

Turning Students into 'Block'heads

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Scale fingerings - A simple conceptual approach.

Do scale fingerings seem complicated to you? ☹️ Are parallel motion scales driving you to the brink?



Are you more confused than a feather in a dust storm?

Take a deep breath - now exhale! 🐘 Turn that frown into a smile! 😊

There is only ONE basic scale fingering for ALL the major and minor scales!

The only variable is the *starting* point! (See below.)

(Minors are harmonic form; fingerings in parentheses are "substitute" fingers that begin or end scales.)

R.H.:

C						
G						
D						
A						
E						
B						
Am						
Em						
Bm					Ab	
Dm					F#m	
Gm		Eb	F		C#m	Bb
Cm	Db	Ebm	Fm	Gb	Abm	Bbm
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
1	2	3	1	2	3	4
1	2	3	1	2	3	4
1	2	3	1(4)	2	3	4
1	2	3	1(5)			

L.H.:

C						
G						
D						
A						
E						
F						
Am					Bb	
Em					Eb	
Dm					Ab	
Gm					Db	
Cm	Gb			B	C#m	
Fm	F#m	Bbm	Bm	Abm	Ebm	
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	
1(5)	4	3	2	1(4)	3	2
1	2	3	4	1	2	3
1	2	3	4	1	2	3
1	2	3	4	1	2	3

Do you see patterns in the fingerings and the starting points? Which scales use all 5 black keys?
What can you deduce about the fingerings for those "black key" scales?

HANDS SEPARATELY SCALE BLOCKING, two 8^{ves}, up and down (Shows how 1-3 & 1-4 patterns alternate.)

[Note: Fingerings in large print follow 1-3/1-4 pattern; fingerings in parentheses are physically easier.]

C major scale (1's on C; 3's on E & A – circle these):

R.H.:

L.H.: (5)

G major scale (1's on G; 3's on B & E – circle these):

(5)

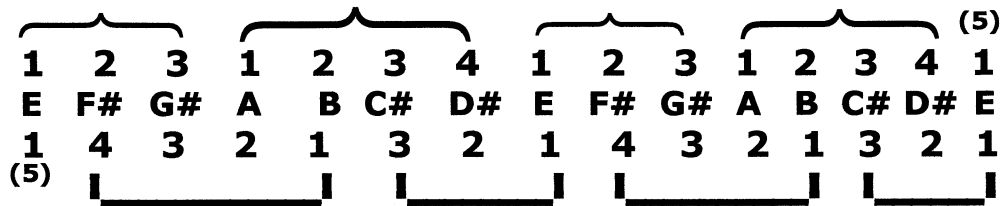
D major scale (1's on D; 3's on F# & B – circle these):

(5)

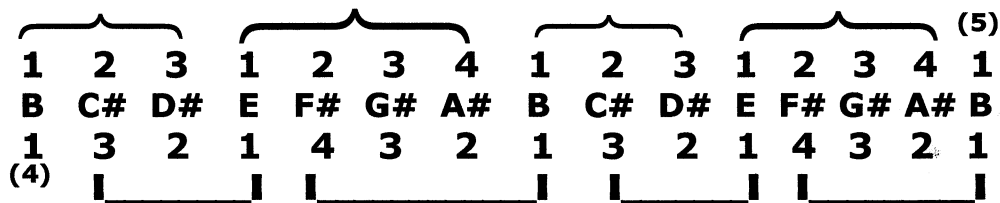
A major scale (1's on A; 3's on C# & F# – circle these):

(5)

