

## MASTERING

## THE SCALES

 AND ARPEGGIOS
# SCALES 

## for

## ZITHER



KING KEYES



THE ASCENDING C MAJOR SCALE ON THE FINGERBOARD

1. Place the second finger down on the $G$ string at the fifth fret at "middle C ". Remember to let the weight of your arm do most of the work.
2. Pick the $G$ string downward and at an angle and let the pick rest against the C string. Don't lift your thumb up in the air: there's nothing up there to pick! 3. Place the thumb down on the note $D$ which is two frets above C. Just drop the thumb - it should fall on its side. DON'T LIFT THE FINGER ON C. Pick, and let the pick rest against the $C$ string.
3. LEAVE THE C AND D FINGERS DOWN, and place the fourth finger on E. Just as you pick it, release the thumb on the note D. THE FINGERS ON C AND E REMAIN DOWN.
4. Place finger on $F$ and pick it. DON'T LIFT THE FINGERS ON C, E, AND F.
5. Place the second finger on $G$ and pick it. THE FINGERS ON E, F, AND G SHOULD
all Remain down.
6. Place the thumb on $A$ at the seventh fret and pick it. THE FINGERS ON E, $F, G$, AND A SHOULD ALL STAY DOWN.
$\overline{8}$. Lift the fourth finger from the $E$ and place it on $B$ on the inside a string, lifting the thumb on $A$ at the same time you pick B. FINGERS ON F, G, AND B SHOULD BE DOWN. 9. Lift the third finger on the F and place on C and pick it. NOW $G$, B , AND C FINGERS ARE DOWN.

## THE DESCENDING C MAJOR SCALE

1. REMEMBER G, B, AND C FINGERS ARE STILLL DOWN.
2. Pick $C$ and lift.
3. Pick B, WHICH IS ALREADY DOWN, AND HOLD DOWN. THE G SHOULD ALSO BE DOWN.
4. Play A with the thumb and lift.
5. Play G, WHICH IS ALREADY DOWN.
6. Lift $G$ and play $F$. When you play this, lift the $B$ to be ready to play the E.
7. Play E and LEAVE YOUR FINGER DOWN AS A PIVOT.
8. Play D with the thumb. THE E SHOULD STILL BE DOWN. It is dampened by the side of the left thumb.
9. Lift D and play "middle C". THE FOURTH FINGER SHOULD STILL BE ON E.

I realize this all sounds like a lot, but it is more difficult to write it or to read it than it is to play it! And remember, you are not just practicing a $C$ scale, you are learning valuable technic which are used in all scales and in playing pieces as well.


FIRST STAGE

1) Hold down!
2) Don't play a note unless you're sure it's the right one.
3) Play as slow as you have to without making any mistakes.
4) Thumb pick should rest on the next lowest string.
5) Keep your left thumb over the fingerboard at the 7 th fret.
6) Listen carefully to each note and play all notes at the same volume.
7) Do not use vibrato.
8) When you can do all of the above, set your metronome to about $0=66 \mathrm{MM}$ playing now in perfect mechanical time. When you can do this for a week, up the time to two notch intervals. Increase speed gradually to $0=208 \mathrm{Mm}$.

If you start making mistakes, you're trying to progress too rapidly. Slow it down.


## TEMPO - (TIME)



When you reach this level, you should be able to play a C scale perfectly. But you are not yet playing a scale musically: music is not mechanical. But to play with feeling, you must first be able to play, and hear the difference between fast and slow tempos.

SECOND STAGE

After you have mastered the FIRST STAGE, you can now add color to your scales by increasing your volume (crescendo) ~, and decreasing your volume (diminuendo) $\equiv$ —.

As a general rule, ascending passages in music get louder and descending passages get softer. To emphasize this, we will now play the two octave $C$ major scale starting very soft ( $p p$ ) and ending with the top $C$ played very loud (ff). Coming down, the top $C$ will be played ff and the bottom $C$ will be played pp. The middle $C$ will be played at exactly half the volume of the two extremes (p). All notes played will be just slightly louder or softer than their neighbors -- listen carefully to your playing.

## DESCENDING

C DEFGABCDEFGABCBAGEDDCBAGFEDC

| pp | mp | p | mf | f | ff f | mf | p | mp | pp |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| very | med. | soft | med. loud | very |  |  |  |  |  |
| soft | soft |  | loud |  | loud |  |  |  |  |

First practice without the metronome, then with it. Start at about $0=60 \mathrm{MM}$ and gradually, by two notch increments, increase to circa $o=208 \mathrm{MM}$. Notice the dynamics (gradations in volume of sound) markings and try to remember their appropriate volumes.

It,s very important to make haste slowly. I strongly urge you not to enter this stage until you've perfected stages one and two.

I think it might be in order now to recapitulate what we have accomplished so far.

1) First, we learned how to play a two octave $C$ major scale, ascending and descending, using proper fingering and holding the fingers down. Then we added the metronome; first playing very slow and increasing the tempo to very fast.
2) In the second stage, we added DYNAMICS, and learned to hear the many differences between $p p$ and $f f$. Again, we played very slow to very fast using, by now our friend, the metronome.

