

# Scale Fingerings

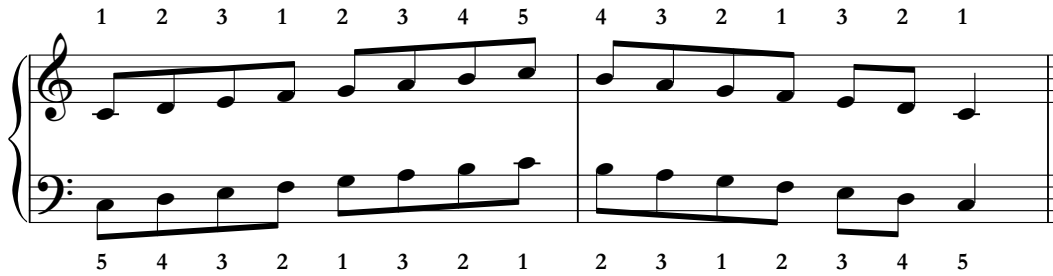
the 12 Major scales for piano

by

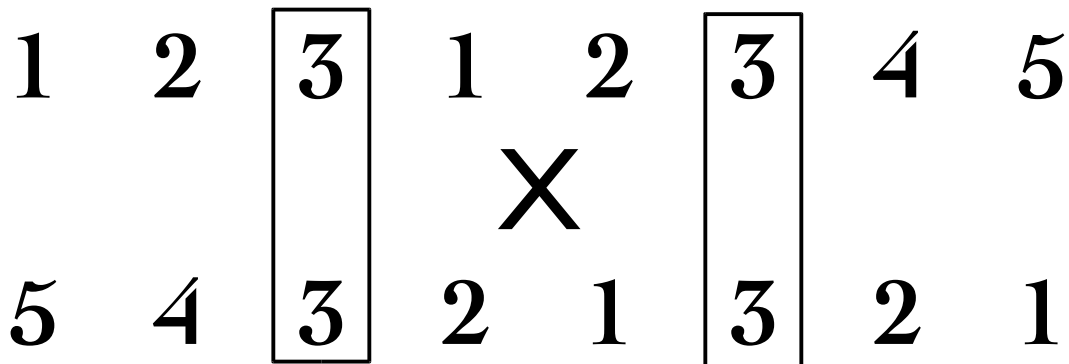
Jason Sifford

Copyright © 2008

# C Major



## Fingering Diagram



Think of the C Major scale fingering in three parts: Up to the 3s, center 1 and 2, 3s together again and finish. Also, keep your wrist slightly higher in C Major. This will help facilitate the thumb and finger crossings.

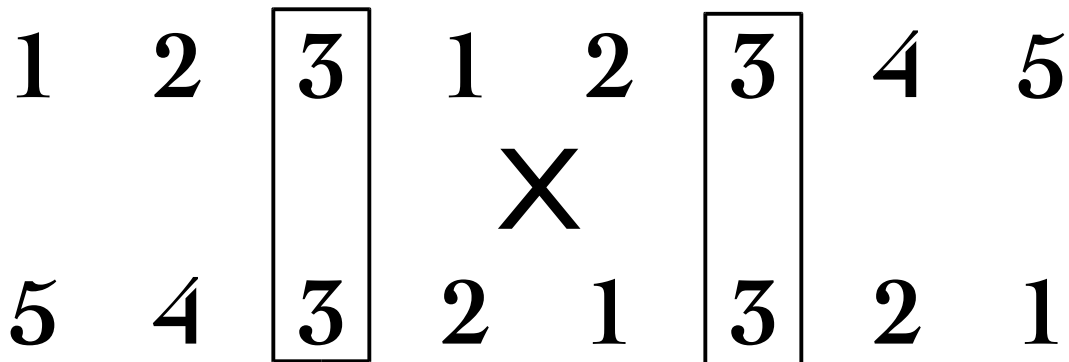
# E Major

Musical notation for the E Major scale, showing the treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on E4 and the bass clef starts on E3. The scale is written in two measures, each with a repeat sign. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above and below the notes.

Treble Clef Fingerings: 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

Bass Clef Fingerings: 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

## Fingering Diagram



E Major uses the same fingering as C Major, but in some ways it's easier to learn. It fits the hand better, and you'll notice the black keys guide the finger crossings, with G# taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers, white keys for the center 1s and 2s, and C# ready to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers again.

Once you're comfortable in C Major and E Major, you're ready for G, D, and A Major, all of which use the same fingering.

# G Major

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

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

The image shows the G Major scale in both treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on G4 and the bass clef starts on G2. The scale is presented in two measures: an ascending scale followed by a descending scale. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes in the treble clef and below the notes in the bass clef. The notes in the treble clef are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G, and the notes in the bass clef are G, F#, E, D, C, B, A, G.

# D Major

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

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

The image shows the D Major scale in both treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on D4 and the bass clef starts on D2. The scale is presented in two measures: an ascending scale followed by a descending scale. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes in the treble clef and below the notes in the bass clef. The notes in the treble clef are D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D, and the notes in the bass clef are D, C#, B, A, G, F#, E, D.

