

Major Scales: Patterns and Rules

Every Scale has a pattern. Patterns are made of “Steps”

Major Scale Step Pattern: 1 — Whole-Whole-Half — Whole-Whole-Whole-Half

Example: C D E F G A B C .

If you know the pattern, you know all 12 Major Scales

One-Octave Scale Rules:

- 1) **Typewriter Position** - Right hand plays UP / Left hand plays DOWN
- 2) **Release** hand and mallet weight / **Return** up high on each note
- 3) **Push/Pull** hands together between upper/lower manual

Play your scales in the following standard order

Circle of 4ths/5ths: C F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb B E A D G (C)

Then, reorganize your scales by Visual Scale Pattern

C: Straight line

F/G: Straight line + Bump

Eb/E: 1222 push/pull

Dd/Gb/B: All Up-2 Down

Bb/D: Straight line + 2 Bumps

Ab/A: 2C[#]22 push/pull

“Artist” Scale Rules:

- 1) **3 Octaves**, no pause
- 2) Alternating Sticking **LRLR**, windshield wiper motion
- 3) **NO STEP** side to side - Wide stance and lean
- 4) **Cresc. UP / dim. DOWN** - one long phrase beginning to end

No Metronome. Play **only** correct notes at any successful speed.
Shift gradually from Step pattern to Visual Pattern to “Artist” Phrasing.

Master this process to master yourself and your own learning.

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