SCALERAIL

Lessons with SCALERAIL Ideas for Teachers 4
Learning to Play Arpeggios

When the student is ready to begin playing arpeggios SCALERAIL will help them master the correct technique enabling them to play arpeggios with ease and comfort, without awkward and unnecessary movements of the arm and hand.

At slow speeds it is possible to play arpeggios by turning the elbow outwards in order to bring the thumb into play. This method is often seen in young students. It forces the hand out of position each time the thumb is used and makes it necessary to re-adjust the hand position for each group of notes within the arpeggio.

When this type of technique is used it becomes impossible to play arpeggios at faster speeds, with evenness of tone and accuracy of rhythm. This can be very discouraging for the student and can lead to frustration and loss of confidence. It can be difficult to re-learn the correct technique once old habits are established, and therefore it is important that the correct technique is taught right from the start. The technical foundations laid down at this stage of a young pianist's development are going to determine their future progress and success.

SCALERAIL enables the student to acquire the correct technique for playing arpeggios quickly and easily, so that from the start they are able to play arpeggios without awkward movements of the arm and hand. Once the correct technique is established students are able gradually to increase the speed of their arpeggios with confidence. When a student sees any aspect of their technique developing well they are encouraged by their success and the doors remain open to further progress.

The following exercises with SCALERAIL can be introduced as soon as the student's skill is developed sufficiently to begin playing them. It is advisable to teach the exercises one at a time and wait until each exercise is mastered before introducing the next one. Use SCALERAIL to teach each exercise so that the student becomes accustomed to the physical sensations of correct hand positions. This preparatory work will enable the student to master the technique necessary to play arpeggios with ease, precision, speed and confidence.

When you play these exercises notice how SCALERAIL prevents the elbow turning out when the thumb is used and enables you to maintain a linear progression along the keyboard. It is beneficial to teach arpeggios according to fingering groups. This way the different fingering patterns are more easily memorised. The following table may be useful.

Arpeggios using white keys only

	Left Hand	*Right Hand*
C major	5-4-2-1	1-2-3-1
F major	5-4-2-1	1-2-3-1
G major	5-4-2-1	1-2-3-1
D minor	5-4-2-1	1-2-3-1
E minor	5-4-2-1	1-2-3-1
A minor	5-4-2-1	1-2-3-1

Arpeggios using one black key (3rd)

	Left Hand	*Right Hand*
D major	5-3-2-1	1-2-3-1
E major	5-3-2-1	1-2-3-1
A major	5-3-2-1	1-2-3-1
C minor	5-**4**-2-1	1-2-3-1
F minor	5-**4**-2-1	1-2-3-1
G minor	5-**4**-2-1	1-2-3-1

Arpeggios using one black key (5th)

	Left Hand	*Right Hand*
B minor	5-4-2-1	1-2-3-1

Arpeggios using two black keys (3rd and 5th)

