Diminished Scale Patterns

The interval structure of a diminished scale is as follows: whole-step, half-step, whole-step, half-step, whole-step, etc. Or it can be half-step, whole-step, half-step, whole-step, etc. It just depends on the situation. Use your ear to determine which way sounds best to you.

Take a look at the A diminished scale below and notice that because the interval pattern is so repetitive, this could also be a C diminished scale, a E♭ diminished scale, or a G♭ diminished scale.

This fact makes it easy to move a diminished scale around the fretboard.

A - B - C - D - E♭ - F - G♭ - G♯ - A

The following patterns show different fingerings for an A diminished scale (or C, or E♭, or G♭ diminished scale).

Form 1

Form 2

Form 3