

3-Octave Scales with stand-alone octaves

In the scale fingerings below, each octave begins and ends with tonic (resting tone). This helps you to stay oriented while becoming familiar with the notes and shifts. The ❖ symbol separates each octave from the next.

Play the final note of each octave as a half note. Then repeat this note as you begin the next octave. The first line (row) of fingerings is ascending and the second line is descending. The dashes indicate where to shift. Only shift where it is marked.* On most scales your first shift will be on the A string.

All minor scales should use melodic minor. The same fingerings are used for major and minor except two scales which use the enharmonic equivalent: Ab minor (G# minor), and Db minor (C# minor).

Mark the box ☒ next to each scale once you begin working on it! Here is a suggested order of keys:

1. G major, Bb major. *These keys both shift to fourth position.*
2. A major, A minor, Ab major. *These keys shift to third position.*

* Once you are proficient on this first set of five, try these in the Galamian pattern. Meanwhile, continue stand-alone octaves on the next set.

3. G minor, Bb minor.
4. C major, C minor. D major, D minor. *These keys begin in 3rd position.*
5. B major, B minor.
6. G# minor. E major, E minor.
7. Db, Eb, and F major.
8. All remaining keys: F minor. F# major and minor. C# and Eb minor.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---|---------|-------|---|--------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> G major | 0123 | 0123 | ❖ | 3012 | 3–123 | ❖ | 3412– | 1234 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G minor | 4321– | 2143 | | 321–3 | 2143 | | 3214 | 3210 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G# minor <i>(follows G major pattern except first 5 notes)</i> | 12–23 | 4123 | ❖ | 3412 | 3–123 | ❖ | 3412– | 1234 |
| | 4321– | 2143 | | 321–3 | 2143 | | 3214 | 32–21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ab major | 123(0) | 1234 | ❖ | (0)12–1 | 2341 | ❖ | 12–12– | 1234 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A major | 4321– | 4321 | | 1432 | 1–214 | | 4321 | 4321 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A minor | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bb major | 23(0)1 | 23(0)1 | ❖ | 123–1 | 2341 | ❖ | 12–12– | 1234 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bb minor | 4321– | 4321 | | 1432 | 1–321 | | 1432 | 1432 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B major | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B minor | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C major <i>(starts in 3rd position)</i> | 1234 | 1234 | ❖ | 4123 | 412–1 | ❖ | 12–12– | 1234 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C minor | 4321– | 321–3 | | 3214 | 3214 | | 4321 | 4321 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C# minor | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Db major <i>(starts in 3rd position)</i> | 2341 | 2341 | ❖ | 1234 | 12–12 | ❖ | 2–12–1 | 234–4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D major | 4–432 | 1–321 | | 1–321 | 4321 | | 1432 | 1432 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D minor | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eb major | 1234 | 123–1 | ❖ | 1234 | 12–12 | ❖ | 2–12–1 | 234–4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eb minor | 4–432 | 1–321 | | 1–321 | 4321 | | 1–321 | 4321 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E major | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E minor | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F major | 23(0)1 | 2–123 | ❖ | 3412– | 12–12 | ❖ | 2–12–1 | 234–4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F minor | 4–432 | 1–321 | | 1–321– | 2143 | | 321–2 | 1432 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F# major | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F# minor | | | | | | | | |

* While various fingerings are possible, this page uses Galamian fingerings because the goal is to transfer to Galamian-style scales.

Three-Octave Scales

Galamian style

On the scale fingerings below, the first line (row) is ascending and the second line is descending on each scale. The dashes indicate where to shift.

The same fingerings are used for major and minor on all of the scales except two scales which use the enharmonic equivalent: Ab minor (G# minor), and Db minor (C# minor).

All minor scales should use melodic minor. Make sure to use the stand-alone octave version of the scales as needed for preparation, particularly on the minor scales.

Mark the box ☒ next to each scale once you begin working on it! Here is a suggested order of keys:

1. G major, Bb major. *These keys shift to fourth position.*
2. A major, A minor, Ab major. *These keys shift to third position.*
3. G minor, Bb minor.
4. C major, C minor. D major, D minor. *These keys begin in 3rd position.*
5. B major, B minor.
6. G# minor. E major, E minor.
7. Db, Eb, and F major.
8. All remaining keys: F minor. F# major and minor. C# and Eb minor.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | G major | 0210 | 1230 | 1230 | 123–1 | 2341 | 2–123 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | G minor | 4321– | 2143 | 21–32 | 1432 | 1432 | 1021 | (0) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | G# minor <i>(finger pattern follows G major except first 5 notes)</i> | 1321 | 2–234 | 1234 | 123–1 | 2341 | 2–123 | |
| | | 4321– | 2143 | 21–32 | 1432 | 1432– | 2132 | (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ab major | 1321 | 23(0)1 | 23(0)1 | 2–123 | 412–1 | 2–123 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A major | 4321– | 4321 | 4321– | 2143 | 2143 | 2132 | (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A minor | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bb major | 2432 | 3(0)12 | 3012 | 3–123 | 412–1 | 2–123 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bb minor | 4321– | 4321 | 4321– | 3214 | 3214 | 3243 | (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B major | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B minor | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C major <i>(starts in 3rd position)</i> | 1321 | 2341 | 2341 | 2341 | 2–12–1 | 2–123 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C minor | 4321– | 321–3 | 2143 | 2143 | 2143 | 2132 | (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C# minor | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Db major <i>(starts in 3rd position)</i> | 2432 | 3412 | 3412 | 3412– | 12–12– | 1234– | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D major | 4–432 | 1–321– | 3214 | 3214 | 3214 | 3243 | (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D minor | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eb major | 1321 | 2341 | 23–12 | 3412– | 12–12– | 1234– | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eb minor | 4–432 | 1–321– | 3214 | 321–3 | 2143 | 2132 | (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E major | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E minor | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F major | 2432 | 3(0)12– | 1234 | 12–12– | 12–12– | 1234– | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F minor | 4–432 | 1–321– | 321–2 | 1432 | 1–214 | 3243 | (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F# major | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F# minor | | | | | | | |