

Introduction

Scales and arpeggios are important. And if taught and learned imaginatively, they can be fun!

Improve your scales! is designed to help you approach scale learning methodically and thoughtfully. Its intention is to turn learning scales into a pleasant, positive and relevant experience by gradually building up the skills to play them through cumulative and enjoyable activities.

What *Improve Your Scales!* is about

The idea of *Improve your scales!* is to present you with lots of engaging activities that lead up to playing the scale (and arpeggio). Actually playing the scale is the last thing that you do! These activities build up an understanding (of the finger patterns, technical issues, sense of key and connections with the pieces that you play) to help make the learning of scales really relevant.

At the top of each scale is a box for you to fill in the notes of the scale, and circle the notes of the arpeggio. The shaded boxes show the semitones.

Here are two really important **Golden Rules**:

No 1 Before practising your scales make sure that you:

- Drink some water (this helps to get the brain working!)
- Relax (especially your shoulders, arms, wrists and fingers)
- Check your posture.

No 2 Always practise the scale and arpeggio of the pieces you are learning. Notice if the pieces modulate, and play the scales and arpeggios of those keys too.

D $\flat$ major

Fill in the notes of the scale and circle the notes of the arpeggio:

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Write the key signature of D $\flat$ major:

Finger fitness

TOP TIP No open strings in this key! Try playing the studies and sight-reading in 1st position as well as practising them with your usual scale fingerings.

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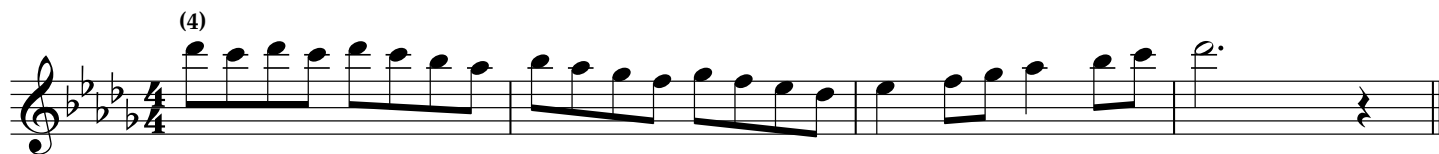
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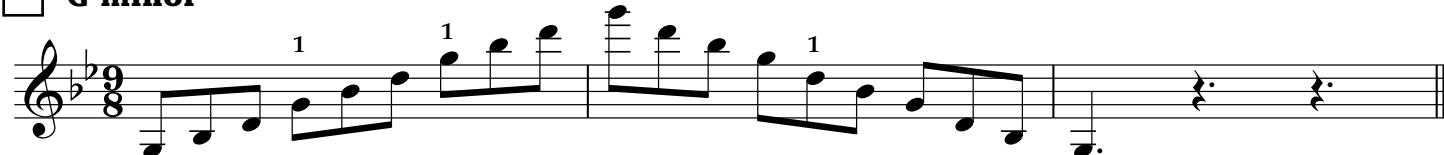
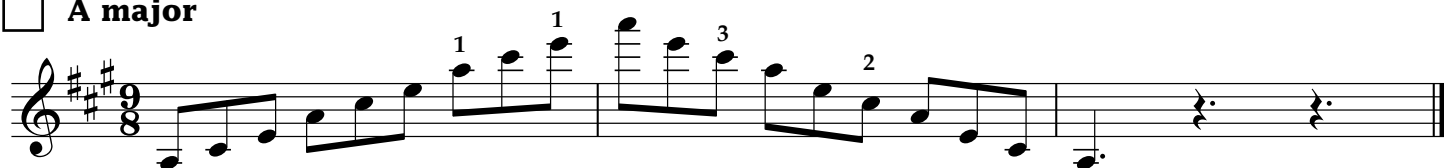
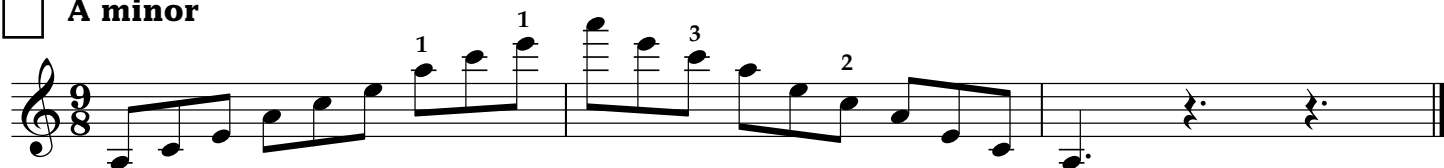


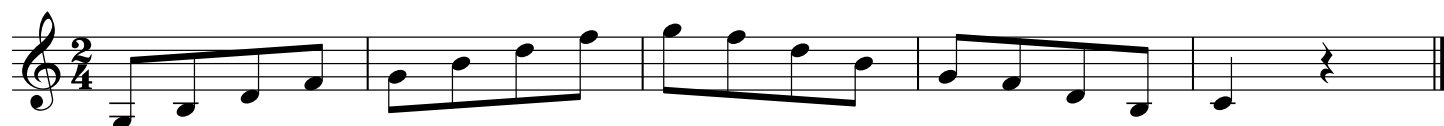
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Have a go Compose or improvise your own tune in D $\flat$ major, beginning with the following:



☐ **G major**

☐ **G minor**

☐ **A major**

☐ **A minor**

☐ **Dominant seventh in the key of Bb**

☐ **Dominant seventh in the key of C**

☐ **Dominant seventh in the key of D**

☐ **Diminished seventh on G**

☐ **Diminished seventh on D**
