

## Scales and Scale Patterns Handout

To help you use your fingers to generate good musical time/rhythm, keep in mind this checklist:

1. Always move your fingers as lightly and quickly as possible when changing from one note to the next
2. Even at a slow tempo, the instant of changing from one note to the next needs to be lightning fast and rhythmic
3. Don't "slam" the keys when pressing them down; this can cause hand pain & "key click" noises
4. Focus on moving your fingers quickly/lightly to coordinate multiple fingers across both hands when changing notes
5. For difficult/awkward intervals, isolate them and practice going back and forth between those two notes only
6. Don't stress too much about keeping your fingers super close to the keys, focus on moving them rhythmically
7. When lifting fingers off of keys, imagine you're flicking tiny water droplets off of the tips of your fingernails
8. Keep your hands and fingers relaxed and gently rounded at all times
9. Always practice all of your technique exercises 100% slurred only first, then try adding different articulations
10. Always practice all technique exercises with a metronome at first, and then wean yourself off of the metronome
11. Always practice your technical exercises using both a straight-8th-note and swing 8th-note feel
12. Change up the rhythms you use to spice up your scale practicing and keep yourself challenged and interested
13. Practice these patterns with different *types* of scales (major, melodic/harmonic minor, diminished, chromatic, etc.)

### Basic 1-Octave Scale Patterns: "Classical" vs. "Jazz" (G Major)

"Classical" Scale Exercise (straight 8th-notes):

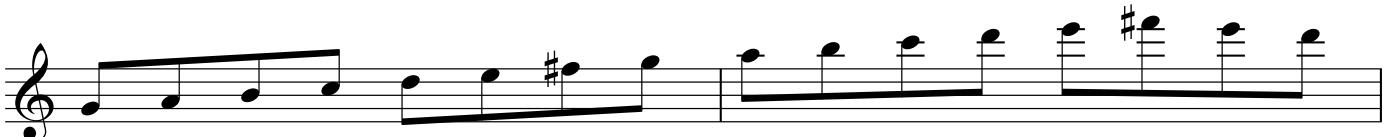


Classic "Jazz" Scale Exercise (swung 8th-notes, up to the 9th):



### Example "Full Range" Major Scale (G Major)

(Start on the root; ascend to your highest possible note in that key; turnaround and descend to the lowest possible note within the key; then change direction again and ascend back to the root of the scale)



**Scale Exercise Strategy: Break up Scales into 3-note, 4-note, and 5-note Groupings (G major)**  
(Note how the patterns flip around/change direction after hitting the highest note within the key center while staying within the normal range of the saxophone)

3-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-note triplets):

The image shows four staves of musical notation for G major scales using 3-note groupings. Each staff is in G major (one sharp) and consists of 16 measures. Measures 1-8 are in 8th-note triplets, starting with a quarter note. Measures 9-16 are in 8th-note triplets, starting with an eighth note. The first staff uses a treble clef, the second staff uses a bass clef, the third staff uses a treble clef, and the fourth staff uses a bass clef. Measures are grouped by vertical bar lines. Horizontal bar lines divide each measure into three groups of two notes each, indicated by the number '3' below the staff.

3-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-notes):

The image shows four staves of musical notation for G major scales using 3-note groupings. Each staff is in G major (one sharp) and consists of 16 measures. Measures 1-8 are in 8th-note triplets, starting with a quarter note. Measures 9-16 are in 8th-note triplets, starting with an eighth note. The first staff uses a treble clef, the second staff uses a bass clef, the third staff uses a treble clef, and the fourth staff uses a bass clef. Measures are grouped by vertical bar lines. Horizontal bar lines divide each measure into three groups of three notes each, indicated by the number '3' below the staff.

4-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-notes):

The image displays three staves of musical notation. Each staff consists of five horizontal lines. The first two staves are in common time (indicated by a 'C') and the third is in 2/4 time (indicated by a '2'). The notation uses eighth notes (short vertical stems) and sixteenth notes (short vertical stems with a small diagonal stroke). The first staff shows a sequence of eighth notes followed by sixteenth notes. The second staff continues this pattern with some variations in note grouping. The third staff begins with a single eighth note, followed by a series of sixteenth notes.

4-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-note triplets):

The image displays five staves of musical notation. Each staff consists of five horizontal lines. The notation uses eighth notes (short vertical stems) and sixteenth notes (short vertical stems with a small diagonal stroke). The first staff is in common time (C) and features eighth-note triplets, indicated by a '3' above each group of three notes. The second staff is also in common time (C) and shows a similar pattern of eighth-note triplets. The third staff is in 2/4 time (2) and contains eighth-note triplets. The fourth staff is in common time (C) and the fifth staff is in 2/4 time (2), both featuring eighth-note triplets. The notation is primarily composed of eighth notes, with sixteenth notes used to define the groups of four within the triplets.

5-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-notes; *also try to do his pattern in 8th-note-triplets, following the models used above for 3-note and 4-note groupings*):

The image contains five staves of musical notation, each consisting of five horizontal lines. The first staff begins with a quarter note followed by a eighth-note group. The second staff begins with a eighth-note group. The third staff begins with a eighth-note group. The fourth staff begins with a eighth-note group. The fifth staff begins with a eighth-note group.

#### Scale Exercise Strategy: Diatonic 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, and 7ths (Various Keys)

(Note how the patterns flip around/change direction after hitting the highest note within the key center while staying within the normal range of the saxophone)

Diatonic 3rds in D Major, Full Range:

The image contains two staves of musical notation. The first staff begins with a eighth-note group. The second staff begins with a eighth-note group.

Diatonic 4ths in Bb Major, Full Range:

The image contains two staves of musical notation. The first staff begins with a eighth-note group. The second staff begins with a eighth-note group.

Diatonic 5ths in C Major, Full Range:

A musical staff in G clef (soprano) showing a continuous sequence of eighth-note patterns. The notes are primarily on the first, third, and fifth strings, creating a diatonic 5th pattern across the full range of the instrument.

A musical staff in G clef (soprano) showing a continuous sequence of eighth-note patterns. The notes are primarily on the first, second, and fourth strings, creating a diatonic 6th pattern across the full range of the instrument.

Diatonic 6ths in G Major, Full Range:

A musical staff in G clef (soprano) showing a continuous sequence of eighth-note patterns. The notes are primarily on the first, second, and third strings, creating a diatonic 7th pattern across the full range of the instrument.

A musical staff in G clef (soprano) showing a continuous sequence of eighth-note patterns. The notes are primarily on the first, second, and third strings, creating a diatonic 7th pattern across the full range of the instrument.

Diatonic 7th in C Major, Full Range:

A musical staff in G clef (soprano) showing a continuous sequence of eighth-note patterns. The notes are primarily on the first, second, and third strings, creating a diatonic 7th pattern across the full range of the instrument.

A musical staff in G clef (soprano) showing a continuous sequence of eighth-note patterns. The notes are primarily on the first, second, and third strings, creating a diatonic 7th pattern across the full range of the instrument.

### Scale Exercise Strategy: Chromatic Intervals

*Take any interval and play it up and down in half steps; an example using major thirds is below*

(Note how the patterns flip around/change direction after hitting the highest note while staying within the normal range of the saxophone)

A musical staff in G clef (soprano) showing a continuous sequence of eighth-note patterns. The notes are primarily on the first, second, and third strings, creating a diatonic 7th pattern across the full range of the instrument.

A musical staff in G clef (soprano) showing a continuous sequence of eighth-note patterns. The notes are primarily on the first, second, and third strings, creating a diatonic 7th pattern across the full range of the instrument.

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