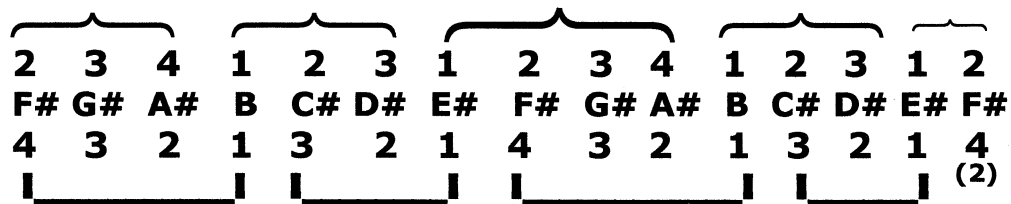
E major scale (1's on E; 3's on G# & C# – circle these):



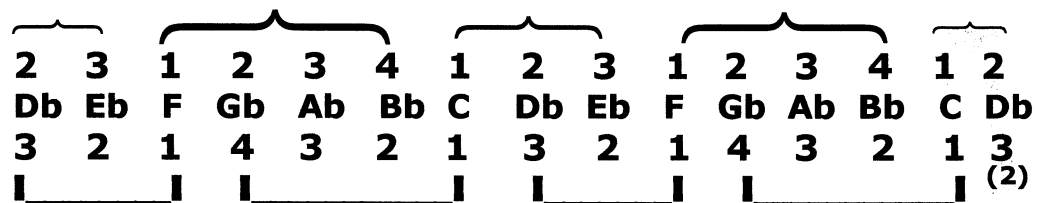
B major scale (1's on B & E [circle these] + all blacks):



F# major scale (1's on B & E# [circle these] + all blacks):



Db major scale (1's on F & C [circle these] + all blacks):



Ab major scale (3's on Ab & Eb; 1's on C – circle these):

{ (2) (3)		{			{				{			{		
3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
Ab	Bb	C	Db	Eb	F	G	Ab	Bb	C	Db	Eb	F	G	Ab
3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3
												(2)		

Eb major scale (3's on Eb - circle these):

(2)	{				{			{				{		
3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Eb	F	G	Ab	Bb	C	D	Eb	F	G	Ab	Bb	C	D	Eb
3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3
												(2)		

Bb major scale:

(2)	{			{				{			{			
4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Bb	C	D	Eb	F	G	A	Bb	C	D	Eb	F	G	A	Bb
3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3
												(2)		

F major scale (1's on F & C; 3's on A – circle these):

{				{			{				{ (4)			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F
1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
(5)														

[Minor scales are in harmonic form.]

A minor scale (1's on A; 3's on C & F – circle these):

{			{				{			{				(5)
1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1
A	B	C	D	E	F	G#	A	B	C	D	E	F	G#	A
1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
(5)														

E minor scale (1's on E; 3's on G & C – circle these):

{			{				{			{				(5)
1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1
E	F#	G	A	B	C	D#	E	F#	G	A	B	C	D#	E
1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
(5)														

B minor scale (1's on B & E – circle these):

{			{				{			{				(5)
1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1
B	C#	D	E	F#	G	A#	B	C#	D	E	F#	G	A#	B
1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1
(4)														

F# minor scale (3's on C#; circle these):

{		{		{			{			{			
(2)	(3)	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
F#	G#	A	B	C#	D	E#	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D	E#
4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1

C# minor scale (3's on C# & G#; 1's on E – circle these):

{ (2) (3)		{			{				{			{		
3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A	B#	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A	B#	C#
3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3
												(2)		

Ab minor scale (3's on Ab & Eb; 1's on Cb – circle these):

{ (2) (3)		{			{				{			{		
3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
Ab	Bb	Cb	Db	Eb	Fb	G	Ab	Bb	Cb	Db	Eb	Fb	G	Ab
3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3
												(2)		

Eb minor scale (3's on Ab; 1's on F & Cb – circle these):

{ (2)	{				{			{				{		
3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Eb	F	Gb	Ab	Bb	Cb	D	Eb	F	Gb	Ab	Bb	Cb	D	Eb
2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2

Bb minor scale (1's on C & F; 3's on A – circle these):

{ (2)	{			{				{			{			
4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Bb	C	Db	Eb	F	Gb	A	Bb	C	Db	Eb	F	Gb	A	Bb
2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2