	Left Hand	*Right Hand*
B major	5-3-2-1	1-2-3-1

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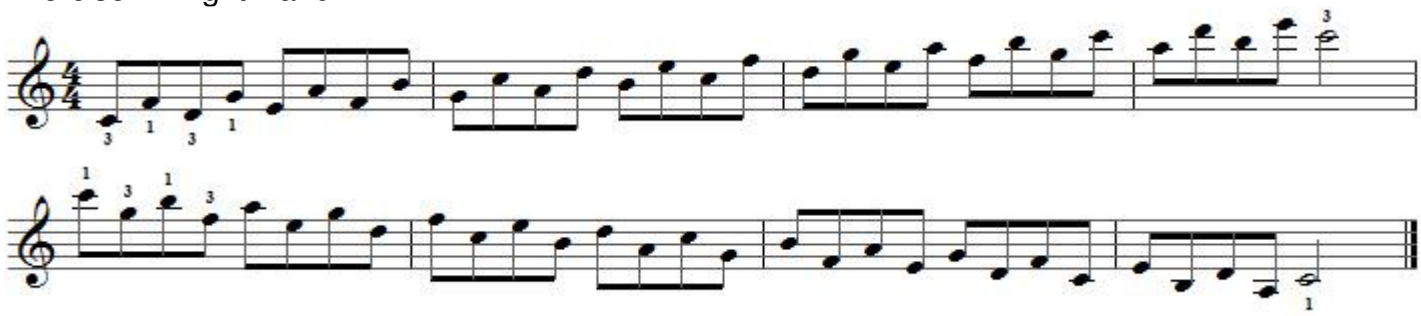
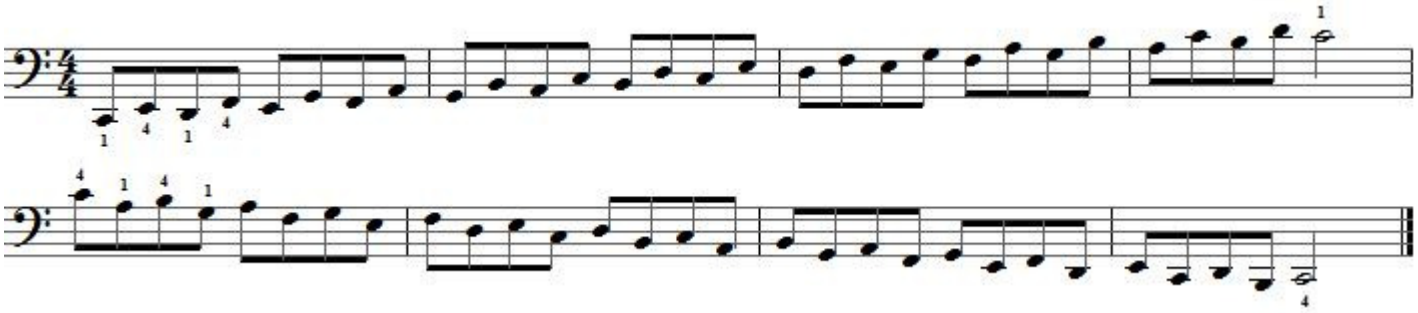
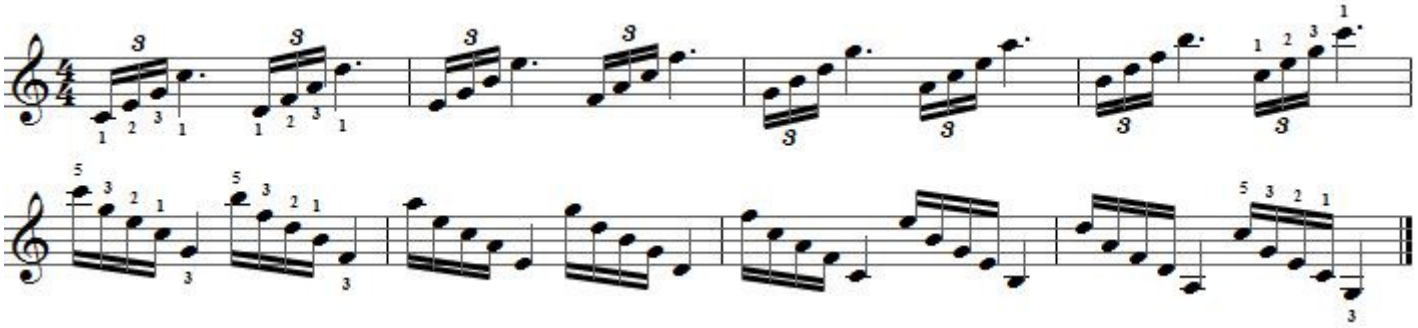
Exercise 1 Right Hand



