

# Scale & Arpeggio Fingerings for Piano

Rules and tricks for remembering the fingerings for two octave scales and arpeggios on the piano.

## Major Scale Groups

### Group 1: C, G, D, A, E

3<sup>rd</sup> finger in each hand always plays together.  
Both thumbs play at the octave.

### Oddball: F

F is like C, but the RH goes 1234 123 1234 1234.

### Group 2: D $\flat$ /C $\sharp$ , G $\flat$ /F $\sharp$ , B/C $\flat$

Black key 2's: use fingers 2 and 3.  
Black key 3's: use fingers 2, 3, and 4.  
Thumbs on white keys.

### Group 3: B $\flat$ , E $\flat$ , A $\flat$

RH: follows the rule for Group 2 scales; also, 4<sup>th</sup> finger always on B $\flat$ .

LH: 321 4321 321 4321 3(2)

## Minor Scale Groups

### Natural and Harmonic:

#### Group 1: Cm, Gm, Dm, Am, Em

3<sup>rd</sup> fingers always play together.  
Fingering is the *same* as the *parallel* major.

#### Group 2: Fm, B $\flat$ /A $\sharp$ m, E $\flat$ /D $\sharp$ m, G $\sharp$ /A $\flat$ m (natural only), Bm

Black key 2's: use fingers 2 and 3.  
Black key 3's: use fingers 2, 3, and 4.  
Fingering is *similar* to the *relative* major.

#### Oddball: G $\sharp$ /A $\flat$ m (harmonic only)

RH is normal.  
LH: 321 4321 321 4321 3(2)

#### Group 3: F $\sharp$ m, C $\sharp$ m

3<sup>rd</sup> fingers always play together.  
Fingering is similar to relative major.  
LH: Follows rule of Group 2 above.  
RH: 34 123 1234 123 123

### Melodic:

All melodic minor scales follow the same rules/fingerings as the above, with these exceptions:

#### F $\sharp$ m, C $\sharp$ m

RH descending only: 321 321 4321 321 43.  
For F $\sharp$ m, 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers no longer play together.

#### G $\sharp$ m

LH ascending is like harmonic: 321 4321 321 4321 3  
LH descending only: 34 123 1234 123 123.

## Major Arpeggio Groups

### Group 1: C, G, F (all white keys)

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

### Group 2: D, A, E, B/C $\flat$ (white-black-white) plus G $\flat$ /F $\sharp$ (all black).

RH 123 1235  
LH 5321 321

### Group 3: E $\flat$ , A $\flat$ , D $\flat$ /C $\sharp$ , (black-white-black) plus B $\flat$ \* (black-white-white).

RH 2 124 124  
LH 21 421 42

No thumbs on black keys!

\*Alternate fingering for B $\flat$ :

RH 23 123 12  
LH 321 321 3

## Minor Arpeggio Groups

### Group 1: Am, Em, Dm, (all white) plus Bm (white-white-black)

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

### Group 2: Gm, Cm, Fm (white-black-white) plus E $\flat$ /D $\sharp$ m (all black).

Fingering is same as Group 1.

### Group 3: F $\sharp$ m, C $\sharp$ m, G $\sharp$ /A $\flat$ m, (black-white-black).

RH 2 124 124  
LH 21 421 42

### Oddball: B $\flat$ /A $\sharp$ m (black-black-white).

RH 23 123 12  
LH 321 321 2

**Order of Sharps:** F C G D A E B (fat cats go down alleys eating bugs).

**Order of Flats:** B E A D G C F ("bead" then G C F; or, the order of sharps but backwards).

# Appendix: Scale & Arpeggio Fingerings for Piano

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*A full list of fingerings for two octave scales and arpeggios on the piano.*

## Major Scale Fingerings

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### Key Signatures with Sharps:

C has no sharps or flats in its key signature.

RH 123 1234 123 12345

LH 54321 321 4321 321

G has one sharp (F).

RH 123 1234 123 12345

LH 54321 321 4321 321

D has two sharps (F C).

RH 123 1234 123 12345

LH 54321 321 4321 321

A has three sharps (F C G).

RH 123 1234 123 12345

LH 54321 321 4321 321

E has four sharps (F C G D).

RH 123 1234 123 12345

LH 54321 321 4321 321

B has five sharps (F C G D A).

RH 123 1234 123 12345

LH 4321 4321 321 4321

F# has six sharps (F C G D A E). See G $\flat$  major.

C# has seven sharps (F C G D A E B). See D $\flat$  major.

### Key Signatures with Flats:

F has one flat (B).

RH 1234 123 1234 1234

LH 54321 321 4321 321

B $\flat$  has two flats (B E).

RH 2 123 1234 123 1234

LH 321 4321 321 4321 2

E $\flat$  has three flats (B E A).