# A Major

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

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

The image shows the A Major scale in both treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on A4 and the bass clef starts on A2. The scale is presented in two measures: an ascending scale followed by a descending scale. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes in the treble clef and below the notes in the bass clef. The notes in the treble clef are A, B, C#, D, E, F#, G#, A, and the notes in the bass clef are A, G#, F#, E, D, C#, B, A.

# B Major

The next three scales are learned together. They are B Major, F# Major, and Db Major. They are similar in that they use all the black keys of the piano. The only thing that changes is which white keys are played.

When playing the two-black-key groups, use 2-3 in the RH and 3-2 in the LH. When playing the three-black-key groups, use 2-3-4 in the RH and 4-3-2 in the LH. All white keys are played with the thumb. Here it is in B Major with the thumbs playing the two white keys B and E. (Except for the first LH note, which is changed to 4 for a simpler beginning.)

Musical notation for the B Major scale. The treble clef starts on B4, and the bass clef starts on B2. The scale consists of B, C#, D#, E, F#, G#, A, B. The right hand (RH) fingering is 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1. The left hand (LH) fingering is 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4.

## F# Major (white keys are B and E#)

Musical notation for the F# Major scale. The treble clef starts on F#4, and the bass clef starts on F#2. The scale consists of F#, G#, A, B, C#, D#, E#, F#. The right hand (RH) fingering is 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2. The left hand (LH) fingering is 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4.

## Db Major (white keys are F and C)

Musical notation for the Db Major scale. The treble clef starts on Db4, and the bass clef starts on Db2. The scale consists of Db, Eb, F, G, Ab, Bb, C, Db. The right hand (RH) fingering is 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2. The left hand (LH) fingering is 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 1 2 3 4 1 2 3.

# Ab Major

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

3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2(3) 1 2 3 4 1 2 3

## Fingering Diagram

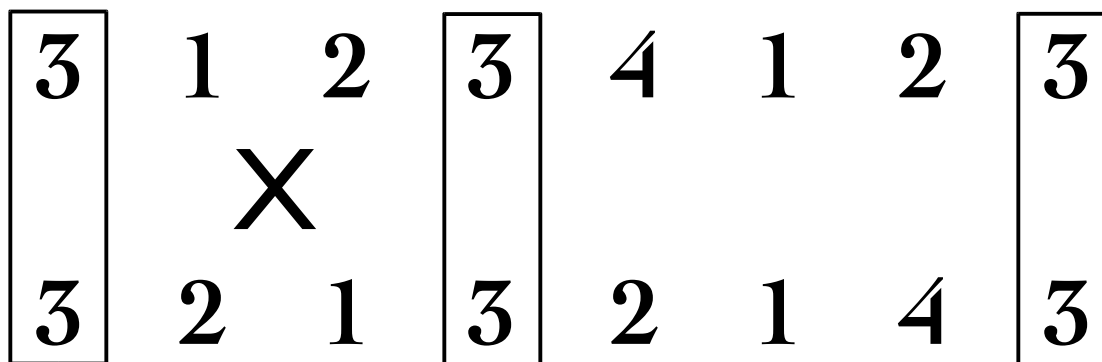
3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
					X		
3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3

To play an Ab Major scale, think back to the fingering for C Major. In Ab Major, your fingers will play the same *letter names* that they did for C Major, but with the accidentals for Ab Major. Thus the 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers still play the Es and As, and the 1s and 2s still take the F-G switch.

# Eb Major

The image shows a musical score for the Eb Major scale. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The scale is written in a 2/4 time signature. Above the treble staff, the ascending notes are G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, with fingerings 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3. The descending notes are F5, E5, D5, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, with fingerings 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3. The bass staff has ascending notes Eb3, F3, G3, Ab3, Bb3, C4, D4, Eb4, with fingerings 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2(3). The descending notes are Eb4, D4, C4, Bb3, Ab3, G3, F3, Eb3, with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3.

## Fingering Diagram



The Eb Major scale uses the same idea as the Ab Major scale. Your fingers still take the same *letters* as in the C Major scale, but with an Eb Major key signature.

## Bb Major

Musical notation for the Bb Major scale. The treble clef (RH) has fingerings: 4(2) 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4(2). The bass clef (LH) has fingerings: 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2(3) 1 2 3 4 1 2 3.

I don't know of any tricks to help with the Bb Major scale fingering, but if you're comfortable with the previous ten, you'll be fine. The fingerings given are the most consistent, but in practice, the fingerings in parentheses feel a bit more natural. Some people also begin the RH on 3.

## F Major

Musical notation for the F Major scale. The treble clef (RH) has fingerings: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1. The bass clef (LH) has fingerings: 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5.

You can think of F Major in one of two ways. First, it's very similar to C Major except that the RH 4<sup>th</sup> finger takes Bb. Second, the fingers take the same letter names that they played in Gb Major, but without all the flats!