



Different Ways of Playing the Scales

by John Falstrom

Intro:

Every major, minor, and modal scale type should be played and memorized in the following different note patterns. (The numbers indicate the notes in a scale type. Sharp or flat the note(s) according to the scale type you are playing. Example: The natural minor scale has a b3, b6, and b7 in it.)

Ascend/ Descend

Ascend R, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Descend 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2,

Three Note Pattern

Ascend R23, 234, 345, 456, 567, 678, 789⁽²⁾

Descend 876, 765, 654, 543, 432, 32R, 2R7, R



Four Note Pattern

Ascend R234, 2345, 3456, 4567, 5678, 6789⁽²⁾

Descend 8765, 7654, 6543, 5432, 432R, 32R7, R



Note: The arrow (↓) means to play the note(s) below the root in pitch.



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Scales in Thirds

Ascend R3, 24, 35, 46, 57, 68, 79⁽²⁾

Descend 86, 75, 64, 53, 42, 3r, 27, R



Scales in Fourths

Ascend R4, 25, 35, 47, 58, 69, 7 10, 8, 11, 9 12^{(2) (3) (4) (2) (5)}

Descend 11 8, 10 7, 96, 85, 74, 63, 52, 4R, 37, R^{(4) (3) (2)}



Scales in Fifths

Ascend R5, 26, 37, 48, 59, 6 10, 7 11, 8 12, 9 13^{(2) (3) (4) (5) (2) (6)}

Descend 12 8, 11 7, 10 6, 95, 84, 73, 62, 5R, 47, R^{(5) (4) (3) (2)}



Scales in Sixths

Ascend R6, 27, 38, 49, 5 10, 6 11, 7 12, 8 13, 9 14^{(2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (2) (7)}

Descend 13 8, 12 7, 11 6, 10 5, 94, 83, 72, 6R, 57, R^{(6) (5) (4) (3) (2)}



Note: Changing-up the rhythms will make everything you play sound more musical.



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Scales in Sevenths

	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(2)	(8)
Ascend	R7,	28,	39,	4	10,	5	11,	6
	12,	7	13,	8	14,	9	15	
	(7)	(6)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)		
Descend	14	8,	13	7,	12	6,	11	5,
	10	4,	9	3,	8	2,	7	R,
								6,
								7,
								R



Scales in Octaves (Eighths)

	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(2)	(9)
Ascend	R8,	29,	3	10,	4	11,	5	12,	6
	13,	7	14,	8	15,	9	16		
	(8)	(7)	(6)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)		
Descend	15	8,	14	7,	13	6,	12	5,	11
	4,	10	3,	9	2,	8	R,	7	R,



Summary:

If you want total command of the scales in music (along with perfect technique), you will want to play and memorize as many of these different scale patterns as possible.

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