In this third and final stage we will learn to speed up (accelerando) and to slow down (ritardando). We will only use the metronome to establish in our memories the slowest ( $d=60 \mathrm{MM}$ ) and fastest $(d=208)$ speeds. Generally, as we ascend a passage of music we get faster and descending we get slower.

Now, the ultimate -- we add our dynamics again and we're playing real music!

## SCALES BY PATTERNS ON THE FINGERBOARD

Play the tonic (1st note of the scale) with the 4 th finger and follow the patterns below.


On the $C$ and $G$ strings the patterns are the same.

On the D and A strings the patterns are the same except on the A string you play only 3 notes, because the last note is the tonic.

(The outside A string is not used in these scales.)

## HOW TO PLAY SCALES BY PATTERNS

1. Notice the 1st, 3rd, and 4th fingers always play at the same fret; the second finger plays at two different frets.
2. Be sure you're sitting properly in front of your instrument before you start to play, and the 4 th and lst fingers are over the scale notes. Then you simply drop the correct fingers to play the scales.
3. When you play a scale always hold the 4th finger down on the string while playing the 3rd finger, and hold 4 th and 3 rd fingers down while playing the second finger, and all three fingers down while playing the thumb. Tken, when you start on the next highest string, hold the thumb down on the lower string until you've played the 4 th finger on the new string.
4. Now play the G major scale which follows. At the asterisk where you use the thumb, hold the 2nd finger against the thumb and make the vibrato with the $2 n d$ finger.
5. In measure 5, be sure to hold fingers down as indicated. This enables you to play over the pairs of 2 strings in measure 6 when descending。.
6. Name each note of the scale aloud while playing.

> G MAJOR SCALE IN TWO OCTAVES

$\downarrow=80+?$


Following, are the twelve major scales, using the patterns I have just given. A metronome can be used to advantage here。 Start at around $=80$, or slower if you're hiting too many klinkers. And be sure, especially in measure 5, to hold down fingers: measures 5 and 6 should be very legato.

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"MAKING MISTAKES IN PRACTICE IS IN MOST CASES AN ENTIRELY AVOIDABLE HABIT, OFTEN RESULTING FROM NOT CHECKING THE MATTER AT THE VERY START." OLGA SAMAROFF

This double $C$ scale is in the seventh position. It is designed with shifting accents; notes which are usually not accented.

First get the fingering right and memorize it if possible. Then start real slow and count out loud while watching your fingers.

Add the metronome and increase the tempo by two notch increments to a tempo which is comfortable for you.


## THE BASS CLEF

I know a lot of you prefer to read the open strings in the treble clef, and that's o.K. But I prefer the bass clef for the free strings. We should all know both since approximately $50 \%$ of the zither music we read is in the bass clef. I know this because I went through 400 pieces of published zither music to find out.

Bass clef readers can also read the treble clef, but treble clef readers don't always read bass clef. For this reason, I have included a mini-1esson on the bass clef.


To start, we simply start with some point or note.

1. First the bass clef is also called the $F$ clef. The large circle is on the line $F$, and the two small dots surround this line.
2. Know your C's: 1) one line above the staff is middle C, 2) two spaces up from the bottom of the staff is bass C. 3) two 1 ines below the bass staff is contra bass $C$.

Now have fun with the accompaniment and bass strings. Each measure spells out a word.

## SPELL WORDS

## ACCOMPANIMENT STRINGS (1-12)




HALF SCALE RUNS IN EIGHT MAJOR KEYS

The first three scales are especilly helpful in strengthing the little finger: and the fingering is the same。 Just remember, if your little finger gets sore, you're making progress!


[^0]

$\begin{array}{lllllllll}C \text { major } & 4 & 5 & 5 & 4 & 2 & 4 & 5 & 5\end{array}$


## GREEK MODAL SCALES

These ancient scales came from ancient Greek tribes. Only two of them have withheld the test of time. The IONIAN scale, which we are all familiar with, and the AEOLIAN scale, the natural minor scale. The others are interesting and we hear them occasionally for background mood music for T.V. and motion pictures.

"DURING THE FIRST FIVE YEARS THE BACKBONE OF ALL THE DAILY WORK IN RUSSIAN MUSIC SCHOOLS IS SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS. THE PUPIL WHO ATTEMPTED COMPLICATED PIECES WITHOUT THIS PRELIMINARY DRILL WOULD BE LAUGHED AT IN RUSSIA." JOSEPH LHEVINNE



We often see octaves written for the fingerboard and it is a nice change. But we don't often see them written for the free strings.

We can take accompaniment runs and, if the music is slow enough, play them in octaves--they make a delightful change.

I know some teachers use complicated fingering for octaves, but I find the fourth and second fingers work well. Just learn to hold these fingers stiff moving from one octave to another.


