

Holistic Humpty

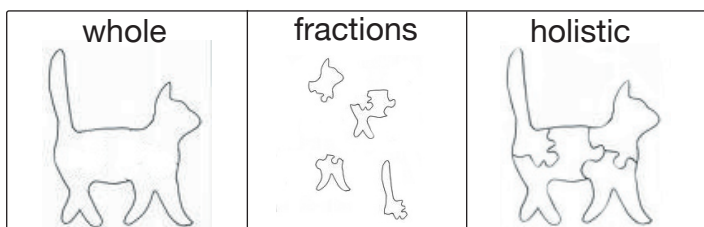
Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,
All the King's horses and all the King's men,
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Humpty Dumpty is a rhyme that was first published in 1810 as a riddle. The riddle asks, what is Humpty Dumpty? I'm sure you know the answer by now, Humpty Dumpty is an egg.

What interests me is why couldn't the Kings men put Humpty Dumpty together again? The answer, because Humpty could never be *whole* again, he could only be *holistic*. Let's explore this a little further by thinking of a puzzle.

If we had a 5000 piece puzzle and began putting it together, it would probably take us quite a while. So, to help us put the puzzle together more quickly, we look at the picture on puzzle box. The picture helps us because it is whole, and the *whole* picture is not a puzzle!

When the puzzle is completed, it is not whole in the way that the picture on the box is whole, it is holistic. **Holistic** is when we can see the individual puzzle pieces (fractions) connected together. The following cat puzzle has *three* phases: whole, fractions and holistic.



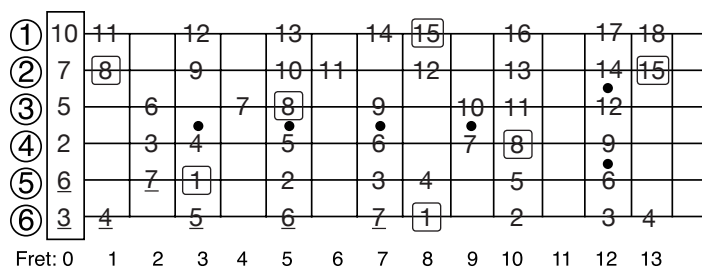
In contrast to the cat puzzle above, **Holistic Humpty** has *four* phases: whole, fractions, fragments and holistic. A **fragment** is a "fraction of a fraction."

Humpty is *whole* as he sits on the wall. He falls off and breaks into pieces called *fractions*. The

Kings horses and men step on the fractions creating *fragments*.

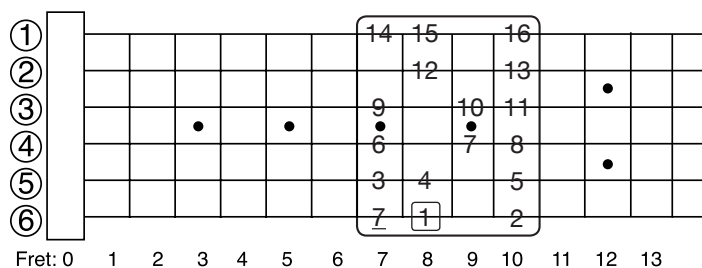
The Kings men then begin putting Humpty together again by piecing the fragments into fractions, but, when they try to put the fractions together to make Humpty whole, they can't. Humpty will never be whole again because he can only be connected holistically!

The following diagram illustrates the C major scale as scale degree tone numbers on the *whole* fretboard.

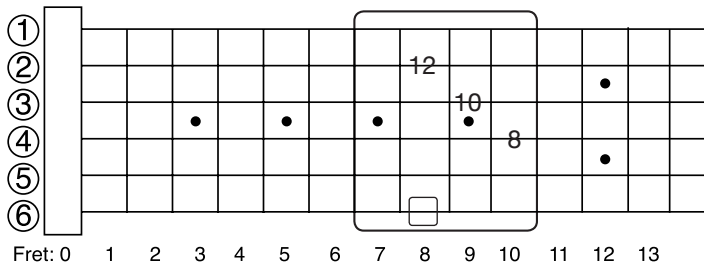


As we can see, the whole fretboard is overwhelming and impossible to learn all at once because there is too much information. However, by dividing the *whole* fretboard into smaller *fractions*, and then even smaller *fragments*, it's easy learn the *holistic* fretboard. This is because *holistic learning* connects new information to what we already know. In comparison, *whole learning* is much harder because we must start from the beginning each time we want to learn something new.

On guitar, a *fraction* is called a **form**. The following illustrates the ⑥ 2 major scale form.



