

# Scale and Arpeggio Fundamentals

Use these examples to compare parallel major and minor scales and arpeggios. (Parallel major and minor keys have the same tonic, e.g., C major and C minor. Relative major and minor keys have the same key signature, e.g., C major and A minor.)

- Practice and memorize each in 1st position to become familiar with the fingering patterns when beginning on an open string (or 4th finger), 1st finger, 2nd finger, and 3rd finger. Learn the scales and arpeggios using 4th fingers as well as as open strings.

- Then practice each in 2nd position, 3rd position, and 4th position, recalling the memorized fingering pattern for the finger on which you are beginning. Note: The fingering in 5th position would be the same as 1st position, but one string lower.

- To exercise your memory, practice scales and arpeggios in keys other than those given here, beginning on each finger.

- Always listen intently for resonant pitches (notes that should resonate with an open string), and anticipate the pattern of fingering for each string, paying particular attention to the location of half steps. **Insist on beautiful intonation in every position!**

- Do not lift fingers unnecessarily! Whenever possible, leave fingers on the string and close to the string for smooth string crossings and efficient technique, and to develop a clear sense of interval size (especially in arpeggios).

- Minor scales are given here in their **melodic minor form**, with accidentals above the staff to indicate the harmonic minor form. Practice both, even though melodic minor is more commonly encountered.

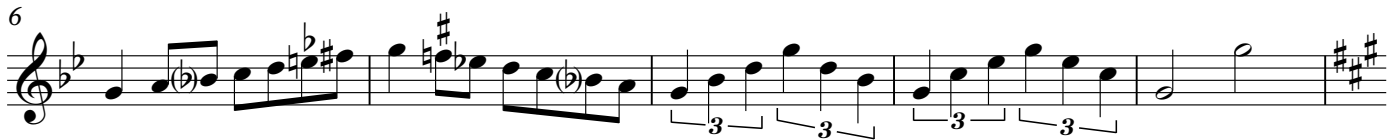
- A hint for fingering in different positions:

In odd-numbered positions (e.g., 1st and 3rd), notes on staff lines are played with fingers 1 and 3.

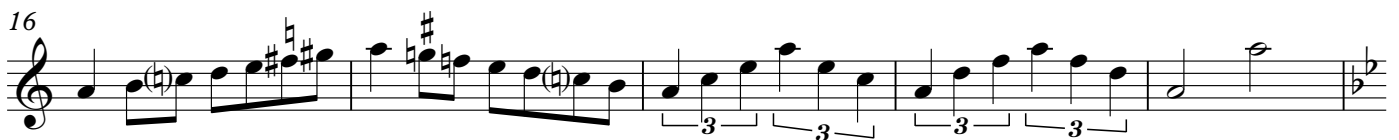
In even-numbered positions (e.g., 2nd and 4th), notes on staff lines are played with fingers 2 and 4.

Your goal should be to become equally fluent in all positions; do not avoid any of them!

## G Major and Minor



## A Major and Minor



## B flat Major and Minor



## C Major and Minor

