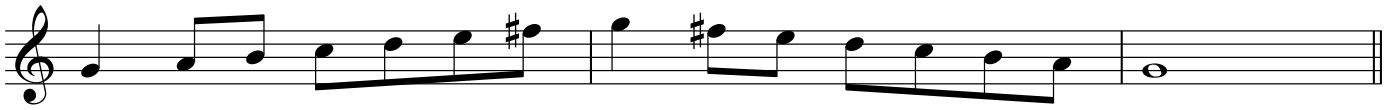
Scales and Scale Patterns Handout

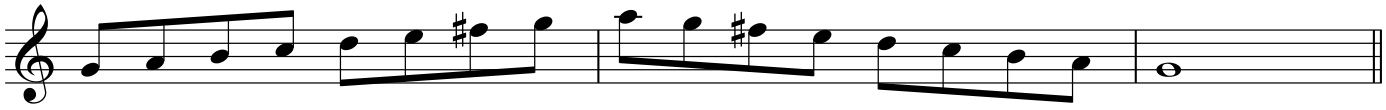
To help you use your fingers to generate good musical time/rhythm, keep in mind this checklist:
1. Always move your fingers as lightly and quickly as possible when changing from one note to the next
2. Even at a slow tempo, the instant of changing from one note to the next needs to be lighting fast and 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):

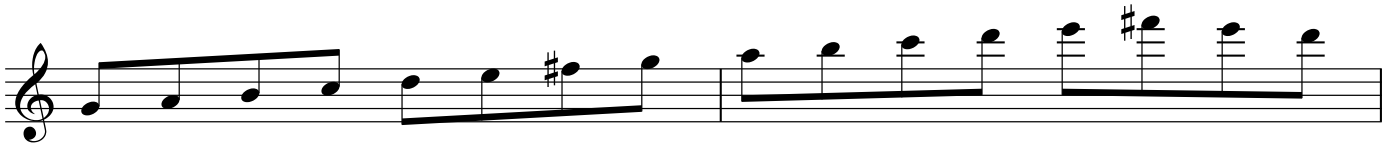


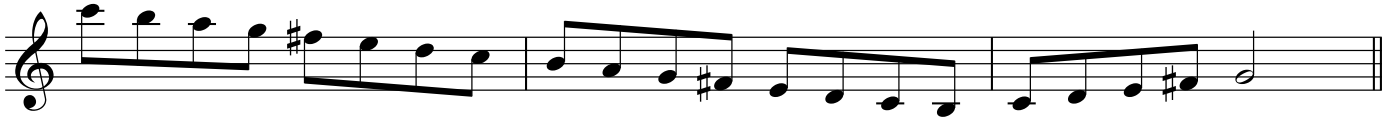
Classic "Jazz" Scale Exercise (swung 8th-notes, up to the 9th):



Example "Full Range" Major Scale (G Major)

