The 12 Major Scales

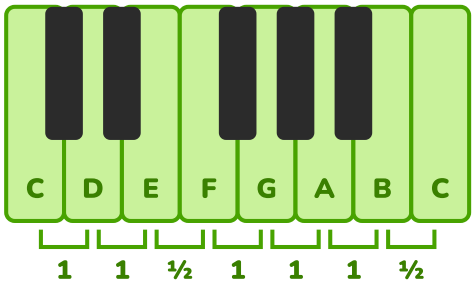
With fingering for right (R) and left (L) hand · one octave

The secret of every major scale

1 · 1 · ½ · 1 · 1 · 1 · ½

Whole step (1) = skip one key. Half step (½) = the very next key. The half steps are always between **notes 3 and 4** and **notes 7 and 8**.

Under each note: R = right-hand finger, L = left-hand finger

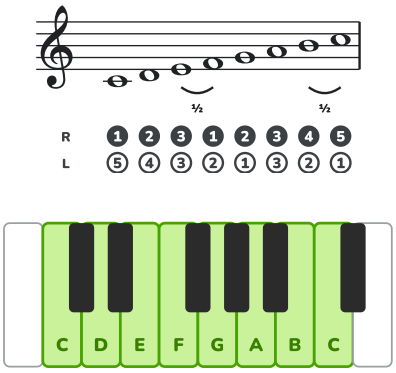


1 Same fingering

Five scales, one fingering – learn it once, play it five times.

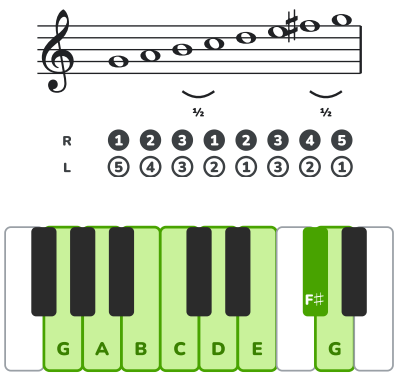
C C major

no sharps or flats



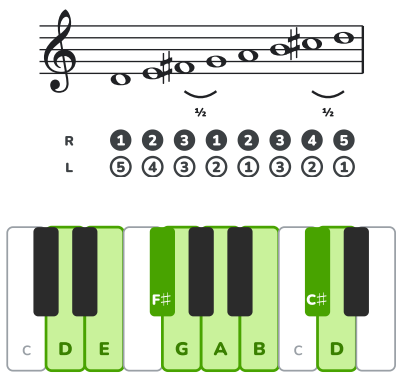
G G major

1 ♯ · F♯



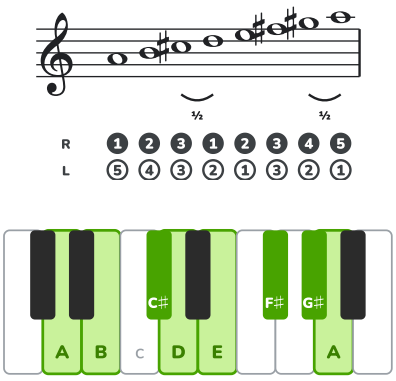
D D major

2 ♯ · F♯, C♯



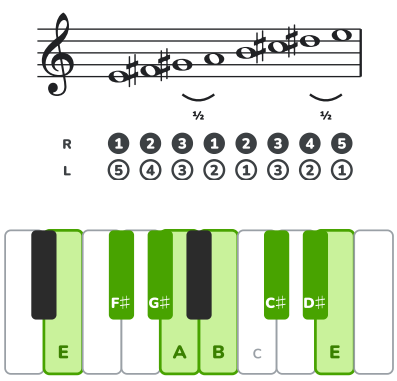
A A major

3 ♯ · F♯, C♯, G♯



E E major

4 ♯ · F♯, C♯, G♯, D♯



Thumb under – here's how

Right hand going up: after finger **3** (in F after **4**), the thumb slides under the hand to the next note.

Keep the hand still – only the thumb travels.

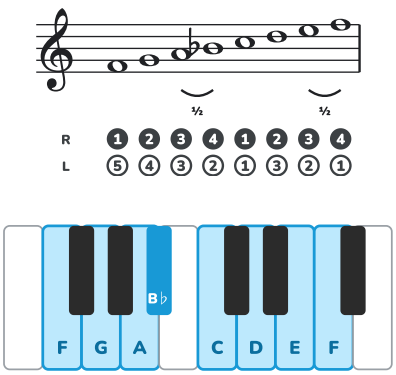
Going down, finger 3 crosses over the thumb. The left hand does exactly the mirror image.