RH 2 1234 123 1234 123

LH 321 4321 321 4321 2

A $\flat$  has four flats (B E A D).

RH 23 123 1234 123 123

LH 321 4321 321 4321 2

D $\flat$  has five flats (B E A D G).

RH 34 1234 123 1234 12

LH 321 4321 321 4321 2

G $\flat$  has six flats (B E A D G C).

RH 234 123 1234 123 12

LH 4321 321 4321 321 2

C $\flat$  has seven flats (B E A D G C F). See B major.

## Major Arpeggio Fingerings

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### Key Signatures with Sharps:

C has no sharps or flats.

RH 123 1235

LH 5421 421

G has one sharp (F).

RH 123 1235

LH 5421 421

D has two sharps (F C).

RH 123 1235

LH 5321 321

A has three sharps (F C G).

RH 123 1235

LH 5321 321

E has four sharps (F C G D).

RH 123 1235

LH 5321 321

B has five sharps (F C G D A).

RH 123 1235

LH 5321 321

F# has six sharps (F C G D A E). See G $\flat$  major.

C# has seven sharps (F C G D A E B). See D $\flat$  major.

### Key Signatures with Flats:

F has one flat (B).

RH 123 1235

LH 5421 421

B $\flat$  has two flats (B E).

RH 2 124 124 or RH 23 123 12

LH 21 421 42 LH 321 321 3

E $\flat$  has three flats (B E A).

RH 2 124 124

LH 21 421 42

A $\flat$  has four flats (B E A D).

RH 2 124 124

LH 21 421 42

D $\flat$  has five flats (B E A D G).

RH 2 124 124

LH 21 421 42

G $\flat$  has six flats (B E A D G C).

RH 123 1235

LH 5321 321

C $\flat$  has seven flats (B E A D G C F). See B major.

## Harmonic Minor Scale Fingerings

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### Key Signatures with Sharps:

Am has no sharps or flats except the G# leading tone (LT).

RH 123 1234 123 12345  
LH 54321 321 4321 321

Em has one sharp (F) plus a D# LT.

RH 123 1234 123 12345  
LH 54321 321 4321 321

Bm has two sharps (F C) plus an A# LT.

RH 123 1234 123 12345  
LH 4321 4321 321 4321

F#m has three sharps (F C G) plus an E# LT.

RH 34 123 1234 123 123  
LH 4321 321 4321 321 2

C#m has four sharps (F C G D) plus a B# LT.

RH 34 123 1234 123 123  
LH 321 4321 321 4321 2

G#m has five sharps (F C G D A) plus an F\* LT.

RH 34 123 1234 123 123  
LH 321 4321 321 4321 2

D#m has six sharps (F C G D A E) plus a C\* LT. See E♭ minor.

A#m has seven sharps (F C G D A E B) plus a G\* LT. See B♭ minor.

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### Key Signatures with Flats:

Dm has one flat (B) plus a C# leading tone.

RH 123 1234 123 12345  
LH 54321 321 4321 321

Gm has two flats (B E) plus an F# LT.

RH 123 1234 123 12345  
LH 54321 321 4321 321

Cm has three flats (B E A) plus a B♯ LT.

RH 123 1234 123 12345  
LH 54321 321 4321 321

Fm has four flats (B E A D) plus an E♯ LT.

RH 1234 123 1234 1234  
LH 54321 321 4321 321

B♭m has five flats (B E A D G) plus an A♯ LT.

RH 2 123 1234 123 1234  
LH 21 321 4321 321 432

E♭m has six flats (B E A D G C) plus a D♯ LT.

RH 3 1234 123 1234 123  
LH 21 4321 321 4321 32

A♭m has seven flats (B E A D G C F) plus a G♯ LT. See G# minor.

## Minor Arpeggio Fingerings

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### Key Signatures with Sharps:

Am has no sharps or flats.

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

Em has one sharp (F).

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

Bm has two sharps (F C).

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

F#m has three sharps (F C G).

RH 2 124 124  
LH 21 421 42

C#m has four sharps (F C G D).

RH 2 124 124  
LH 21 421 42

G#m has five sharps (F C G D A).

RH 2 124 124  
LH 21 421 42

D#m has six sharps (F C G D A E). See E♭ minor.

A#m has seven sharps (F C G D A E B). See B♭ minor.

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### Key Signatures with Flats:

Dm has one flat (B).

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

Gm has two flats (B E).

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

Cm has three flats (B E A).

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

Fm has four flats (B E A D).

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

B♭m has five flats (B E A D G).

RH 23 123 12  
LH 321 321 2

E♭m has six flats (B E A D G C).

RH 123 1235  
LH 5421 421

A♭m has seven flats (B E A D G C F). See G# minor.