

This kind of pattern fluency allows you to quickly find the underlying scale positions and attach the needed raga rules fast. For Indian music especially, where the identity of a raga depends heavily on its specific note usage and phrasing, having the correct pattern in your fingers and ears is essential.

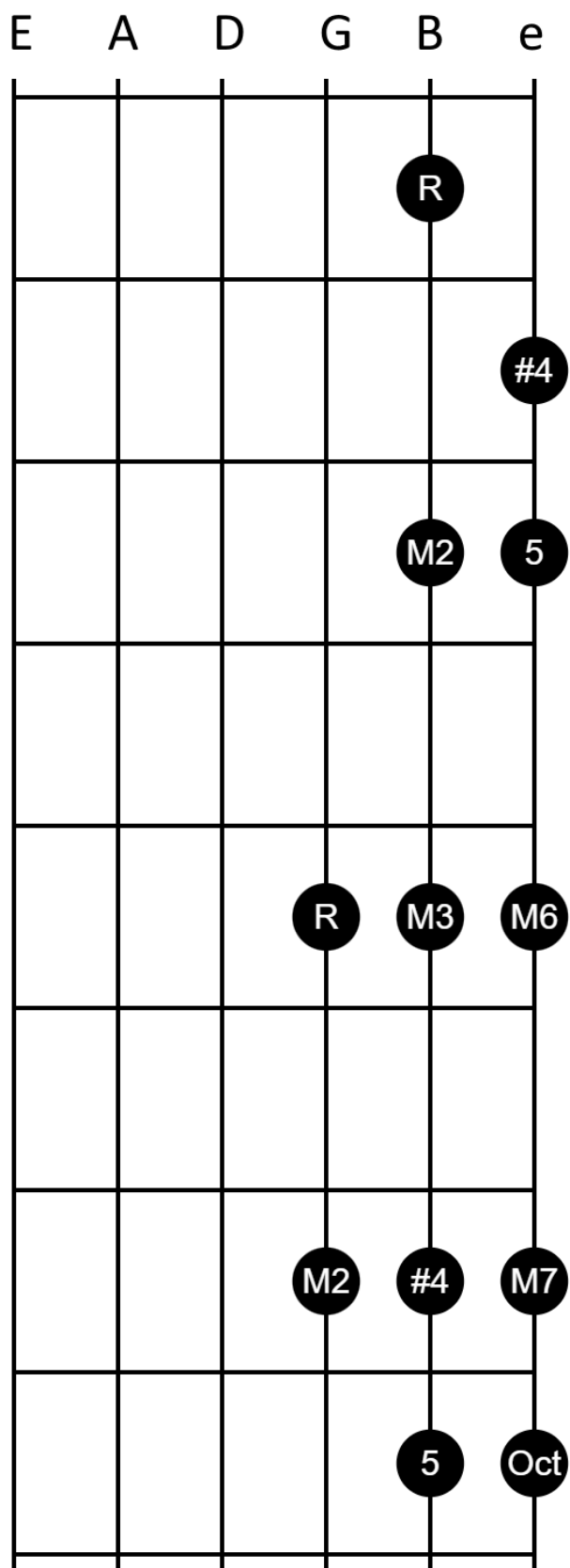
Slides and Raga-Specific Playing Rules:

Example string- fret positions on the guitar:

- In the **C major scale**, the 4th note is **F**.
 - That would be:
 - **2nd string, 6th fret (F)**
 - or **1st string, 1st fret (F)**
- In the **C Lydian scale**, you replace that with **F#**.
 - So you play:
 - **2nd string, 7th fret (F#)**
 - or **1st string, 2nd fret (F#)**

Lydian fretboard pattern

Notice the #4. That is the only difference between the major scale and the lydian scale. To get the associated ragas, we will add slides.



Kamalajaathala Geetham

First line, notes

The following phrase has the Ma, the 4th scale position, appearing just once. Since we are told that the Geetham is in Raga Kalyani, which has the same scale positions as the Lydian scale, we will use the #4 note.

s s s n d n s n d p d p m p

8—8—8—7—5—7—8 7—5—3—5 8—7—8

TAB 7/8

Slides and Raga-Specific Playing Rules:

Some example additions you will notice in the notation and tab below, as part of the scale to raga or note to swara conversion:

- **Second Sa (S)**
→ Played with a jhanta slide, a quick oscillation or grace-note effect from the previous scale note, to give it emphasis and fluidity.
- **Ni (n)**

- When following Sa or another higher note:
→ Use a 7/8\7 slide.

- When part of an ascending phrase:
→ Use a 5/8\7 slide.

• Dha (d)

- In descending phrases:
→ Use a slide from Sa: 8\5 (from 8th to 5th fret).
- In ascending phrases:
→ Use a slide from Pa or Sa: Pa/Sa\Dha. For example, on the first string: 3/8\5.

Ascend vs descend

Notice how the slide rule for a swara changes depending on the note that comes before it. These are just generalizations of the rules. The final sound has to be learnt from how real life singers and musicians have played them:

- If the swara comes after a lower note (i.e., lower in pitch), the swara is part of an ascending phrase, and the slide typically starts from a lower position.
- If the swara comes after a higher note, it wouldn't make sense to go start the slide from a lower note.

These rules are practical, based on how the phrases are actually played in real-life music. Theory follows the music.

The image displays a musical score for guitar, consisting of a treble clef staff, a line of swara notation, and a corresponding fretboard diagram. The swara notation is as follows: s s s n d n s n d p d p m p. Below this, a series of fret numbers indicates the positions for each note: 8 7 8 8 7 8 7 8 5 5 8 7 8 7 8 5 3 3 8 5 8 7 8 7 8. The fretboard diagram at the bottom shows the first six frets of the first string, with the notes corresponding to the fret numbers written above them.

One more Kalyani phrase - Scale to raga

Each 7th fret note in the image below is a Ma. Raga Kalyani uses the Ma equivalent of the #4th note. Let us convert the note only phrase from the 1st image below to its raga phrase, in the 2nd image below.

1. Notes only, without raga rules

The image shows a musical phrase in standard notation and guitar TAB. The standard notation is in treble clef, 7/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The phrase consists of two measures. The first measure contains eight eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second measure contains eight eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Below the standard notation is a guitar TAB. The TAB is in 7/8 time and shows the fret numbers for each note: 5, 7, 8, 7, 8, 10, 8, 7, 5, 8, 10, 8, 7, 8. The TAB is written on a six-line staff. Below the TAB are six vertical lines representing the guitar strings, with fret markers indicating the fret numbers for each note.

2. With raga slides

The image shows a musical phrase in standard notation and guitar TAB, including raga slides. The standard notation is in treble clef, 7/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The phrase consists of two measures. The first measure contains eight eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second measure contains eight eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Below the standard notation is a guitar TAB. The TAB is in 7/8 time and shows the fret numbers for each note: 8, 5, 7, 8, 7, 8, 7, 8, 8, 13, 10, 8, 7, 8, 5, 3, 3, 8, 5, 7, 8, 7. The TAB is written on a six-line staff. Below the TAB are six vertical lines representing the guitar strings, with fret markers indicating the fret numbers for each note. The phrase includes raga slides, indicated by the '13' fret number and the '8' fret number in the second measure.