2 With one small exception

Almost like group 1 – only one hand plays differently: the right hand in F, the left hand in B.

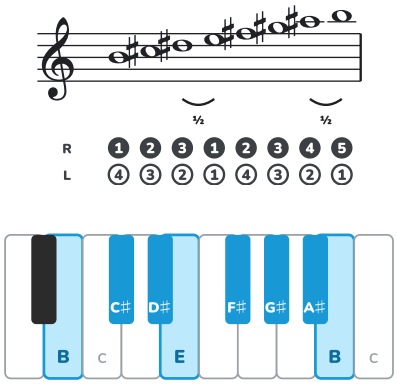
F major

1 ♭ · B♭



B major

5 ♯ · F♯, C♯, G♯, D♯, A♯

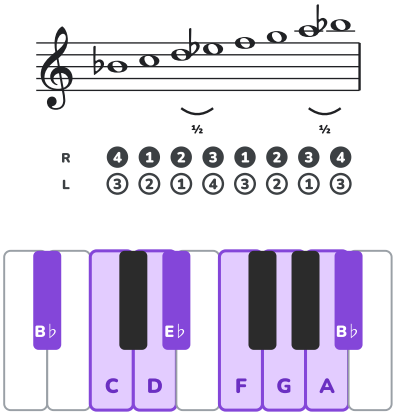


3 Starting on a black key

The thumb only plays white keys here – that's the trick.

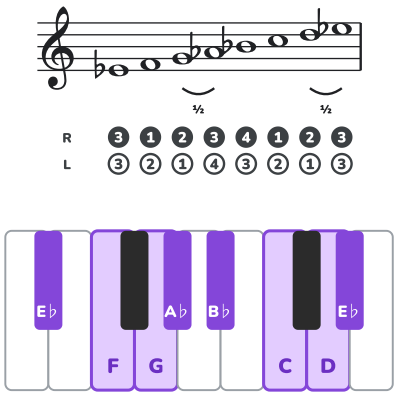
B♭ major

2 ♭ · B♭, E♭



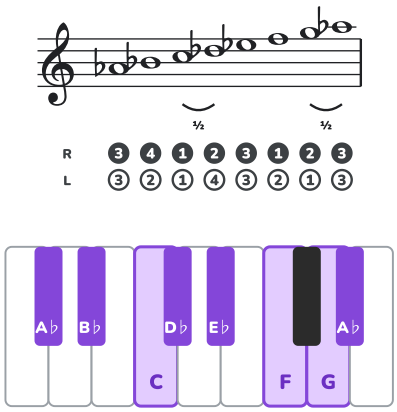
E♭ major

3 ♭ · B♭, E♭, A♭



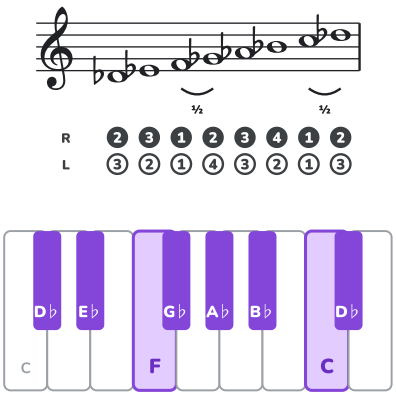
A♭ major

4 ♭ · B♭, E♭, A♭, D♭



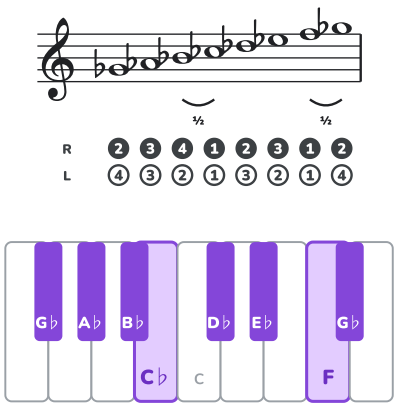
D♭ major

5 ♭ · B♭, E♭, A♭, D♭, G♭



G♭ major

6 ♭ · B♭, E♭, A♭, D♭, G♭, C♭



Your exercises

- [ ] First each hand alone, then both.
- [ ] Slowly with a metronome: 60 → 80 → 100.
- [ ] Two octaves up and down.
- [ ] Say it out loud: where are the half steps?