

50 things to do with scales.

Super slowly but decisive crisp finger work

Slurred in groups of 2

Slurr 3 staccato 1

Play it in the rhythm of 'Gangnam style'

5. Crescendo ascending, diminuendo descending.

Accelerando throughout.

Accelerando ascending, rallentando descending.

Swung quavers tonguing in 2's on the ON beats

Swung quavers tonguing in 2's on the OFF beats.

10. In odd metres; 5 or 7, stressing the first beat.

As a duet with a friend; one starts at the bottom, ascends and descends whilst at the same time the duet buddy starts at the top, descends and then ascends.

As above (with a friend) but one does slur 2 staccato 2 articulation, the other staccato 2, slurr 2. There should therefore always be a constant

staccato line and slurred (in 2's) line throughout.

In the rhythm of 'Happy birthday to you'. Keep looping the scale until the song is done!

Crotchet, crotchet, 4 quavers rhythm

15. 2 quavers, 3 triplet quavers rhythm. (Should sound a bit like 'chips and sau-sa-ges' if you've got the rhythm correct).

Fingers ONLY. No blowing but listen for neat and even finger swaps.

In thirds; start note (tonic), up 2, down 1. So in C major; CEDFEGFA etc....

Alternating vibrato; first note smooth (semibreve length), next note vibrato (quaver speed, so 8 vibs). Keep alternating.

As quavers BUT on the 'off' beats. So starting the notes on the AND beats; 1 & 2 & 3 & 4.

20. In the rhythm of 'Chim chiminee' (Mary Poppins).

Naming the notes only up and down 3 times, each time faster than the last.

Play using alternative fingerings where possible then play again using the preferred fingerings.

Super staccato

Legato style breath and articulation but staccato like fingers movements.

25. In the rhythm of 'The Entertainer'.

Start at dynamic 0 (air only) and ascending Crescendo to volume 10 (fffff!) diminuendo descending to 0 once more.

In patterns; notes 1,3,5 then start on the next note up (stay in key!). So in C major; CEG, DFA, EGB Etc

In patterns as above but using notes 1,4,5.

4 semi quavers on each note

30. Double tongued 4 semi quavers on each note.

31. Alternate forte and piano notes

32. In ascending 7ths; 1,3,5,7. On each degree of the scale. So in C major; CEGB, DFAC, EGBD etc...

33. Play as if in 5/8 time stressing the first quaver of each 5.

34. As a duet; one ascends, one descends but both in triplet groupings.

35. Minim, crotchet rhythm.

36. Start in one key (scale) keep repeating up and down whilst a friend shouts out different keys along the way; you must switch to the new key.

37. A different dynamic on each note; pp, p, mp, mf, f, ff. then either reverse the dynamics down or again build up from pp.

38. 1,5,4,3, notes (so in C major; C,G,F,E) then repeat the pattern on the 2nd degree of the scale then the third etc.

39. Make up a 1 bar rhythm in 4/4 time on each note of the scale BUT no bar rhythm must be the same!

40. Play the relative major and minor one after the other (same key signature)

41. Play the major and minor that begin on the same note; e.g F major (Bb) and F minor (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db).

42. As a duet; Take 2,3 or 4 notes each and alternate effectively passing the parcel! Keep it flowing smoothly and try and match your chosen articulation and dynamics. So in C major; CDEFgabcBAGFedc (example one octave, one player on upper case, the other in lower).

43. Play the tonic, then as many octaves (and fingerings) of that note before moving to the next.

44. Play the scale 3 times up and down to a metronome beat. However each speed should be faster than the last (try and go for an increase of at

least 10 bpm).

45. Playing the scale stressing the quavers as in the well know bit of 'In the mood' ('Pine-ap-ple, ba-na-na, pine-ap-ple, ba-na-na).

46. Arpeggios as a duet in normal triplet feel grouping but one starts at the top, one at the bottom. (One ascends then descends, the other descends then ascends).

47. Play one octave of your scale or arpeggio up and down. Make each note a different articulation or dynamic; no two the same!

48. Play it in 7/8 time; crotchet, crotchet, 3 quavers.

49. Go tango! Play it in dotted crotchet, dotted crotchet, crotchet rhythm.

50. Play ONLY the tonic (first note) and any sharps or flats only in your scale, plus the top note. However leave appropriate spaced gaps to miss out the 'normal' notes.