

Grade 5 piano scales for those in a hurry

Independent black note version

If you're looking for the quickest way to learn all 24 major and minor scales these charts may help. Whereas flute players can play through their scales keeping their fingers in the same position, pianist are shifting their fingers all the time. Not only that: they have to learn another finger sequence for the other hand (which is fixed on the opposite way, you may have noticed) and then play them both at the same time. The correspondence between the two hands falls into three groups - the F# family with 8 members, the E family with 13 members and the 3 left overs.

You may be in a hurry with the exam date looming. Learn F# major first (the most difficult to write but the easiest to learn) followed by E major. Then learn their other family members , then the left overs. It is quicker to learn harmonic minors than melodic so only the harmonic minors are included. The tonic (or keynote) of the scale is marked by an asterisk.

All the major and minor scales are based on the repetition of 7 notes. We play 7 by adding a 3 finger pattern to a 4 finger pattern. Here is an extract from the middle of an E family scale. The four finger group are shown in bold.

right hand ... 1 2 3 **1 2 3 4** ...
left hand ... 1 **4 3 2 1** 2 3 ...

When the scale begins , turns around and ends there may be fingerings that are not part of the repeating 7. These are shown in brackets.

right hand ... 1 2 3 **1 2 3 4** ...
left hand (5)**4 3 2 1** 2 3 ...

The note between A and C , called B in the US, UK etc. and H by the northern Europeans, is here written as the hybrid **b** so that it can be interpreted by both readerships in their own tradition (and as it was written before the traditions split).

In this version the black notes have their own identities V W XYZ. There is a parallel version using conventional sharps, flats and naturals.

The F# Group with 8 members

F# major, Eb minor, Db major, Bbminor, B major, Bminor, F major, F minor

F# major

<i>right</i>	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2			
<i>left</i>	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	(2)
	X	Y	Z	b	V	W	F	X	Y	Z	b	V	W	F	X	Y	Z	b	V	W	F	X
	*						*							*								*

Eb minor

<i>right</i>	(2)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
<i>left</i>	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2
	W	F	X	Y	Z	b	D	W	F	X	Y	Z	b	D	W	F	X	Y	Z	b	D	W
	*						*							*								*

Db major

<i>right</i>	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2
<i>left</i>	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	(2)
	V	W	F	X	Y	Z	C	V	W	F	X	Y	Z	C	V	W	F	X	Y	Z	C	V
	*						*							*								*

Bb minor

<i>right</i>	(2)1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	
<i>left</i>	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2
	Z	C	V	W	F	X	A	Z	C	V	W	F	X	A	Z	C	V	W	F	X	A	Z
	*						*							*							*	

B major

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)
<i>left</i>	(4)	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1
	b	V	W	E	X	Y	Z	b	V	W	E	X	Y	Z	b	V	W	E	X	Y	Z	b
	*						*							*							*	

B minor

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)
<i>left</i>	(4)	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1
	b	V	D	E	X	G	Z	b	V	D	E	X	G	Z	b	V	D	E	X	G	Z	b
	*						*							*							*	

F Minor

right 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 (4)
left (5) 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1
F G Y Z C V E F G Y Z C V E F G Y Z C V E F
* * * *

F Major

right 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 (4)
left (5) 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1
F G A Z C D E F G A Z C D E F G A Z C D E F
* * * *

The E Major Group with 13 members

E Major	<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)
	<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
		E	X	Y	A	b	V	W	E	X	Y	A	b	V	W	E	X	Y	A	b	V	W	E
	*							*							*								*
E Minor	<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)
	<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
		E	X	G	A	b	C	W	E	X	G	A	b	C	W	E	X	G	A	b	C	W	E
	*							*							*								*
C# Minor	<i>right</i>	(2	3)	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
	<i>left</i>	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	(2)
		V	W	E	X	Y	A	C	V	W	E	X	Y	A	C	V	W	E	X	Y	A	C	Y
	*							*							*								*
A Major	<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)
	<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1
		A	b	V	D	E	X	Y	A	b	V	D	E	X	Y	A	b	V	D	E	X	Y	A
	*							*							*								*

A Minor

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)	
<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
	A	b	C	D	E	F	Y	A	b	C	D	E	F	Y	A	b	C	D	E	F	Y	A	
	*						*	*					*	*					*				*

D Major

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)	
<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
	D	E	X	G	A	b	V	D	E	X	G	A	b	V	D	E	X	G	A	b	V	D	
	*						*	*					*	*					*				*

D Minor

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)	
<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
	D	E	F	G	A	Z	V	D	E	F	G	A	Z	V	D	E	F	G	A	Z	V	D	
	*						*	*					*	*					*				*

G Major

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)	
<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
	G	A	b	C	D	E	X	G	A	b	C	D	E	X	G	A	b	C	D	E	X	G	
	*						*	*					*	*					*				*

G Minor

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)	
<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
	G	A	Z	C	D	W	X	G	A	Z	C	D	W	X	A	A	Z	C	D	W	X	G	
	*							*							*								*

C Major

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)	
<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
	C	D	E	F	G	A	♭	C	D	E	F	G	A	♭	C	D	E	F	G	A	♭	C	
	*							*							*								*

C Minor

<i>right</i>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	(5)	
<i>left</i>	(5)	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	
	C	D	W	F	G	Y	♭	C	D	W	F	G	Y	♭	C	D	W	F	G	Y	♭	C	
	*							*							*								*

Ab Major

<i>right</i>	(2	3)	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
<i>left</i>	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	(2)
	Y	Z	C	V	W	F	G	Y	Z	C	V	W	F	G	Y	Z	C	V	W	F	G	Y
	*							*							*							*

G# Minor

<i>right</i>	(2	3)	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
<i>left</i>	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	(2)
	Y	Z	b	V	W	E	G	Y	Z	b	V	W	E	G	Y	Z	b	V	W	E	G	Y
	*							*							*							*

The Special Group with 3 members

E_b Major

<i>right</i>	(2) 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3
<i>left</i>	3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 (2)
	W F G Y Z C D W F G Y Z C D W F G Y Z C D W
	* * * *

F# minor

<i>right</i>	(2 3) 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3
<i>left</i>	4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 (2)
	X Y A b V D F X Y A b V D F X Y A b V D F X
	* * * *

B_b Major

<i>right</i>	(2) 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4
<i>left</i>	3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 (2)
	Z C D W F G A Z C G W F G A Z C D W F G A Z
	* * * *

The F# Group

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4
4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

The E group

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4
4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

Eb Major and F#Minor

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4
4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

Bb Major

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4
4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1