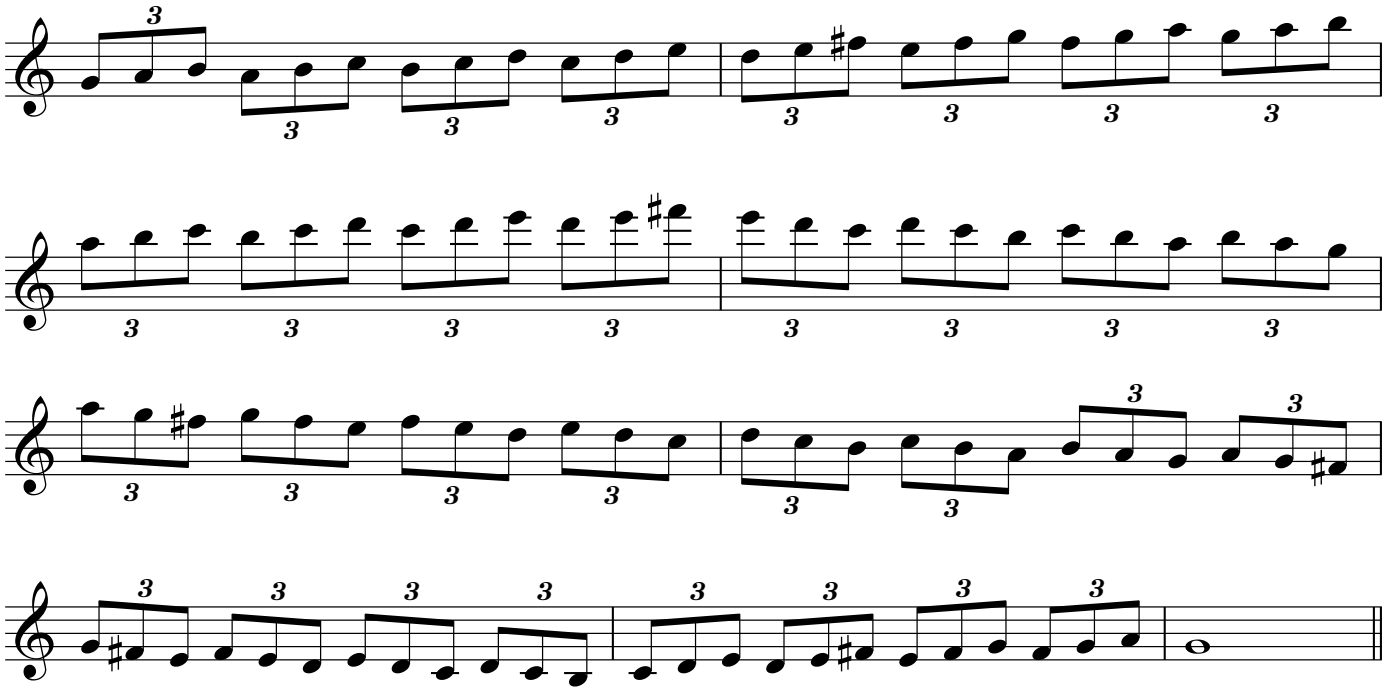
(Start on the root; ascend to your highest possible note in that key; turnaround and descend to the lowest possible note within the key; then chage direction again and ascend back to the root of the scale)



