

12 SCALES IN 12 MONTHS: PART 4 - A MAJOR

Exercise A

A Major Scale, 4 octaves up and back, both hands

- Now that you know the D major scale, we count up to the 5th degree of that scale to "A".
- A major is the key of 3 sharps (F raised to F# - C raised to C# - G raised to G#).
- The other four notes, per octave, are still played on the white keys
- The fingerings for both hands are the same as the C and G major scales.
- The sharped notes are colored red in the following diagrams.
- Notice the key signature below with the "#" symbols over "F", "C", and "G".

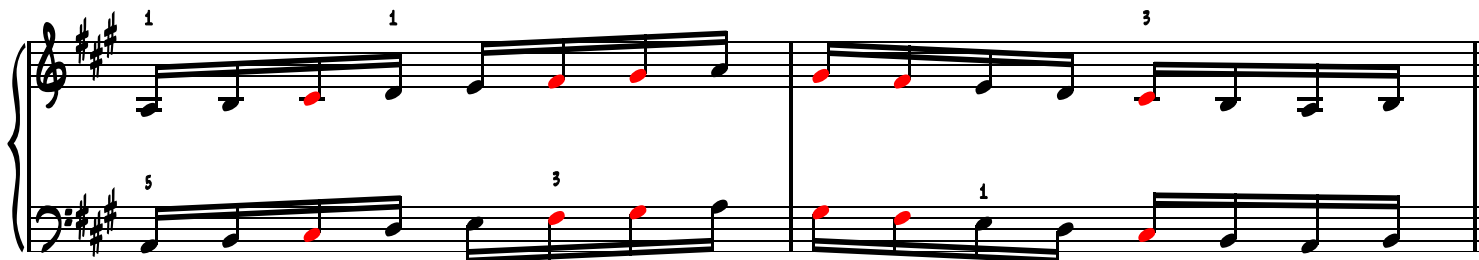
exercise 1: A major scale

The musical score for Exercise 1: A major scale, 4 octaves up and back, both hands. The score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first system shows the scale ascending and descending in the right hand, with fingerings 1-2-3-4-5 and 4-3-2-1-5 respectively. The second system shows the scale ascending and descending in the left hand, with fingerings 1-2-3-4-5 and 4-3-2-1-5 respectively. The third system shows the scale ascending and descending in the right hand, with fingerings 1-2-3-4-5 and 4-3-2-1-5 respectively. The fourth system shows the scale ascending and descending in the left hand, with fingerings 1-2-3-4-5 and 4-3-2-1-5 respectively. The score includes blue dashed lines indicating the 8th and 9th octaves.

Exercise B

- In this exercise, we play the scale of 3 sharps (A major) one octave up and back. Then, starting on the same beginning note (A), we play the scale of 2 sharps (D major) one octave up and back. Starting on "A" again,, we play the scale of 1 sharp (G major) one octave up and back, and finally we play the scale of all white keys (C major) one octave up and back.

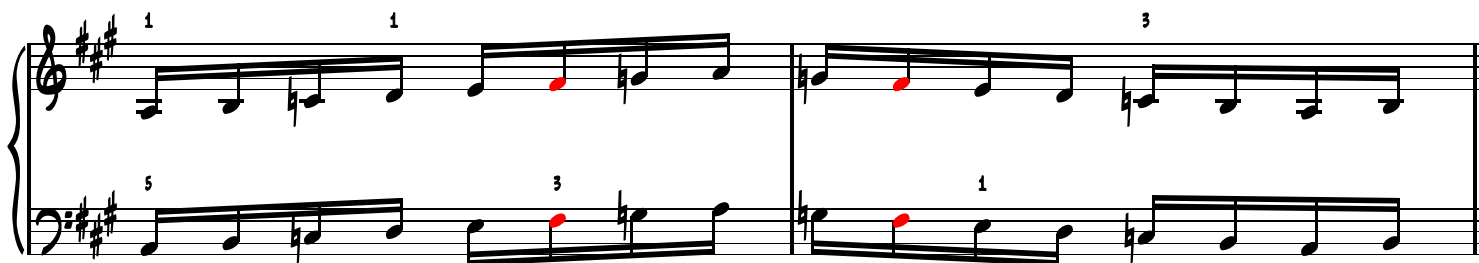
3 sharps (A major)



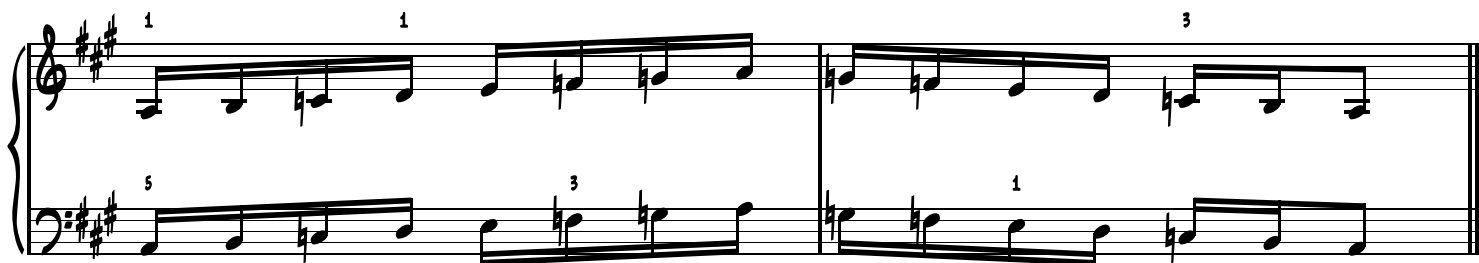
2 sharps (D major)



1 sharp (G major)



no sharps, no flats (C major)



Exercise C

- In this exercise, we start out playing the scale of 3 sharps (A major) for the first 2 measures, which are ascending.
- On the next two measures (descending) we play the scale of 2 sharps (D major).
- On the next two measures (ascending) we play the scale of 1 sharp (G major).
- And the final two descending measures are the scale of all white keys (C major).
- The purpose of this exercise is to get accustomed to changing scales in the middle of a melodic passage, no matter where you are in that passage.

3 sharps (A major)

The first system of Exercise C shows the A major scale (3 sharps) for 4 measures. The first two measures are ascending, and the next two are descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

2 sharps (D major)

The second system of Exercise C shows the D major scale (2 sharps) for 4 measures. The first two measures are ascending, and the next two are descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The key signature has two sharps (F#, C#).

1 sharp (G major)

The third system of Exercise C shows the G major scale (1 sharp) for 4 measures. The first two measures are ascending, and the next two are descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

no sharps, no flats (C major)

The fourth system of Exercise C shows the C major scale (no sharps, no flats) for 4 measures. The first two measures are ascending, and the next two are descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The key signature has no sharps or flats.

Exercise D: Ear Training

- These are simple melodies designed to help you get familiar with scale degrees of the A major scale.
- I recommend you sing the scale degree numbers (shown below the note heads) while you play the notes.
- yes... I know you want to be a PIANIST! This exercise is preparing you to play the melodies you hear either IN or OUTSIDE of your head. You don't have to be Pavoratti... or Beverly Sills. Just open your mouth and sing the scale degrees while you play them.

