Scales and Arpeggios

Absolute Beginners

By J.P. Dias

Copyright © 2004-2005
To Paula
Introduction

The purpose of this book is to help beginner bassist to find the easiest way to play scales, triads and arpeggios. All the examples are written in the key of C in order to make easier the scale comparison. Most scales can be played in more than two positions, so that I would suggest to find all possible roots and play the same fingering showed, also play them in different keys. This book is not intended to be a method and I strongly recommend to find a qualified teacher to help you assimilate the information on this book.

Have Fun
Basics of Reading Music

The fundamentals of music are pitch and rhythm which are placed in a grid of five lines and four spaces called Staff. Bass Players Read Bass Clef. The symbol of the Bass Clef is derived from the old German way of writing “F”. The two dots on the right of the bass clef symbol surround the line on which “F” pitch is written.

The notes above are all natural however any of this notes can be raised or lowered a half step by placing a accidental, sharp (♯) or flat (♭) right before it. When an accidental occurs, it applies to the whole measure unless it is cancelled out with another accidental.

Sharp (♯) Raises a note one half step.

Flat (♭) Lowers a notes one half step.

Natural (♮) Cancells an accidental previously used.

Note: The distance between B and C and E and F is a half step, that’s way there's no ♯ or ♭ in between those notes.
Major Modes

C Ionian Scale

Fingering

Scale

Triad

Arpeggio

C Ionian

C Ionian

C Ionian

C

C

C

Cmaj7

Cmaj7

Cmaj7
C Ionian Scale (Imaj7)

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5
Major Modes

**D** Dorian Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fret 1</th>
<th>Fret 2</th>
<th>Fret 3</th>
<th>Fret 4</th>
<th>Fret 5</th>
<th>Fret 6</th>
<th>Fret 7</th>
<th>Fret 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**D** Dorian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fingering</th>
<th>5th Fret</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**D** Dorian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fingering</th>
<th>10th Fret</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**D**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fret 1</th>
<th>Fret 2</th>
<th>Fret 3</th>
<th>Fret 4</th>
<th>Fret 5</th>
<th>Fret 6</th>
<th>Fret 7</th>
<th>Fret 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fret 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dm7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fret 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dorian Scale**

**Triad**

**Arpeggio**

J.P. Dias's Scales & Arpeggios
Dorian Scale (IIm7)

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5
**Major Modes**

**E Phrygian Scale**

Fingering:

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

**E Phrygian**

7th Fret

**Em**

7th Fret

**Em7**

7th Fret

*This Scale, Triad and Arpeggio could be played one 8th Lower Starting from E open String*
E Phrygian Scale (IIIm7)

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5

J.P. Dias’s Scales & Arpeggios
Major Modes

F Lydian Scale

F Fmaj7 Arpeggio

F Lydian

8th Fret

1st Fret

(Open String)

F Lydian

8th Fret

1st Fret

(Open String)
Major Modes

G Mixolydian Scale

Scale

G Mixolydian

Triad

G

Arpeggio

G7
G Mixolydian Scale (V7)

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5

easymusiclessons.com

J.P. Dias’s Scales & Arpeggios 19
Major Modes

A Aeolian Scale

Fingering

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 4 3 4 1 4 3 1

Scale

A Aeolian

12th Fret

Triad

Am

12th Fret

Arpeggio

Am7

12th Fret

A Aeolian

5th Fret

Am

5th Fret

Am7

5th Fret
A Aeolian Scale (VIIm7)

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5
Major Modes

**Scale**

*B* Locrian

**Triad**

*B°*

**Arpeggio**

*Bm7b5*

---

B Locrian Scale

Fingering

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

B Locrian

14th Fret

B°

14th Fret

Bm7b5

14th Fret

---

B Locrian

7th Fret

B Locrian

7th Fret

B°

7th Fret

Bm7b5

7th Fret
**B Locrian Scale (VII\textsubscript{Im7}^b5)***

**Exercise 1**

```
\[ \text{Sheet music content} \]
```

**Exercise 2**

```
\[ \text{Sheet music content} \]
```

**Exercise 3**

```
\[ \text{Sheet music content} \]
```

**Exercise 4**

```
\[ \text{Sheet music content} \]
```

**Exercise 5**

```
\[ \text{Sheet music content} \]
```
Minor Scales

C Natural Minor Scale

Cm Cm7

Scale

Fingering

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 4 3 4 1 4 3 1

3 5 6 3 5 6 3 5 3 6 5 5 3 6 5 3

Triad

Cm

Arpeggio

Cm7

J.P. Dias's Scales & Arpeggios
C Natural Minor (Aeolian Scale)

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5
Minor Scales Cont.

C Harmonic Minor Scale

Fingering

Scale

C Harmonic Minor

3rd Fret

Triad

Cm

3rd Fret

Arpeggio

Cm(maj7)

3rd Fret

Cm(maj7)

3rd Fret

Cm(maj7)

8th Fret

Cm

8th Fret

Cm

8th Fret

Harmonic Minor Scale

Fingering

C

Minor

8th Fret

3rd Fret

J.P. Dias's Scales & Arpeggios

easymusiclessons.com
C Harmonic Minor

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5
Minor Scales Cont.

C Melodic Minor Scale

Ascending

Descending

Triad

Cm

Scale

Fingering

C Melodic Minor Ascending

3rd Fret

C Melodic Minor Descending

3rd Fret

C Melodic Minor Ascending

8th Fret

C Melodic Minor Descending

8th Fret

J.P. Dias's Scales & Arpeggios
C Melodic Minor

Exercise 1a

Exercise 1b

Exercise 2a

Exercise 2b

Exercise 3
Pentatonic Scales

C Major Pentatonic

C Minor Pentatonic

C Blues Scale

Fingering

3rd Fret

8th Fret

C Major Pentatonic Played on 4 strings

C Minor Pentatonic Played on 4 strings

C Blues Scale Played on 4 strings

J.P. Dias’s Scales & Arpeggios
Pentatonic Scales Cont.

Exercise 1  C Major Pentatonic

Exercise 2  C Major Pentatonic

Exercise 3  C Major Pentatonic

Exercise 4  C Minor Pentatonic

Exercise 5  C Blues Scale
Symmetrical Diminished

C Symmetrical Diminished Whole/Half Step

Scale

Fingering:
1 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 1 4 2 3 1 4 1 4

3rd Fret

8th Fret

Triad

C°

3rd Fret

8th Fret

Arpeggio

C°7

3rd Fret

8th Fret

C°

C°7

Symmetrical Diminished Whole/Half Step
C Symmetrical Diminished Whole/Half Step

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5
Symmetrical Diminished

C Symmetrical Diminished Half/Whole Step  C°  C°7

Scale

Triad

Arpeggio

Fingering

C Symmetrical Diminished Half/Whole Step

3rd Fret

C Symmetrical Diminished Half/Whole Step

8th Fret
C Symmetrical Diminished Half/Whole Step

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5
Triads

C

Cm

C°

C+

Csus

J.P. Dias's Scales & Arpeggios 37
Arpeggios

C Maj7

C7

Cm7

Cm7(b5)

Cm(maj7)

C°7

C+maj7

C+7

C7sus4

C6

Cm6
Arpeggios Cont.

- Cmaj7
- C+7
- Cm(maj7)

- C7
- Cm7(b5)
- C°7

- C+maj7
- Cm7
- Csus7

J.P. Dias’s Scales & Arpeggios
Arpeggios Cont.

C6

Cm6

3rd Fret

3rd Fret