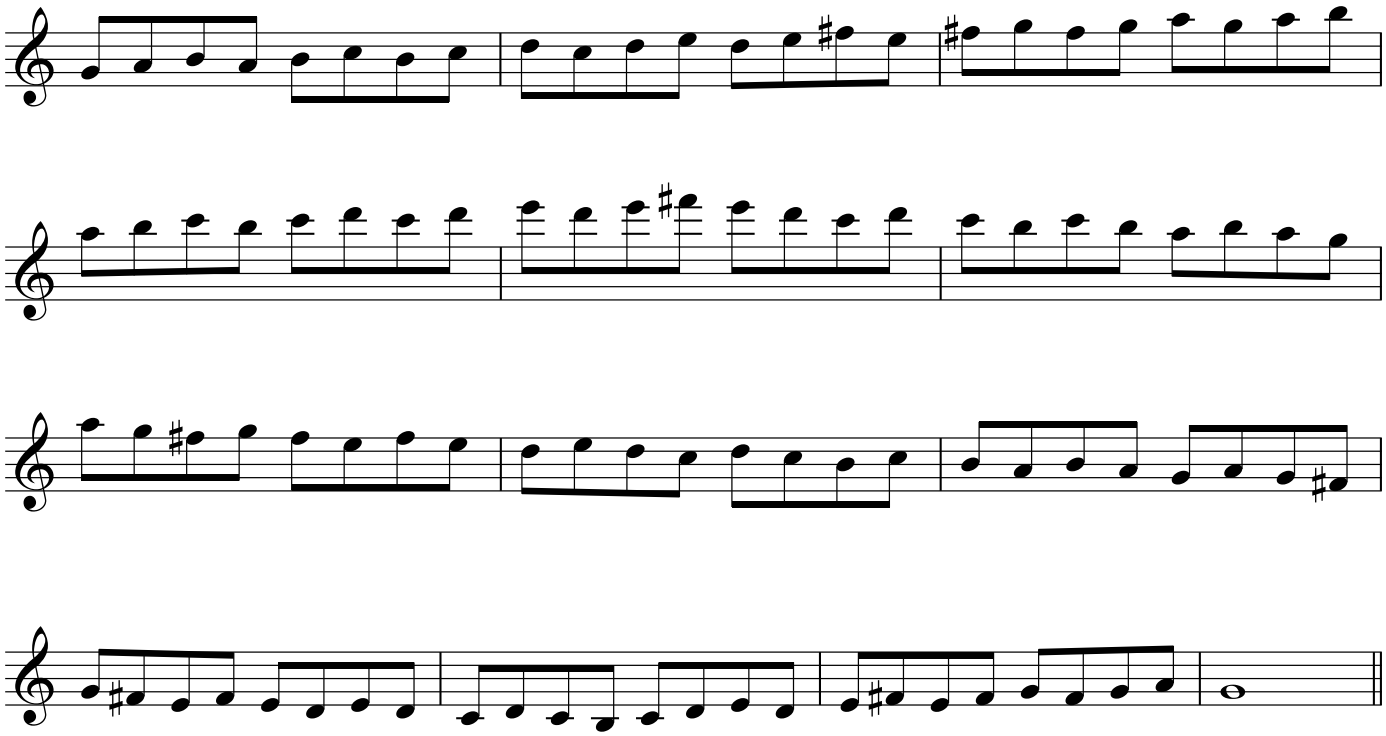


Scale Exercise Strategy: Break up Scales into 3-note, 4-note, and 5-note Groupings (G major)
(Note how the patterns flip around/change direction after hitting the highest note within the key center while staying within the normal range of the saxophone)

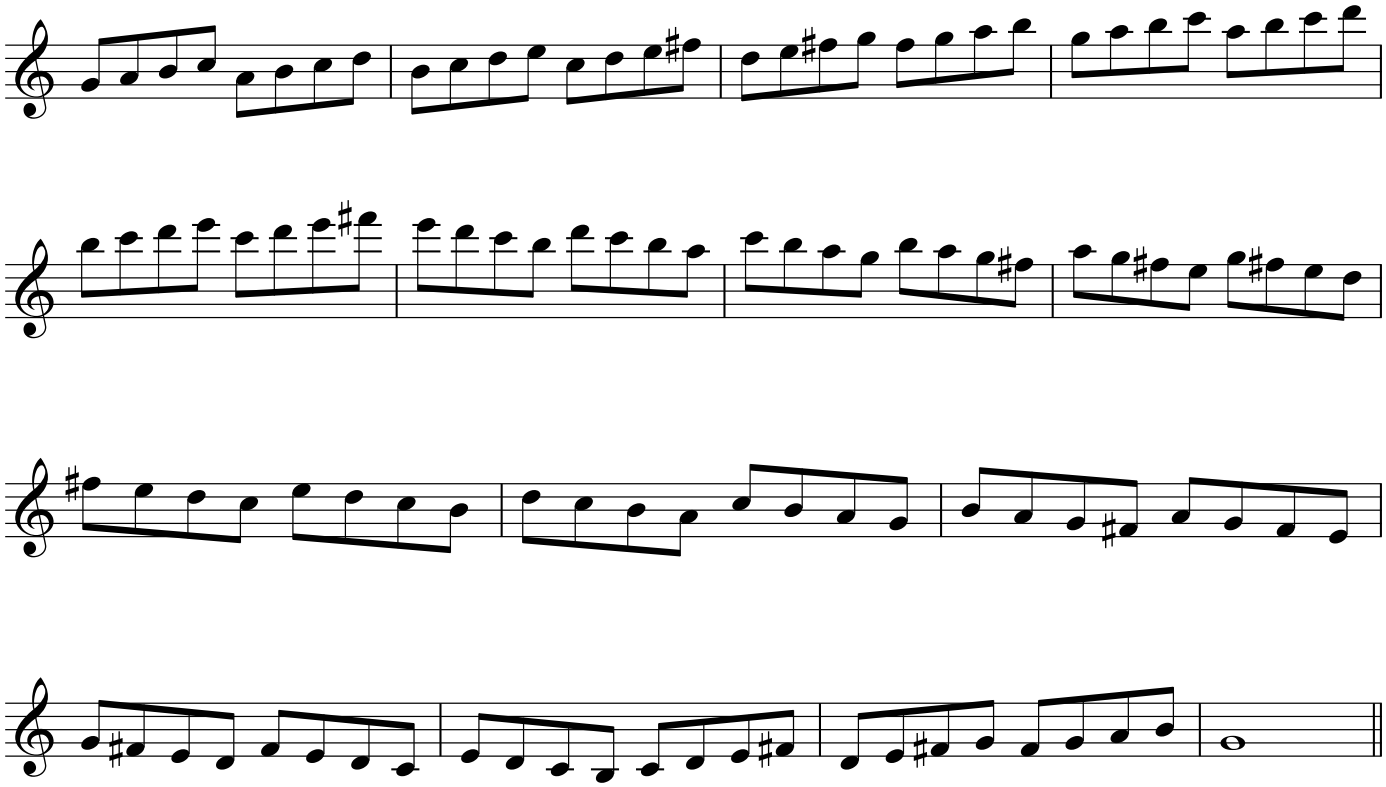
3-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-note triplets):



