

Practice Session 2

Major Scale Refresher

Objective

To learn the major scale in all 12 keys.

Task

Play the major scale through the cycle of fourths.

Procedure

1. With the fifth finger of your left hand on the C two octaves below middle C and the first finger of your right hand on middle C, play one octave of the C major scale in parallel. See the fingerings below:

The image shows the C major scale in parallel motion on a grand staff. The right hand (treble clef) starts on middle C (C4) with the first finger (1) and ascends to G4 with the fourth finger (4). The left hand (bass clef) starts on C2 with the fifth finger (5) and ascends to G3 with the fourth finger (4). The scale is played in four measures, each containing two measures of the scale. The fingerings for the right hand are: 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1, 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4, 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3, 2 1 3 2 1. The fingerings for the left hand are: 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1, 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2, 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3, 1 2 3 4 5.

2. Play the scale smoothly and evenly. Try to envision the notes of the scale in your mind's eye. This is not a technical exercise but instead a way for you to become intimately familiar with the notes of each major scale so that you can eventually manipulate them in your head to form chords.
3. Continue playing the major scales through the cycle of perfect 4ths in groups of 3. After C play F, then B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat , F \sharp , B, E, A, D and G. Fingerings are provided below.

F, Bb and Eb Major Scale

The image displays three systems of musical notation for piano, each representing a major scale. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 below the notes. The first system is for the F major scale, the second for the Bb major scale, and the third for the Eb major scale. Each system contains four measures of music, with the final measure ending in a fermata.

System 1: F Major Scale

- Treble Clef: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 | 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 3 | 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 | 1 4 3 2 1
- Bass Clef: 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 | 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 | 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 | 1 2 3 4 5

System 2: Bb Major Scale

- Treble Clef: 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 3 | 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 | 1 3 2 1 4
- Bass Clef: 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 | 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 1 | 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 | 3 4 1 2 3

System 3: Eb Major Scale

- Treble Clef: 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 | 4 2 3 4 1 2 3 2 | 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 | 4 3 2 1 2
- Bass Clef: 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 | 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 1 | 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 | 3 4 1 2 2

Ab, Db and F# Major Scales

The image displays three systems of musical notation for piano, each representing a major scale. Each system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one flat (Bb) or one sharp (F#). The scales are: 1) Ab major (Bb), 2) Db major (Eb), and 3) F# major. Each system includes ascending and descending lines for both hands, with specific fingering numbers (1-4) written below the notes to guide the player. The first system (Ab major) uses a key signature of one flat. The second system (Db major) uses a key signature of two flats. The third system (F# major) uses a key signature of two sharps.

B, E and A Major Scales

The image displays three systems of musical notation for piano, each representing a different major scale: B major, E major, and A major. Each system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with four measures of music. The notes are written in a sequence that covers the octave and returns to the starting note. Below each note, a number indicates the recommended fingering. The scales are as follows:

- B Major Scale:**
 - Treble Clef: B4, C#5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5
 - Bass Clef: B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C#3, B2
- E Major Scale:**
 - Treble Clef: E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C#5, D5, E5
 - Bass Clef: E3, D3, C#3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2
- A Major Scale:**
 - Treble Clef: A4, B4, C#5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5
 - Bass Clef: A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C#3, B2, A2

D and G Major Scales

The image displays two systems of musical notation for piano, each consisting of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system is for the D Major scale, and the second is for the G Major scale. Each system contains four measures of music. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 below the notes. The first measure of each system shows the ascending scale with fingerings: Treble (1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1) and Bass (5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1). The second measure shows the ascending scale with fingerings: Treble (2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4) and Bass (4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2). The third measure shows the descending scale with fingerings: Treble (3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3) and Bass (3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3). The fourth measure shows the descending scale with fingerings: Treble (2 1 3 2 1) and Bass (1 2 3 4 5).

Self Assessment

1. If you can play the scales in eighth notes at about 40-60 bpm then move on to the next practice session.