  7 | 4  9  6  11 3  8  5  10
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