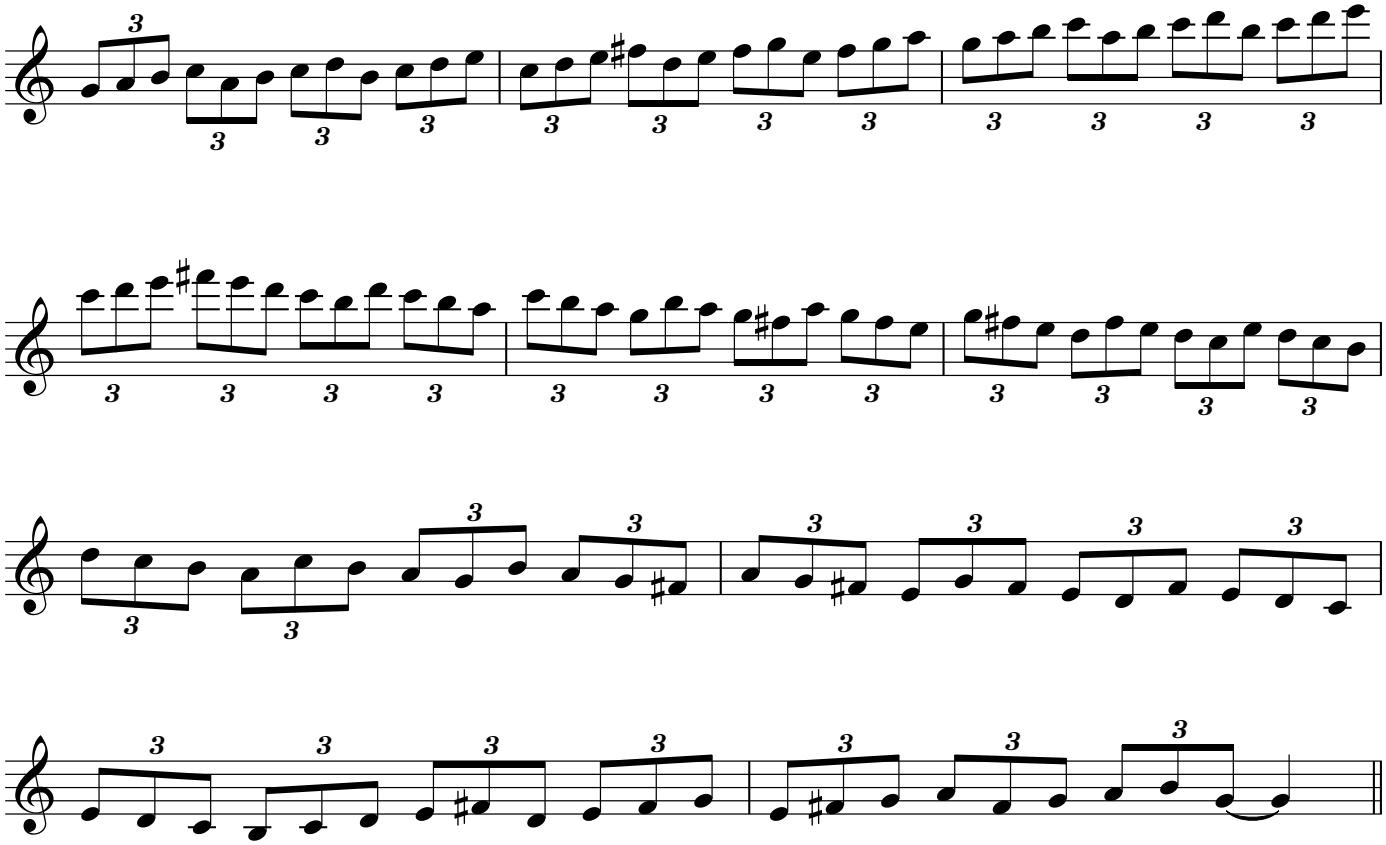
3-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-notes):