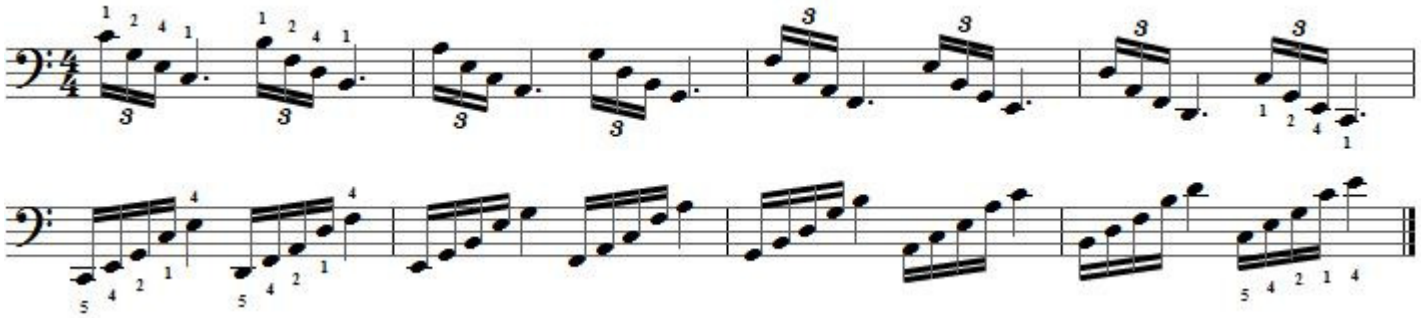
Exercise 1 Left Hand



Exercise 2 Right Hand



Exercise 2 Left Hand



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