

Technique Exercises

The exercises on this page are designed for finger strengthening and independence. Once you are comfortable with the progression, work with a metronome and practice placing accents on different beats. Another great way to practice is by playing everything stacatto. Make sure to keep your fingers close to the keys as you do this.

Exercise #1

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2

Follow the same progression in all 12 keys

Exercise #2

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2

Follow the same progression in all 12 keys

Exercise #3 - Arpeggios by Chord Type - Maj7

3 5 2 1 2 1 3 5 3 5 2 1 2 1 3 5 3 5 2 1 2 1 3 5

(same fingering as above)

Descending

3 5 2 1 2 1 3 5 3 5 2 1 2 1 3 5 3 5 2 1 2 1 3 5

(same fingering as above)

Play the same progression with dom7, mi7, mi7(-5) and 7(sus4) chords.

Exercise #4 - Arpeggios by Scale - C Major

Musical notation for Exercise #4 in C Major, ascending arpeggios. The piece is in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, E4, C4. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: C3, E3, G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, E3, C3. Fingering is indicated above the notes: 3 5 2 1 for the first four notes, 2 1 3 5 for the next four, and 3 5 2 1 for the final four. The exercise consists of eight measures.

Descending

Musical notation for Exercise #4 in C Major, descending arpeggios. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: C5, B4, A4, G4, E4, C4, B3, A3, G3, E3, C3. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: C4, B3, A3, G3, E3, C3, B2, A2, G2, E2, C2. Fingering is indicated above the notes: 3 5 2 1 for the first four notes, 2 1 3 5 for the next four. The exercise concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to three flats (B-flat major). The exercise consists of eight measures.

D \flat Major

Musical notation for Exercise #4 in D \flat Major, ascending arpeggios. The key signature has three flats (B-flat major). The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: D \flat 4, F \flat 4, A \flat 4, B \flat 4, C \flat 5, D \flat 5, B \flat 4, A \flat 4, F \flat 4, D \flat 4. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: D \flat 3, F \flat 3, A \flat 3, B \flat 3, C \flat 4, D \flat 4, B \flat 3, A \flat 3, F \flat 3, D \flat 3. The exercise consists of eight measures.

Descending

Musical notation for Exercise #4 in D \flat Major, descending arpeggios. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: D \flat 5, C \flat 5, B \flat 4, A \flat 4, F \flat 4, D \flat 4, C \flat 4, B \flat 3, A \flat 3, F \flat 3, D \flat 3. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: D \flat 4, C \flat 4, B \flat 3, A \flat 3, F \flat 3, D \flat 3, C \flat 3, B \flat 2, A \flat 2, F \flat 2, D \flat 2. The exercise concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to four flats (E-flat major). The exercise consists of eight measures.

Continue this progression in all 12 keys.

Exercise #5 - Thirds in Angular Motion - C Major

There are multiple ways to finger this exercise. Given fingerings are just a suggestion and you will need to come up with different fingerings for each key.

1 3 4 2 | 1 3 4 2 | 1 3 4 2 | 1 3 4 2

3 5 4 2 | 1 3 2 1 | 2 4 3 1 | 2 4 3 1

1 4 3 1 | 2 4 3 1 | 2 4 3 1 | 2

2 4 5 1 | 2 4 5 1 | 2 4 5 1 | 2

D \flat Major

2 4 3 2 | 1 3 4 2 | 3 5 3 2 | 1 3 4 2

2 4 3 2 | 1 4 3 2 | 1 4 3 2 | 1 4 3 1

1 4 3 2 | 1 5 4 2 | 1 4 3 2 | 1

2 3 4 2 | 1 3 4 1 | 2 3 4 2 | 1

Play this progression in all 12 keys. You can also practice this progression using any of the modes, or symmetrical dominant.