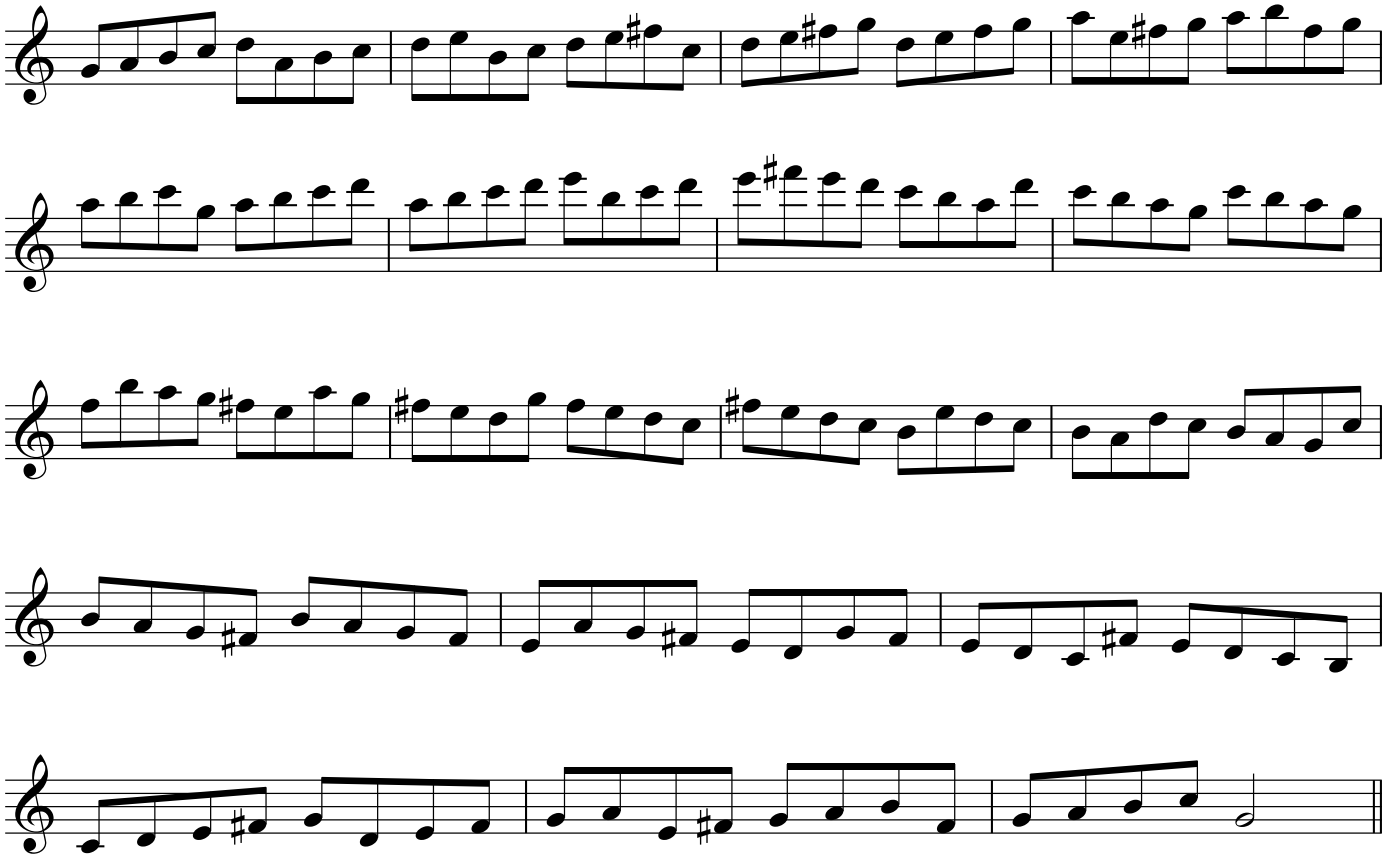
4-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-notes):