## BROKEN CHORDS ON MAJOR TRIADS

To me, there are few things more irrating than broxen chords played badly. Keep the "and" beats very light. These "and" counts are almost always played on a single string. Furthermore, these notes are usually members of the harmony which lend the least amount of importance. In the key of $C$, for example, the note $G$, the 5 th of the Tgnic chord, is played on the "and" counts, and when we change to the V chord (G7), the "and" counts are still G, which is now the root of the chord。

Because of the repetition of this note in the $I$ chord and the $v^{7}$ chord, if it is not played softly it begins to grate on the nerves.

These same considerations also hold true in the minor keys which are introduced on page 18 .




"THE PLAYER SHOULD KNOW HOW TO LISTEN PROPERLY TO HIMSELF, AND TO JUDGE OF HIS OWN PERFORMANCE WITH ACCURACY." CZERNY

## BROKEN DOMINANT SEVENTH CHORDS

(Don't forget to keep the "ands" pp!)


> "WHEN AN ARTIST HAS BEEN ABLE TO SAY, "I CAME, I SAW, I CONQUERED," IT HAS BEEN AT THE END OF PATIENT PRACTICE. " GEORGE ELIOT

## ARPEGGIOS ON THE MAJOR TRIADS (4+3)

 INFLECTION AND GRAMMATICAL PAUSES." CHARLES LANDON

"NO PASSAGE THAT HAS BEEN BADLY PLAYED SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS SUFFICIENTLY PRACTICED WHEN DONE ONCE OR TWICE RIGHT: SIX SUCCESSIVE TIMES, WITHOUT ERROR, IS THE LEAST THAT CAN BE DEPENDED ON." BURROWES

$$
\text { MAJOR ADDED SIXTH ARPEGGIOS }(4+3+2)
$$



G6



$$
\mathrm{C}^{\mathrm{O}_{7}-\mathrm{Eb}^{\mathrm{O}} 7 \cdot \mathrm{FH}^{\mathrm{O}} 7-\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{O}_{7}} 7}
$$



MAJOR ARPEGGIOS (4+3)


G


The lines drawn over the bass notes in all of these exercises indicate you're to play every other string going in the same direction.

Practice the treble and bass separately--then together.
You'll notice I've used only whole notes in these excerises. This means take your time. Later you can put your own rhythm to it.

## MAJOR SCALES IN OCTAVES



"FEW ARTISTS REALIZE THE BEAUTY OF A PERFECTLY PLAYED SCALE AND TOO FEW TEACHERS INSIST UPON IT.: S. STOJOWSKI



MAJOR SCALES IN TENTHS




"ONE FAULT WHICH CANNOT BE TOO STRONGLY GUARDED AGAINST IS TO PLAY THE EASY PASSAGES OF A WORK AS FREQUENTLY AS THE DIFFICULT ONES: THIS IS NOT ONLY A WASTE OF TIME, BUT PREJUDICIAL TO TRUE MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT." LOUIS PLAIDY


"PRACTICE SCALES EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE." WM SHERWOOD

NATURAL MINOR SCALES IN OCTAVES




[^1]NATURAL MINOR SCALES IN SIXTHS


"DO YOU ASK ME HOW GOOD A PLAYER YOU MAY BECOME? THEN TELL
BE HOW MUCH YOU PRACTICE THE SCALES. " CARL CZERNY

## NATURAL MINOR SCALES IN TENTHS


$36$


38

G min; | C |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | 1 | G | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |


HARMONIC MINOR SCALES IN OCTAVES



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"I PLAY ALL THE SCALES IN DIFFERENT FORMS IN ALL KEYS ONCE A DAY." PEPITO ARRIOLA
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[^2]

HARMONIC MINOR SCALES IN TENTHS


"STRIVE TO PLAY EASY PIECES WELL AND BEAUTIFULLY: IT IS BETTER THAN TO RENDER HARDER PIECES ONLY INDIFFERENTLY WELL. " SCHUMANN


## HARMONIC MINOR SCALES IN CONTRARY MOTION

| A min. | $\left.\begin{array}{lllll}\text { G } \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 & \mathrm{D} \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1\end{array}\right]$ |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Amin.



Gmin.



"THINK MORE OF YOUR OWN PROGRESS THAN OF THE OPINION OF OTHERS." MENDELSSOHN

MELODIC MINOR SCALES IN SIXTHS



## MELODIC MINOR SCALES IN TENTHS




MELODIC MINOR SCALES IN CONTRARY MOTION




[^0]:    "HE WHO SETS LIMITS TO HIMSELF WILL ALWAYS BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN WITHIN THEM." SCHUMANN

[^1]:    "WE MUST EVER STRIVE AFTER THE HIGHEST, AND NEVER WEARY BECAUSE OTHERS HAVE EARLIER ATTAINED THE GOOD TO WHICH WE ASPIRE." MENDELSSOHN

[^2]:    "EVERY DIFFICULTY SLURRED OVER WILL BE A GHOST TO DISTURB YOUR REPOSE LATER ON." CHOPIN

