

Clarinet Scales and Arpeggios Grade 1

What is a scale?

Simply put a scale is a collection of notes Ascending (going up) and Descending (going down) in alphabetical order in a given key.

What does in a given key mean?

It means we may have to add sharps or flats to our scale to make it sound right!

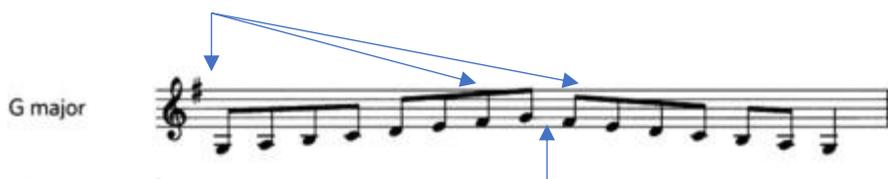
Scales are the basis of western music and help us to create melodies.

Why do we need to practice scales?

Practicing scales helps us to develop good finger technique and fluent playing.

There are lots of different types of scales but for grade 1 we are just going to learn about Major and Minor scales.

Broadly speaking music in a major key sounds happy and music in a minor key sounds sad.



Lets learn our first scale.

Breath here

G Major has one sharp in the key signature which is F#

F# = First finger only NO THUMB

You will notice that the scale starts on G and then runs alphabetically up to the next G ie. G A B C D E F# G and back down in reverse order G F# E D C B A G

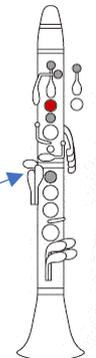
It is important that you play the notes slowly and evenly .

Gently tongue each note.



Try not to take a breath until you reach the top G and then again at the end.

Now try to slur the notes (play all in one breath – no tonguing) from G up to G and from F back down to G.



Remember that the F is always # in a G major scale.

For every scale there is an arpeggio.

Arpeggios are made up of the 1st the 3rd the 5th and the 8th note of the scale.

G major arpeggio looks like this.



G 1st B 3rd D 5th G 8th D 5th B 3rd G 1st

Tongue each note gently keeping them even.

Now try to slur the arpeggio – try to do it all in one breath.

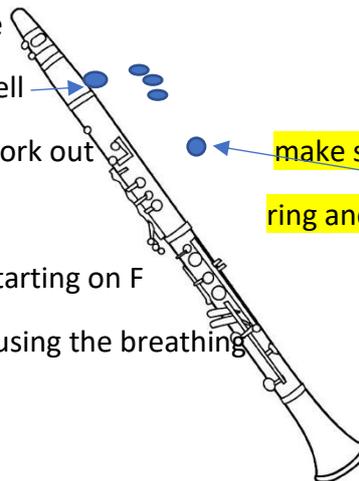


Now lets try F major

F Major has one flat which is Bb

Bb is played as shown – remember to cover the

thumb hole as well



The scale starts and ends on F can you read / work out the notes in between?

Remember they are in alphabetical order but starting on F

Try to play the scale both tongued and slurred using the breathing

Pattern we used for G major.

The F major arpeggio looks like this.



Remember the arpeggio only uses the 1st the 3rd the 5th and the 8th notes of the scale.

Can you work out the notes for your self this time?

The final scale to learn for grade 1 is A minor.

Minor scales have a very distinctive sound.

There are 3 types of minor scale you could choose from but for now we are only going to focus on the **Harmonic minor**.

Harmonic minors can be recognised by the raised 7th (in this case we have a G# as the 7th note) and the minor 3rd, you will be able to hear the difference as soon as you play it.



G# is played by pressing the side key shown

You **do not need** to cover any holes.

Try to press the key with the second joint of your index finger rather than the tip.

This will help you to keep your hands in a good position and to play smoothly.



on the diagram.



Its easy to remember the order of the notes for this one because it starts and ends on A.

Just remember the G# and you will be fine.



The A minor arpeggio is written below.

Just like the major arpeggios it used the 1st the 3rd the 5th and the 8th notes of the scale.

Practice your scales as often as you can.

If you are working towards your grade 1 you will need to learn all of the scales and arpeggios mentioned from memory.

Its probably best to learn them from the music first then try to learn one at a time from memory.

Remember practice not only makes perfect it also makes permanent.

Make sure you are careful and accurate in your playing at all times.