F minor scale (1's on F & C; 3's on Ab – circle these):

{				{			{				{			(4)
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1
F	G	Ab	Bb	C	Db	E	F	G	Ab	Bb	C	Db	E	F
1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
(5)														

C minor scale (1's on C; 3's on Eb & Ab – circle these):

{			{				{			{				(5)
1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1
C	D	Eb	F	G	Ab	B	C	D	Eb	F	G	Ab	B	C
1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
(5)														

G minor scale (1's on G; 3's on Bb & Eb – circle these):

{			{				{			{				(5)
1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1
G	A	Bb	C	D	Eb	F#	G	A	Bb	C	D	Eb	F#	G
1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
(5)														

D minor scale (1's on D; 3's on F & Bb – circle these):

{			{				{			{				(5)
1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1
D	E	F	G	A	Bb	C#	D	E	F	G	A	Bb	C#	D
1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
(5)														

HANDS TOGETHER SCALE BLOCKING, two 8^{ves}, up and down

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Note: Before doing the parallel motion method below, try contrary motion blocking, as above (1-3/1-4), for CM through EM, Eb, Am, Em, Cm, Gm and Dm. The fingerings come out the same, like a mirror image, in each hand!

Circle blocks in pencil and say patterns out loud while playing:

***C major scale (1/2/2/2 [all whites] - 1's on C; 3's on E; 1-2 block; 3's on A):**

	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	(5)
	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	
	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
(5)																

**Major scales are listed in accordance with the circle of fifths. However, easiest to hardest sequence is recommended: Db, B, F#, F, Eb, Ab, Bb, E, A, D, G & C.*

G major scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on G; 3's on B; 1-2 block; 3's on E):

	□	□□	□□	□□	□	□□	□□	□□	□							
	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	(5)
	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G	
	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
(5)																

D major scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on D; 3's on F#; 1-2 block; 3's on B):

	□	□□	□□	□□	□	□□	□□	□□	□							
	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	(5)
	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D	
	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
(5)																

A major scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on A; 3's on C#; 1-2 block; 3's on F#):

	□	□□	□□	□□	□	□□	□□	□□	□							
	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	(5)
	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A	
	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
(5)																

E major scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on E; 3 on G#; 1-2 block; 3 on C#):

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1
 E F# G# A B C# D# E F# G# A B C# D# E
 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1
 (5)

B major scale (lower whites ←'s - 1 on B; 1 on E;)

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1
 B C# D# E F# G# A# B C# D# E F# G# A# B
 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1
 (4)

F# major scale ('s hug 's - 1 on B; 1 on E#):

2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2
 F# G# A# B C# D# E# F# G# A# B C# D# E# F#
 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4
 (2)

Db major scale (upper whites →'s - 1 on F; 1 on C):

2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2
 Db Eb F Gb Ab Bb C Db Eb F Gb Ab Bb C Db
 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3
 (2)

Ab major scale (3's on Ab; 1's on C; 3's on Eb; 1-2 block):

(2) (3)
 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3
 Ab Bb C Db Eb F G Ab Bb C Db Eb F G Ab
 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3
 [] [] [] [] [] [] (2)

Eb major scale (3's on Eb; 1-2 [] block; 3-4 [] block; 1-2 [] block):

(2)
 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3
 Eb F G Ab Bb C D Eb F G Ab Bb C D Eb
 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3
 [] [] [] [] [] (2)

Bb major scale (Bb 3L.H./4R.H.; 1-2 [] block; Eb 4L.H./3R.H.; 1-2-3 [] block):

(2)
 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4
 Bb C D Eb F G A Bb C D Eb F G A Bb
 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3
 [] [] [] [] (2)

F major scale (1's on F; 2-3-4 [] block; 1's on C; 2-3 [] block):

(4)
 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1
 F G A Bb C D E F G A Bb C D E F
 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1
 (5) [] [] [] []