A **fragment** of a form may be a single tone or a combination of tones. The following 8, 10, 12 fragment is but one of a virtually infinite number of possible fragments of the ⑥ 2 major scale form.

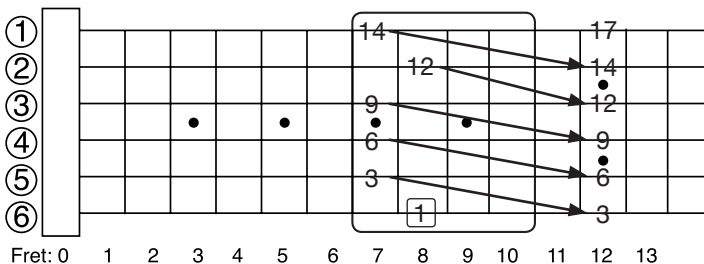


Learning just one major scale form and then fragmenting it takes a lot time, effort and practice. No one ever wants to work that hard again to learn a new major scale form. The good news is that with *holistic learning*, we'll never have to.

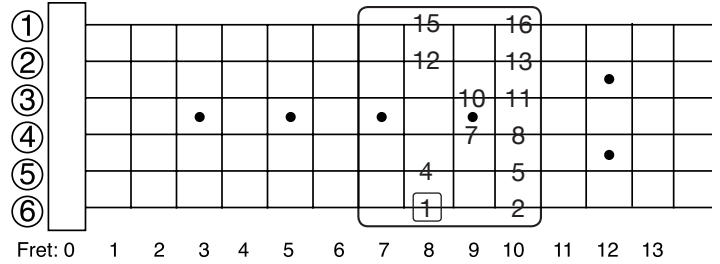
In other words, it's very easy to learn another major scale form if it holistically connects to the form we already know. This is because we know more about the next connected major scale form than we don't know! To make this clear, let's learn the ⑥ 1 major scale form which connects to the ⑥ 2 major scale form.

Holistic learning of the ⑥ 1 major scale form begins by moving tones 3, 6, 9, 12, 14 of ⑥ 2 from the left side of tone 1, to their unison location on right side of tone 1. **Unison** means the same tone number in a different location.

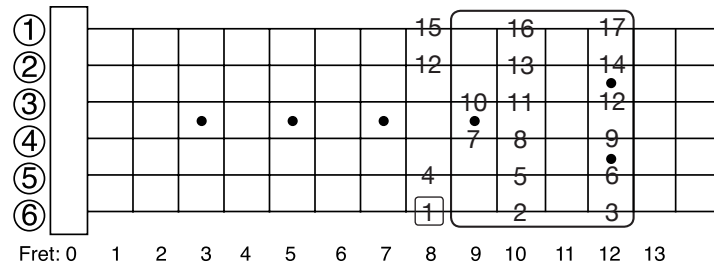
The following diagram shows the moved unison tones. Notice, there is one new tone number, 17.



Next, select these **common tones** from the ⑥ 2 major scale form, then...

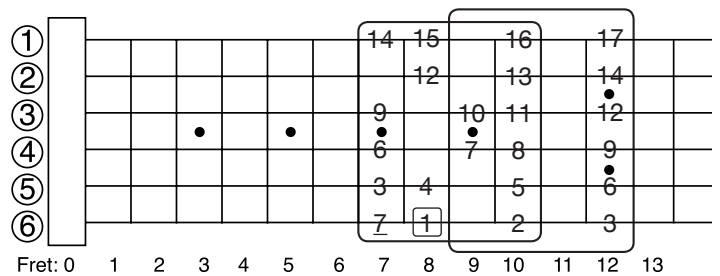


...add them to the **unison tones**, and like magic, the ⑥ 1 major scale form appears!



Learning the ⑥ 1 major scale form holistically was fast and easy because we knew more about this form than we thought we did. In fact, since we already knew the unison tones and the common tones, all we really needed to learn was tone 17!

In closing, it's easy to see the holistic connection of the ⑥ 2 and ⑥ 1 major scale forms, because like Humpty Dumpty, we are whole no more.



Till next time, have some **Holistic Humpty** fun connecting forms together. I'll be listening...

Mike Overly is the author of *Guitar & Bass EncycloMedia* and *Fretboard Flashcards*. Mike's publications are available from 12 Tone Music Publishing LLC, Bass Books.com, Amazon.com, JK Lutherie.com, Elderly Instruments, Cambridge Music, Tom Lee Music Hong Kong, Santa Monica College Bookstore, Baker & Taylor Books and many other fine music and book retailers around the world - just ask for them! Also, Mike is now teaching private one-on-one guitar and bass web-cam lessons in **real-time** over the internet. These lessons are **not** a video download!