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

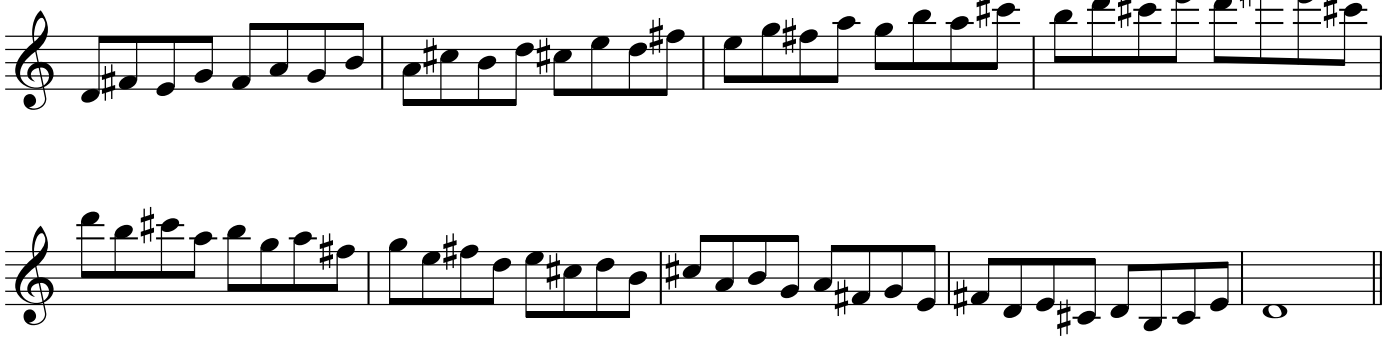


5-note Groupings (full-range in 8th-notes; *also try to do his pattern in 8th-note-triplets, following the models used above for 3-note and 4-note groupings*):

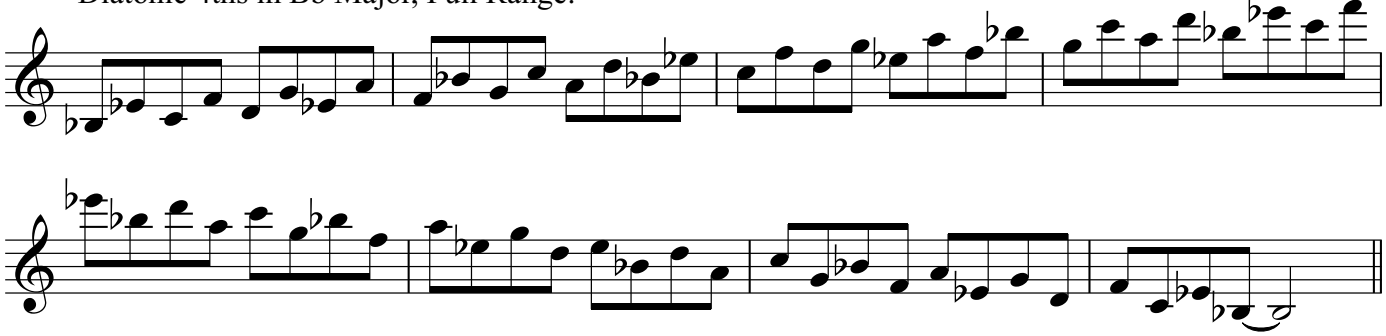


Scale Exercise Strategy: Diatonic 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, and 7ths (Various Keys)
(Note how the patterns flip around/change direction after hitting the highest note within the key center while staying within the normal range of the saxophone)