****A minor scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on A; 3's on C; 1-2 block; 3's on F):**

□	□□	□□	□□	□	□□	□□	□□	□
1	2 3	1 2	3 4	1	2 3	1 2	3 4	(5) 1
A	B C	D E	F G#	A	B C	D E	F G#	A
1	4 3	2 1	3 2	1	4 3	2 1	3 2	1
(5)	┌───┐	┌───┐	┌───┐		┌───┐	┌───┐	┌───┐	

***Minor (harmonic form) scales are listed in accordance with the circle of fifths. However, easiest to hardest sequence is recommended: Fm, Bm, Ebm, Bbm, F#m, C#m, Abm, Gm, Dm, Cm, Am & Em.*

E minor scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on E; 3's on G; 1-2 block; 3's on C):

□	□□	□□	□□	□	□□	□□	□□	□
1	2 3	1 2	3 4	1	2 3	1 2	3 4	(5) 1
E	F# G	A B	C D#	E	F# G	A B	C D#	E
1	4 3	2 1	3 2	1	4 3	2 1	3 2	1
(5)	┌───┐	┌───┐	┌───┐		┌───┐	┌───┐	┌───┐	

B minor scale (1's on B; 2-3 block; 1's on E; 2-3-4 block):

□	□□	□	□□□	□	□□	□	□□□	□
1	2 3	1	2 3 4	1	2 3	1	2 3 4	(5) 1
B	C# D	E	F# G A#	B	C# D	E	F# G A#	B
1	3 2	1	4 3 2	1	3 2	1	4 3 2	1
(4)	┌───┐		┌───┐		┌───┐		┌───┐	

F# minor scale (3-4 block; 1-2 block; 3's on C#; 1-2 block):

□□	□□	□	□□	□□	□□	□	□□	□
(2) 3 4	(3) 1 2	3	1 2	3 4	1 2	3	1 2	3
F# G#	A B	C#	D E#	F# G#	A B	C#	D E#	F#
4 3	2 1	3	2 1	4 3	2 1	3	2 1	4
┌───┐	┌───┐		┌───┐	┌───┐	┌───┐		┌───┐	(2)

C# minor scale (3's on C#; 1's on E; 3's on G#; 1-2 block):



(2) (3)
 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3
 C# D# E F# G# A B# C# D# E F# G# A B# C#
 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 (2)


Ab minor scale (3's on Ab; 1's on Cb; 3's on Eb; 1-2 block):



(2) (3)
 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3
 Ab Bb Cb Db Eb Fb G Ab Bb Cb Db Eb Fb G Ab
 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 (2)


Eb minor scale (2's on Eb [1st time only]; 1's on F; 1's on Cb; 2-3 block):



(2)
 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3
 Eb F Gb Ab Bb Cb D Eb F Gb Ab Bb Cb D Eb
 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2


Bb minor scale (2's on Bb [1st time only]; 1's on C; 1's on F; 2-3-4 block):



(2)
 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4
 Bb C Db Eb F Gb A Bb C Db Eb F Gb A Bb
 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2


F minor scale (1's on F; 2-3-4 ███ block; 1's on C; 2-3 ██ block):

█ ███ █ ██ █ ███ █ ██ █

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 (4)
 F G Ab Bb C Db E F G Ab Bb C Db E F
 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1
 (5) └───┘ └──┘ └───┘ └──┘

C minor scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on C; 3's on Eb; 1-2 block; 3's on Ab):

█ ██ ██ ██ █ ██ ██ ██ █

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 (5)
 C D Eb F G Ab B C D Eb F G Ab B C
 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1
 (5) └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘

G minor scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on G; 3's on Bb; 1-2 block; 3's on Eb):

█ ██ ██ ██ █ ██ ██ ██ █

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 (5)
 G A Bb C D Eb F# G A Bb C D Eb F# G
 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1
 (5) └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘

