

12 SCALES IN 12 MONTHS: PART 1 - C MAJOR

The C major scale is the scale of all white keys. Fingerings are presented here for both hands. Practice slowly and deliberately, taking care to use the correct fingering.

The image displays a musical score for the C major scale in 2/4 time, presented for both hands. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers the first four measures, and the second system covers the next four measures. The right hand (treble clef) starts on middle C (C4) and ascends to C5, while the left hand (bass clef) starts on C3 and ascends to C4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below the notes. In the first system, the right hand uses fingerings 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1, and the left hand uses 5-4-3-2-1-3-2-1-4-3-2-1. The second system shows the scale continuing to the next octave, with the right hand starting on C5 and ending on C6, and the left hand starting on C4 and ending on C5. The right hand uses fingerings 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1, and the left hand uses 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1. Octave markings (8va) are placed above the notes in the second system. The score concludes with a double bar line.

TECHNIQUE TIP:

Once you are comfortable playing this with both hands, begin practicing the scale with following two practice techniques.

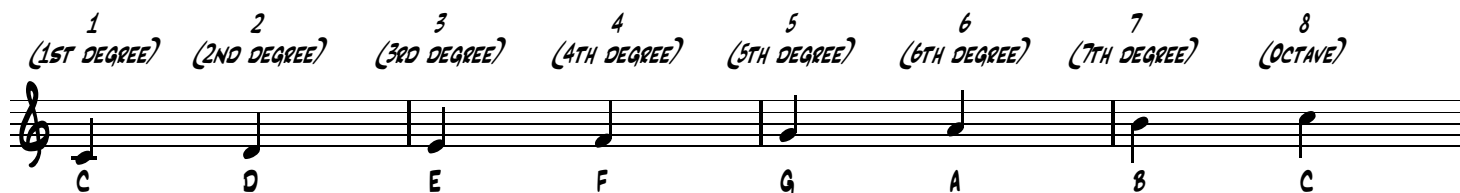
1) Finger Staccato: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEmJ8tgG2Xk&t=31s>

2) the "Crab" technique: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QM4LBS-3Wvi&t=69s>

THEORY TIP:

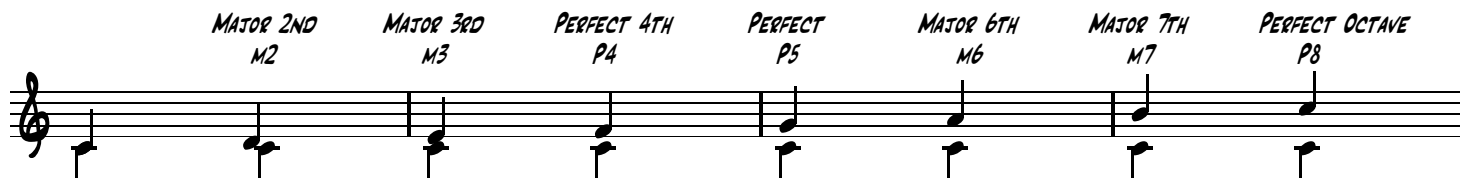
- Each note of a scale is given a "degree" relative to the "tonic" (the first and main note of a scale).
- The tonic can also be referred to as the "1st degree" of a scale.
- The 2nd note of a scale is referred to as the 2nd degree of the scale, and so on.

SCALE DEGREES:



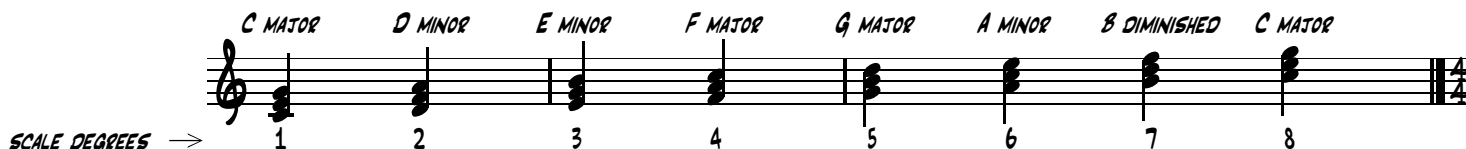
- Once you know the degrees of a major scale you can create intervals.
- All of the intervals below are built on the tonic note (C).
- When you play both the tonic and 2nd degree together, it forms an interval of a Major 2nd (M2).
- When you play the tonic and 3rd degree together, it forms an interval of a Major 3rd (M3).
- The tonic and 4th degree forms a Perfect 4th (P4).
- The tonic and 5th degree forms a Perfect 5th (P5).
- The tonic and 6 degree forms a Major 6th (M6).
- The tonic and 7th degree forms a Major 7th (M7).

INTERVALS:



DIATONIC TRIADS:

- Triads that are built using only the notes from a scale are referred to as "Diatonic Triads."
- Each triad below is built on one of the degrees of the C major scale.
- Notice that the triads built on the 1st degree (tonic), 4th degree, and 5th degree are Major triads.
- Triads built on the 2nd, 3rd, and 6th degrees are Minor triads.
- The triad built on the 7th degree is a diminished triad.



EAR TRAINING TIP:

- Ear training begins with identifying various scale degrees by number.
- The first notes of the folk song, *Dixieland* are the following scale degrees: 5-3-1-1-1-2-3-4-5-5-5-3.

SCALE DEGREES → 5 3 1 1 1 2 3 4 5 5 5 3

OH I WISH I WAS IN THE LAND OF COT - TON

- The first notes of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* are the following scale degrees: 1-1-5-5-6-6-5, 4-4-3-3-2-2-1.

SCALE DEGREES → 1 1 5 5 6 6 5

TWIN - KLE TWIN - KLE LIT - TLE STAR,

SCALE DEGREES → 4 4 3 3 2 2 1

HOW I WON - DER WHAT YOU ARE.

- Pick out some other melodies and define them by their scale degrees.
- For now, let's keep everything in the Key of C.
- Don't get discouraged if this feels difficult. Keep at it. It will get easier.
- Watch my video series for tips and tricks.
- It is possible for ANYONE to develop a good ear.

Here are some songs to get you started:

Georgia
 Star Spangled Banner
 Do-Re-Mi
 Mary Had a Little Lamb
 When the Saints Go Marching In
 Bad Moon Rising
 Three Little Birds
 Michael Row Your Boat Ashore