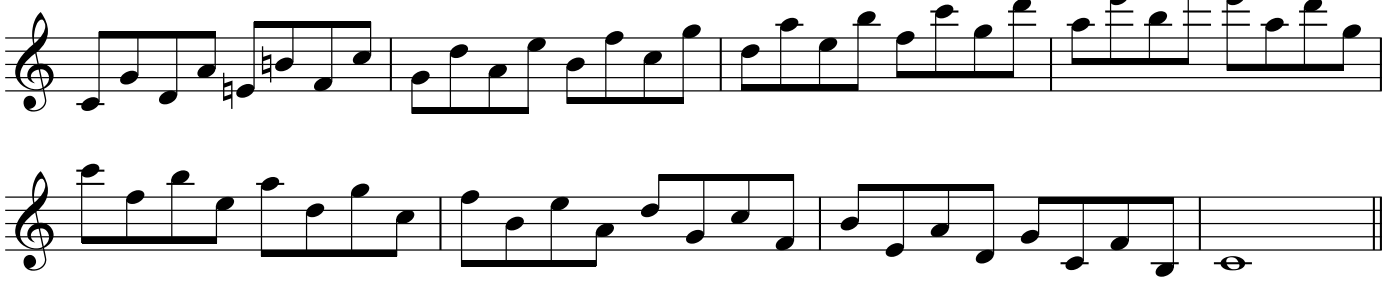
Diatonic 3rds in D Major, Full Range:



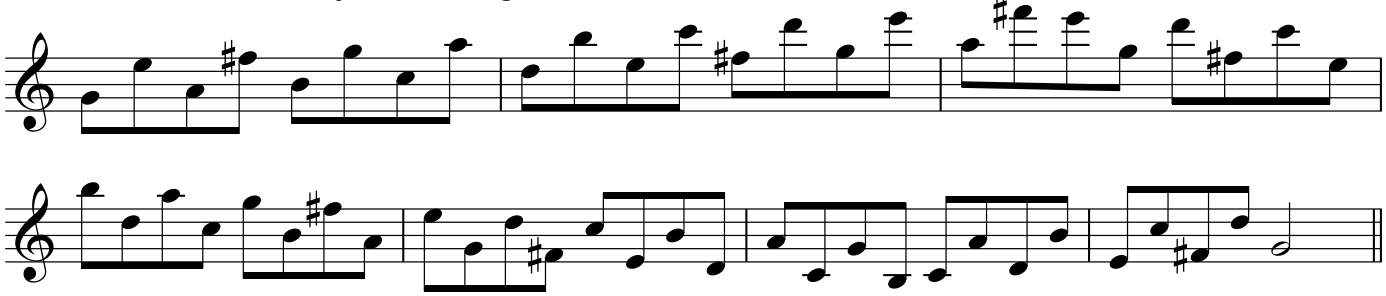
Diatonic 4ths in Bb Major, Full Range:



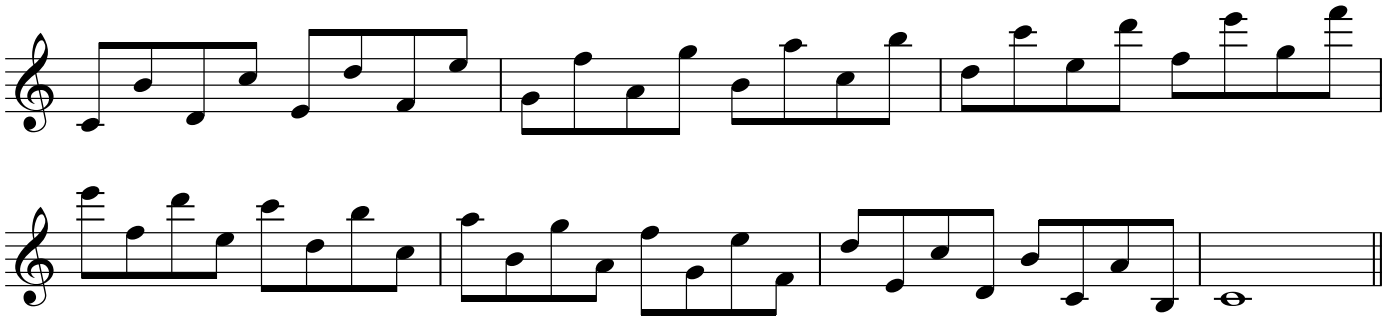
Diatonic 5ths in C Major, Full Range:



Diatonic 6ths in G Major, Full Range:



Diatonic 7th in C Major, Full Range:



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)