D minor scale (1/2/2/2 - 1's on D; 3's on F; 1-2 block; 3's on Bb):

█ ██ ██ ██ █ ██ ██ ██ █

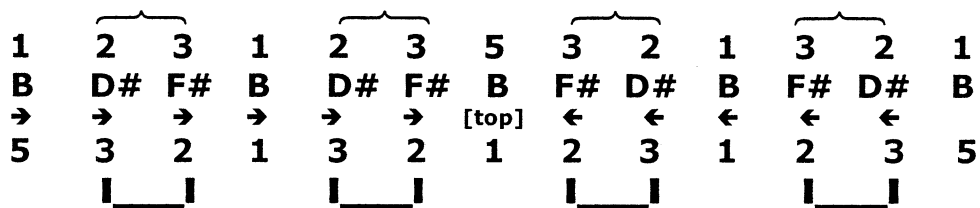
1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 (5)
 D E F G A Bb C# D E F G A Bb C# D
 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1
 (5) └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘ └──┘

Also try playing all scales in triads!

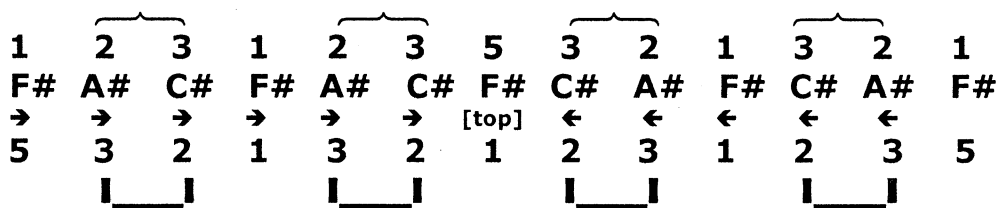
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii ^o	I
i	ii ^o	III ⁽⁺⁾	iv	V	VI	vii ^o	i

MAJOR ARPEGGIOS, two 8^{ves}, up and down
(easiest to hardest)

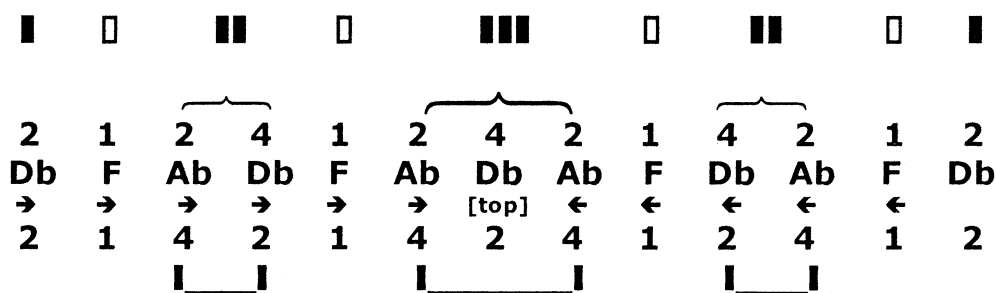
B major arpeggio (2-3 block on middle two blacks; □ ■ ■):



F# major arpeggio (2-3 block on middle two blacks; all ■ ■ ■'s):