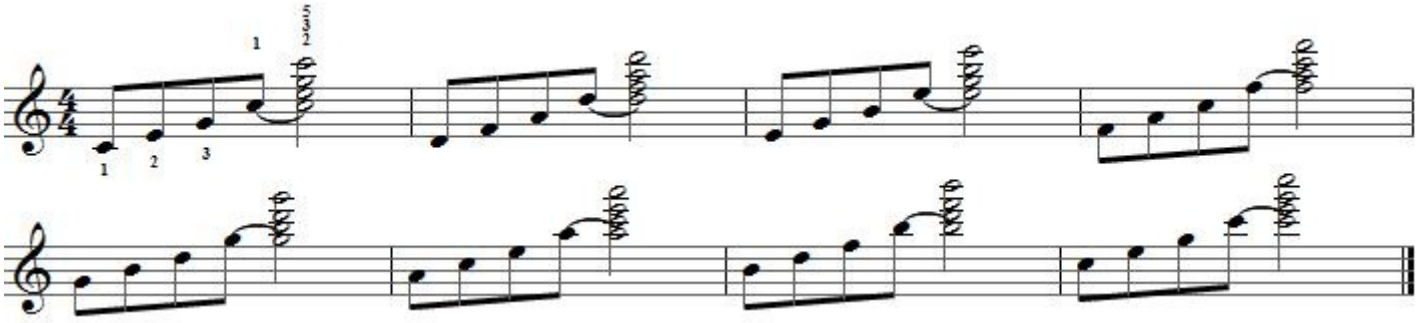
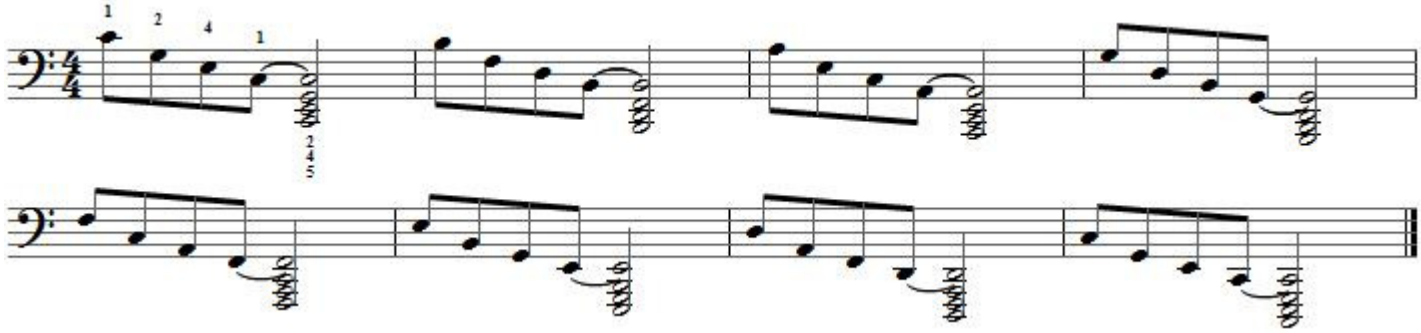
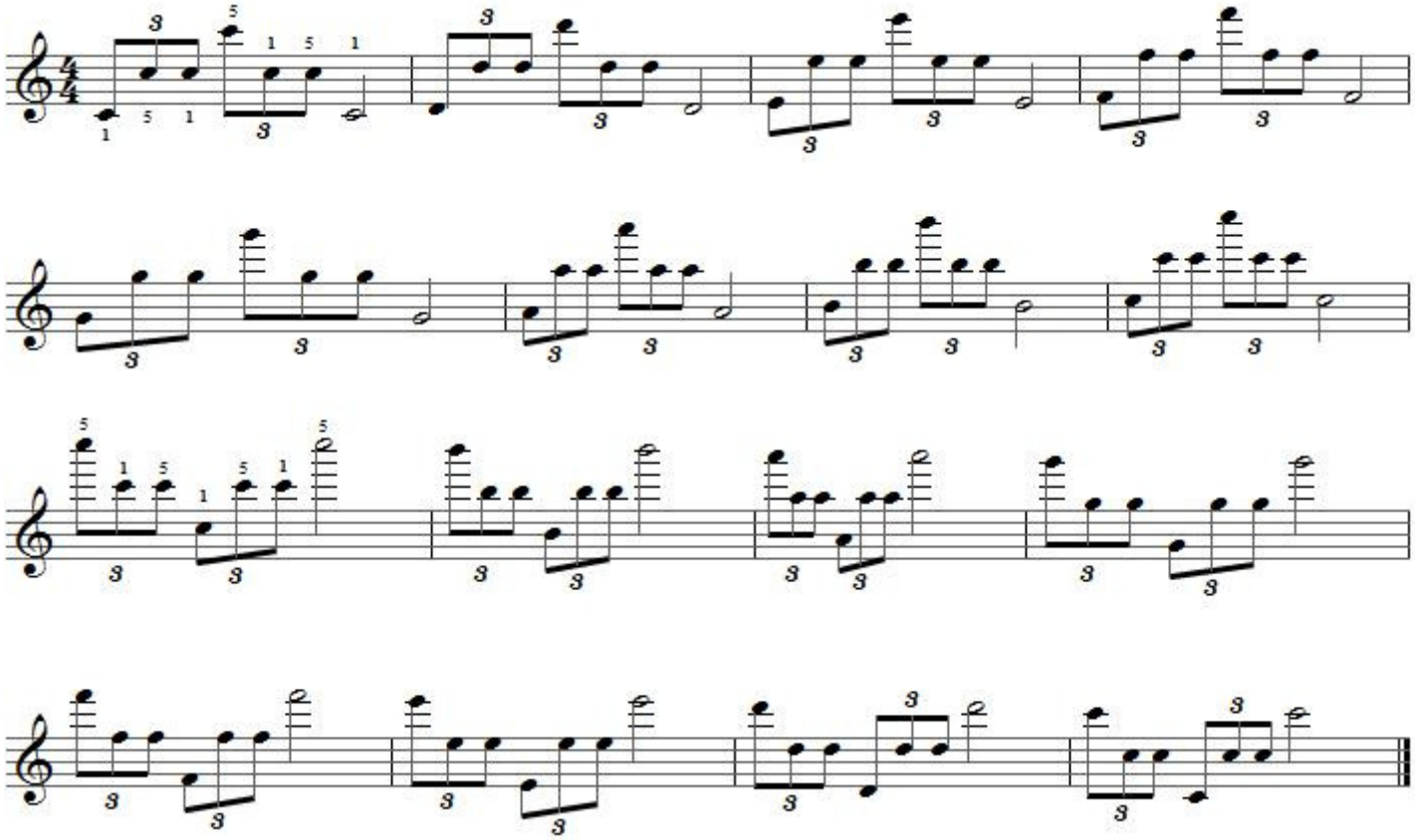
Exercise 3 Right Hand



