

## Scales in the Major Keys with Two Thumb Positions

The following is an unconventional fingering for the major scales. There are a number of advantages in practicing with these fingerings. The only difference between two scales a perfect fifth apart is one note. This method of scale performance identifies that note and makes only that change. All the flat key scales, along with the key of C major, are initiated with the right thumb and fifth finger of the left hand on the note C. All the sharp key scales are performed using the note B as the primary position. Begin by playing a C major scale using the standard fingerings shown below. Always keep a strict pulse.

Now play the scale in the key of F, simply adding B $\flat$ . Proceed around the circle of fifths downward, retaining each flat added to the previous scale. The order of keys flats added for each are shown below:

C	F	B $\flat$	E $\flat$	A $\flat$	D $\flat$
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Three systems of piano scales in Eb, Ab, and Db. Each system consists of a treble and bass clef staff. The bass clef staff contains a scale with fingerings (1-5) and thumb positions (5, 4, 3, 2, 1). The treble clef staff contains a scale with fingerings (2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3).

After the Db scale it is time to move the thumb position down to B. The six sharp scales are performed in the following order. Note that the flats are removed, or lowered, in the same order that they were added.

Diagram showing the thumb position moving from F# to B. The diagram shows a treble clef staff with notes F#, B, E, A, D, G. Below the staff, arrows indicate the thumb moving from F# to B. Below the diagram, two systems of piano scales in F# and B are shown, each with treble and bass clef staves and fingerings.

The image displays four systems of piano scales, each consisting of a treble and bass staff. The scales are for E, A, D, and G major keys. Each system includes fingerings (1-5) and repeat signs. The E system has a treble staff with notes E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5 and a bass staff with notes E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4. The A system has a treble staff with notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5 and a bass staff with notes A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4. The D system has a treble staff with notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5 and a bass staff with notes D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4. The G system has a treble staff with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5 and a bass staff with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4.

When all twelve keys are comfortable at two notes per beat, play triplets in three octaves without increasing the pulse. Then four notes per beat in four octaves at the same tempo. Close your eyes and learn the feel of these scales.