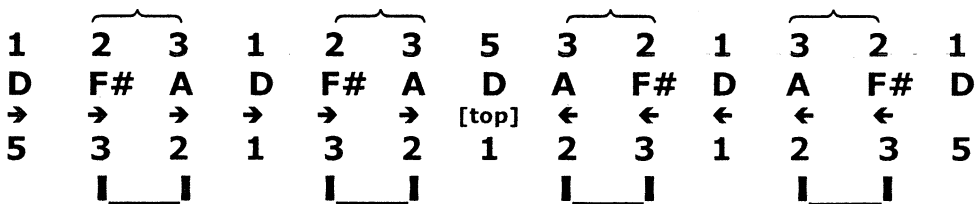


***Db major arpeggio (2-4 block on ■ ■'s):**



** Same blocking & fingerings for keys EbM & AbM.*

****D major arpeggio (2-3 block on middle two; □ ■ □):**



*** Same blocking & fingerings for keys of EM & AM.*

***C major arpeggio (block middle two; all ♯'s):**

1	2	3	1	2	3	5	3	2	1	3	2	1
C	E	G	C	E	G	C	G	E	C	G	E	C
→	→	→	→	→	→	[top]	←	←	←	←	←	
5	4	2	1	4	2	1	2	4	1	2	4	5
	(3)			(3)			(3)			(3)		
┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			

**Same blocking & fingerings for keys of FM & GM.*

Bb major arpeggio (Bb always 3 in L.H., 2 or 4 in R.H.; middle 1-2 ♯ block):

■	□□	■	□□	■	□□	■	□□	■				
2	1	2	4	1	2	4	2	1	4	2	1	2
Bb	D	F	Bb	D	F	Bb	F	D	Bb	F	D	Bb
→	→	→	→	→	→	[top]	←	←	←	←	←	
3	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	3
┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			

Minor ARPEGGIOS, two 8^{ves}, up and down
(easiest to hardest)

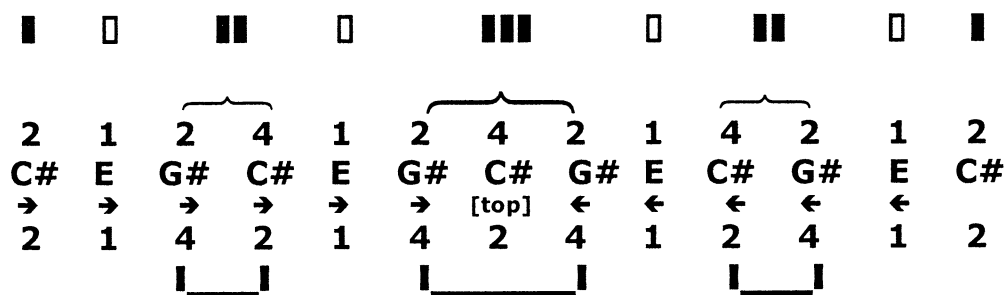
Bb minor arpeggio (2-3 block on ■'s; thumbs on F):

■■	□	■■	□	■	□	■■	□	■■					
┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐				
2	3	1	2	3	1	(3)	2	1	3	2	1	3	2
Bb	Db	F	Bb	Db	F	Bb	F	Db	Bb	F	Db	Bb	
→	→	→	→	→	→	[top]	←	←	←	←	←	←	
3	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	
┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐				

Eb minor arpeggio (block middle 2; all ■'s):

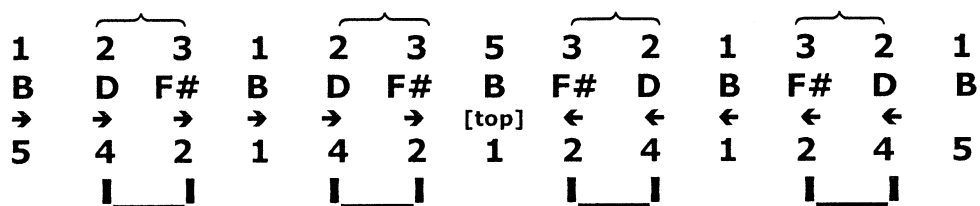
1	2	3	1	2	3	5	3	2	1	3	2	1
Eb	Gb	Bb	Eb	Gb	Bb	Eb	Bb	Gb	Eb	Bb	Gb	Eb
→	→	→	→	→	→	[top]	←	←	←	←	←	
5	4	2	1	4	2	1	2	4	1	2	4	5
	(3)			(3)			(3)			(3)		
┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			

