

C major

The relative minor of C major is A minor.

Similar motion in octaves

Musical notation for a C major scale with similar motion in octaves. The right hand starts on C4 and ascends to C5, while the left hand descends from C5 to C4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

C major is certainly not the easiest of scales. To achieve even touch without any black notes is a challenge at any level.

Contrary motion

Musical notation for a C major scale with contrary motion. The right hand ascends from C4 to C5, and the left hand descends from C5 to C4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5.

Third or tenth apart

Musical notation for a C major scale with notes played a third or tenth apart. The right hand starts on C4 and the left hand starts on E4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5.

Sixth apart

Musical notation for a C major scale with notes played a sixth apart. The right hand starts on C4 and the left hand starts on G3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5.

Double thirds

Double thirds and sixths are usually played hands separately.

Musical notation for a C major scale with double thirds. The right hand plays a C major scale starting on C4, and the left hand plays a C major scale starting on C3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5.

G major

The relative minor of G major is E minor.

Similar motion in octaves

Musical notation for Similar motion in octaves in G major. The piece is in 2/4 time and G major. The right hand starts on G4 and moves up stepwise to G5, while the left hand starts on G2 and moves up stepwise to G3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

Contrary motion

Musical notation for Contrary motion in G major. The right hand starts on G4 and moves up stepwise to G5, while the left hand starts on G2 and moves down stepwise to G1. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

Third or tenth apart

Musical notation for Third or tenth apart in G major. The right hand starts on G4 and moves up stepwise to G5, while the left hand starts on G2 and moves up stepwise to G3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

Sixth apart

Musical notation for Sixth apart in G major. The right hand starts on G4 and moves up stepwise to G5, while the left hand starts on G2 and moves up stepwise to G3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

Double thirds

Double thirds and sixths are usually played hands separately.

Musical notation for Double thirds in G major. The right hand starts on G4 and moves up stepwise to G5, while the left hand starts on G2 and moves up stepwise to G3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

D major arpeggio

 Root position

 First inversion Second inversion

Dominant and diminished sevenths

 Dominant seventh in D Diminished seventh on D

Hints and tips

- Scales in double thirds can be fingered in many ways; the system adopted here is the 'two group' fingering. Each octave is divided into a 3-note and 4-note group, the longer group using the gliding thumb.
- As well as practising using different variations of touch, tone, rhythm and range, you could try playing scales and arpeggios in keys related to D major: the relative minor (B minor), the dominant (A major), the subdominant (G major) and the tonic minor (D minor).
- Using the 3rd finger where 4th is stipulated in arpeggios is accepted by some pianists, but it is better to train the weaker 4th finger from the earliest lessons to encourage proper, systematic hand shape development.