

Keyboard Exercise

Around the Circle of 5ths

Up a fifth, down a fourth, etc. ("Clockwise" on the Circle of Fifths)

The image shows a musical score for a keyboard exercise in common time (C). It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The exercise is written in whole notes. The first measure has a whole rest in both hands. The second measure has a whole note chord in the right hand (C4, E4, G4) and a whole note chord in the left hand (C3, E3, G3). The third measure has a whole rest in both hands. The fourth measure has a whole note chord in the right hand (F#4, A4, C5) and a whole note chord in the left hand (C4, E4, G4). The fifth measure has a whole rest in both hands. The sixth measure has a whole note chord in the right hand (C5) and a whole note chord in the left hand (C4, E4, G4). The exercise ends with the text "etc." in the right hand.

Down a fifth, up a fourth, etc. ("Counterclockwise" on the Circle of Fifths)

The image shows a musical score for a keyboard exercise in common time (C). It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The exercise is written in whole notes. The first measure has a whole note chord in the right hand (C4, E4, G4) and a whole rest in the left hand. The second measure has a whole rest in both hands. The third measure has a whole note chord in the right hand (C4, E4, G4) and a whole note chord in the left hand (C3, E3, G3). The fourth measure has a whole rest in both hands. The fifth measure has a whole note chord in the right hand (C4, E4, G4) and a whole note chord in the left hand (F#3, A3, C4). The sixth measure has a whole note chord in the right hand (C4, E4, G4) and a whole note chord in the left hand (C4, E4, G4). The exercise ends with the text "etc." in the right hand.

Use the same fingering in all keys (no "pinkies"):

L.H. 4 3 2 1

R.H. 1 2 3 4

This means that the thumb will sometimes be on a black key, unlike the standard fingerings for scales on the piano.

The 4th fingers should always be an octave apart (on the tonic);
the thumbs should always be a whole step apart.

The left and right hand tetrachords combine to form a "major scale."

The top tetrachord of one scale becomes the bottom tetrachord of the next, or vice-versa.

As we move around the circle of fifths, exactly ONE new note is introduced for each transposition of the "major scale."

When we move up a fifth, the new note is scale degree 7
(the 3rd finger of the right hand adds a sharp or subtracts a flat.)

When we move down a fifth, the new note is scale degree 4
(the thumb of the left hand adds a flat or subtracts a sharp).

**The ultimate goal: be able to play the exercise in both directions
in whole note clusters, i.e. all the notes of the scale simultaneously,
visualizing the entire scale as a unit.**