Exercise 3 Left Hand



Exercise 4 Right hand



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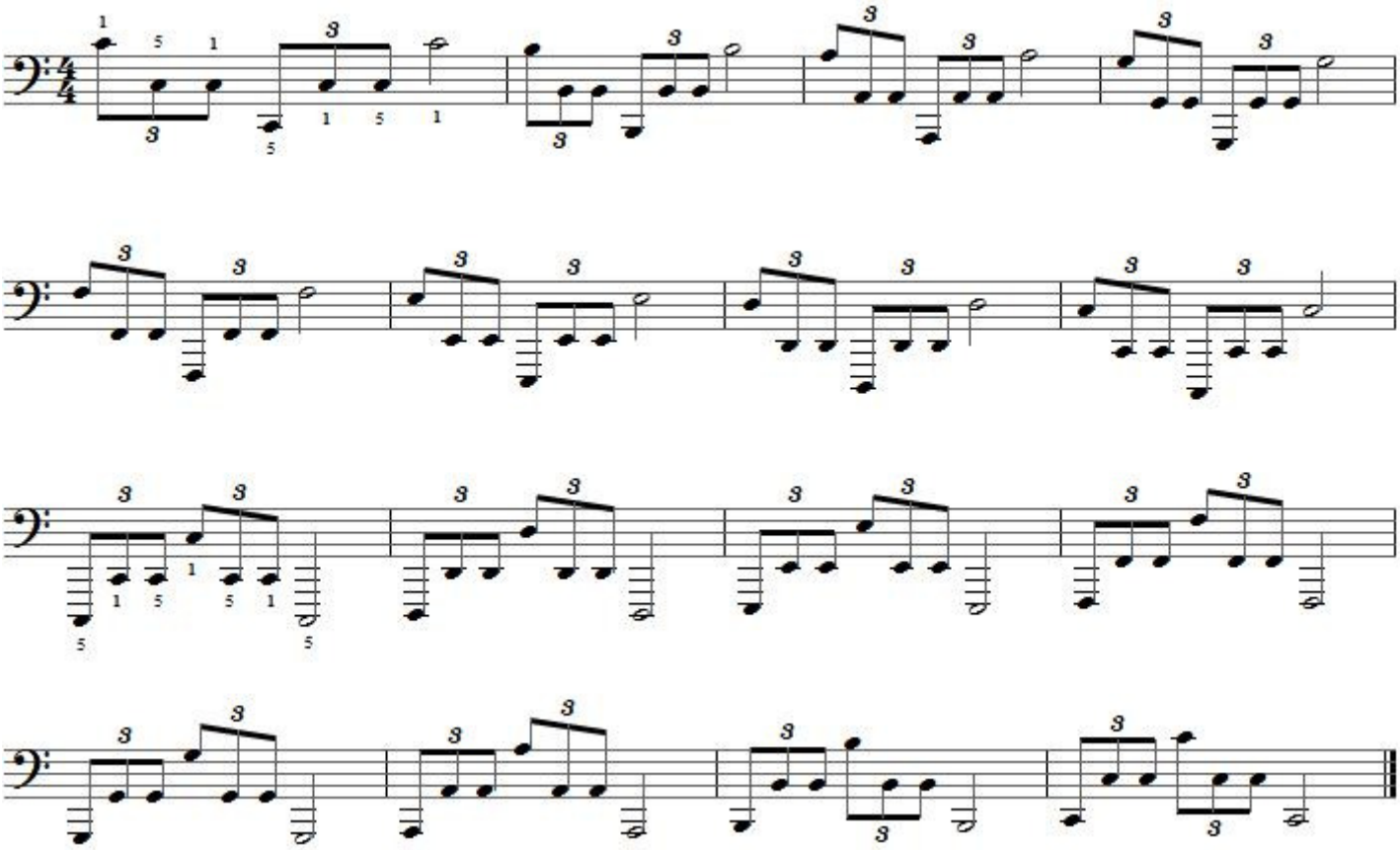
Exercise 4 Left Hand



Remember – with SCALERAIL the hand stays in a forward-facing position for each group of notes.

Keep your arms relaxed and don't try to turn your elbows outwards when the thumb comes into play.

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