***C# minor arpeggio (2-4 block on ■'s):**

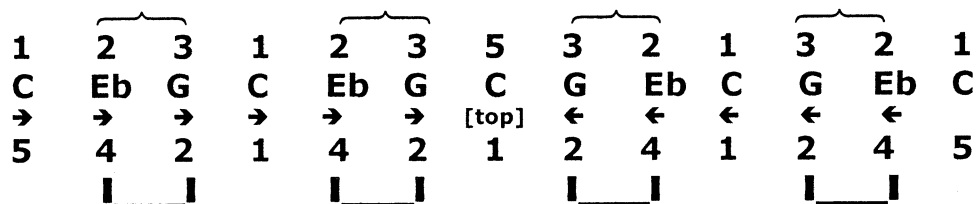


** Same blocking & fingerings for key of F#m & G#m.*

B minor arpeggio (block middle 2; ■ ■ ■):

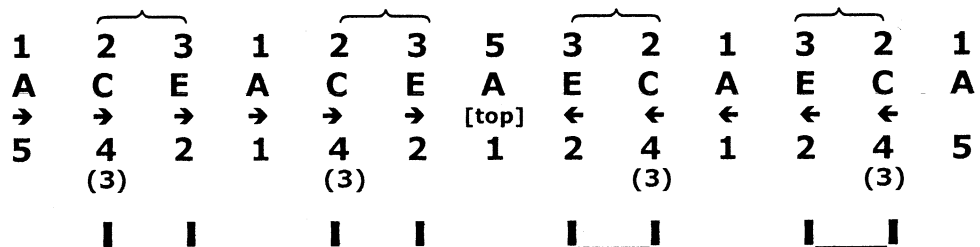


****C minor arpeggio (block middle 2; ■ ■ ■):**



*** Same blocking & fingerings for keys of Fm & Gm.*

*****A minor arpeggio (block middle 2; all ■'s):**



**** Same blocking & fingerings for keys of Dm & Em.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFO

3 forms of the minor scale:

1). *Natural minor:*

The natural minor is derived from the Major scale (6 to 6):

Major scale in two 8ves: 12345**67123456**78

Natural minor is highlighted above, and re-numbered below:

67123456 = 12345678

Because this scale is essentially the same as the relative major (except that "6" becomes "1"), it uses the same key signature.

2). *Harmonic minor form:*

To change natural minor to harmonic minor (most common form), raise the 7th degree 1/2 step:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7[↑] 8

3). *Melodic minor form:*

To change natural minor to melodic minor, raise the 6th & 7th degrees 1/2 step each (ascending only):

1 2 3 4 5 6[↑] 7[↑] 8

Why does the melodic form generally descend in the natural minor form?
(Hint: think "leading tones.")

Theory humor 😊

1. What do you get when you drop a grand piano down a mine shaft?
2. What do you get when you drop a grand piano over a military base?
3. Play a diminished chord in your right hand while playing an augmented chord in your left hand. What chord does this produce?

Cadences – an innovative “schematic approach”

Dr. Arthur Houle - Handout for Class Piano I-IV

(See also pp. 11-41 of “Alfred’s Intermediate Musicianship” book for standard notation.)

W = whole step; H = half step; S = same

Major cadences: Right Hand -- alternate fingerings (different from Alfred book)

④ ↗	↑W ⑤	④ →	S ④	④
② ↗	↑H ③	② ↗	↑H ③	②
① →	S ①	① ↘	↓H ①	①
I	IV	I	V ₇	I

Major cadences: Left Hand -- standard fingerings

① ↗	↑W ①	① →	S ①	①
③ ↗	↑H ②	③ ↗	↑H ②	③
⑤ →	S ⑤	⑤ ↘	↓H ⑤	⑤
I	IV	I	V ₇	I

Major cadences: Right Hand – standard Alfred book fingerings; may be better for persons with smaller hands (?)

⑤ ↗	↑W ⑤	⑤ →	S ⑤	⑤
③ ↗	↑H ③	③ ↗	↑H ④	③
① →	S ①	① ↘	↓H ①	①
I	IV	I	V ₇	I

Major cadences: Left Hand -- standard fingerings

① ↗	↑W ①	① →	S ①	①
③ ↗	↑H ②	③ ↗	↑H ②	③
⑤ →	S ⑤	⑤ ↘	↓H ⑤	⑤
I	IV	I	V ₇	I

Minor cadences: Right Hand -- alternate fingerings (different from Alfred book)

④ ↗	↑H ⑤	④ →	S ④	④
② ↗	↑W ③	② ↗	↑W ③	②
① →	S ①	① ↘	↓H ①	①
I	IV	I	V ₇	I

Minor cadences: Left Hand -- standard fingerings

① ↗	↑H ①	① →	S ①	①
③ ↗	↑W ②	③ ↗	↑W ②	③
⑤ →	S ⑤	⑤ ↘	↓H ⑤	⑤
I	IV	I	V ₇	I

Minor cadences: Right Hand – standard Alfred book fingerings; may be better for persons with smaller hands (?)

⑤ ↗	↑H ⑤	⑤ →	S ⑤	⑤
③ ↗	↑W ③	③ ↗	↑W ④	③
① →	S ①	① ↘	↓H ①	①
I	IV	I	V ₇	I

Minor cadences: Left Hand -- standard fingerings

① ↗	↑H ①	① →	S ①	①
③ ↗	↑W ②	③ ↗	↑W ②	③
⑤ →	S ⑤	⑤ ↘	↓H ⑤	⑤
I	IV	I	V ₇	I

Schematic of "Choir warm-up" drill for Class Piano

	Pentascala	Triad	up 1/2 step
C:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ → □ □
Db:	□ □ → □ □ □	□ → □ □ ↗	□ □ □
D:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ □ □
Eb:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ □ □
E:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ □ □
F:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ □ □
F#:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ □ □
G:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ → □ □
Ab:	□ □ → □ □ □	□ → □ □ ↗	□ □ □
A:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ □ □
Bb:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ □ □
B:	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ ↗	□ □ □

SCALE FINGERING RULES

**Arthur Houle (with a lot of help from CSMTA colleagues!)
Colorado Mesa University**

1. “3” and “4” patterns alternate.
2. Never use thumb and 5th fingers on black keys.
3. Notes are step-wise; never play same note twice or play leaps beyond some kind of 2nd.
4. White keys C/Cm, G/Gm, D/Dm, A/Am, & E/Em:
 - a. Thumbs together *only* on home key note (tonic) at mid-points (not at the top & bottom).
 - b. 3rd fingers *always* play together.
5. Enharmonic (think “homonym”) major keys (B/Cb, F#/Gb & C#/Db) use all 5 black keys:
 - a. Two blacks: always 2nd & 3rd fingers (both hands).
 - b. Three blacks: always 2nd, 3rd and 4th fingers (both hands).
 - c. Thumbs play on remaining two white keys (*always* in Db; at mid-points for other two keys).
6. Flat major keys (Ab, Eb, & Bb):
 - a. R.H.: 4th finger always plays B-flat.
 - b. L.H.: 4th note of the scale is always played with the 4th finger.
7. Keys of F & Fm: thumbs on “C” (always) & “F” (mid-points).

POSTURE

1. Fingers should be rounded (curved), not flat (clip nails!).
2. Knuckles also should be rounded (not collapsed).
3. Wrists and elbows should be about level with each other generally; adjust chair to help facilitate this.
4. Sit at true center of piano (between “E” and “F” above middle C).
5. Don’t sit so close to the piano that you cannot do arpeggios comfortably (for most people this means knees should be just barely under the piano).
6. Don’t sit too far back either (shoulders will get sore).
7. Don’t slouch.

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*Houle educational resources can be found online at:
www.pianofestival.org/prizes/prizeoriginal.htm#techres*