

Lesson Sixteen

Gigajam Bass School Lesson 16 IBS IS2

Introducing Scales Part 2

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce *Major Scale*.
- Develop the ability to play up and down a major scale using quarter notes and eighth notes.
- Develop the ability to visualise the major scale shape.

Understanding the Major Scale

It is possible to play a different scale to the minor scale using the notes already learned. These notes are of course:

A,B,C,D,E,F,G.

To achieve this we play all these notes again, but this time instead of starting with A, we will start and finish on C.

Accordingly the order of the notes will be alphabetical and will run like this:

C,D,E,F,G,A,B,C.

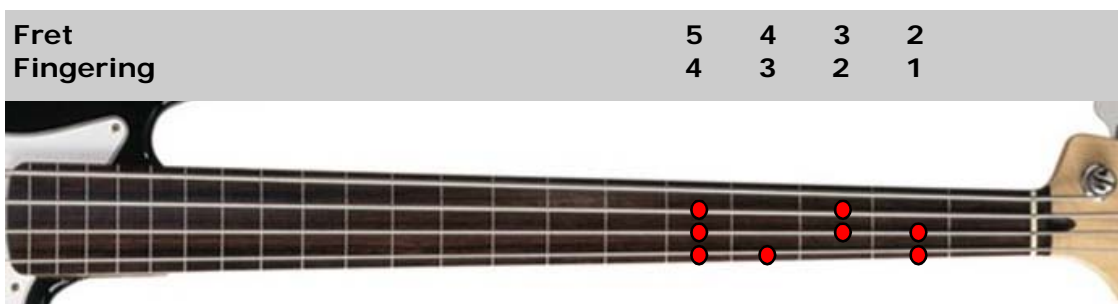
These are exactly the same notes we have been using, they are simply in a different order. They sound very different played in this order. This is known as a *Major Scale*.

Let's now take a look at the scale in notation and also how it appears on the fingerboard. As we did with the minor scale, the symmetry of the Bass guitar enables us to transfer this shape, so it is important to learn the Major Scale shape.

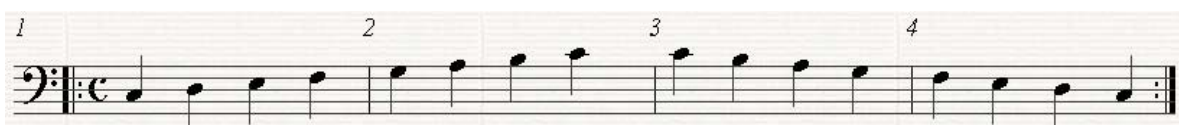
So following Fig 1, work out the order in which you play the notes in the scale following the fingering, so that you develop the ability to play the major scale shape with fluency. Following the principle that you use a finger per fret again, note that this means that we start on the Root note with our second finger!

As always use the multimedia files to confirm your understanding and then practise with the exercises along with the Xtractor.

Fig 1 C Major Scale on the fingerboard



Exercise 1 C Major Scale
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Work slowly through the scale, practising to play up and down the scale, as we did when learning the minor scales.

Visualising the Major Scale Shape

As we are looking to transfer the major scale shape, it is very important that we can visualise the shape of the major scale shape on the fingerboard. Take a little time to remember it clearly, so that you have a clear image in your mind of both the minor scale and the major scale shapes.

Music as a language

Music is a language, just as English is. In English, we use the alphabet to make words. Each word uses a different order of letters. In music, there are many different scales. Each one uses a different order of notes.

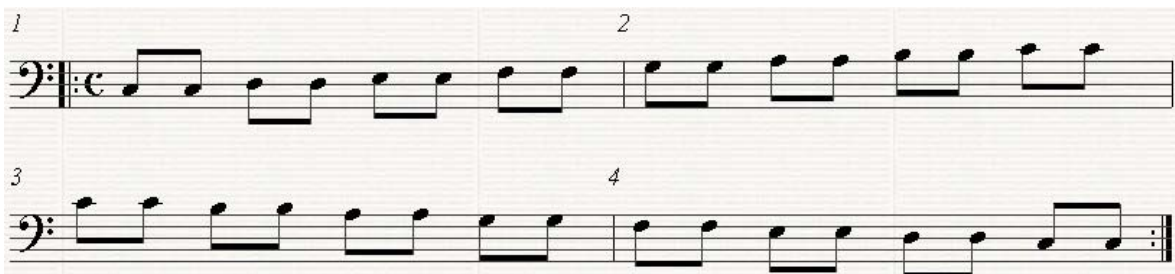
Scale Practice

Musicians know that practice makes perfect, which is why they practice scales over and over again, developing fluency in movement, evenness of sound and a greater understanding of the notes within each scale.

The following exercises are designed to help you become completely comfortable with playing the C major scale by practising it in different ways. For example, instead of playing one note on each beat (quarter notes) try playing two notes on each beat. This is simply a Right Hand double or each note of the scale. Remember to alternate your Right Hand fingers as you play eighth notes.

Use the multimedia files and take time to build the tempo of the exercises as you become more fluent.

Exercise 2 C Major Scale using eighth notes 
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New Position

So far you have been playing this C major scale in the same place on the fingerboard. We have learned to play it in only one position—starting with the C Root note at the 3rd fret on the A string.

Now that we have memorised the shape of the scale on the fingerboard you can play the scale in a different place on the fingerboard. You can play starting at the 8th fret on the E string.

Everything is the same, note names, fingering, shape. The only difference is the Root position.

Look at Fig 2 and work out how to play the C major scale in this new position.

Fig 2 C Major Scale on the fingerboard-8th fret on the E string.

Fret	10	9	8	7
Fingering	4	3	2	1

C Major Scale Rooted at the 8th Fret

As always check your understanding of the scale and how it is to be played by using the multimedia files. Remember to think about the note names and where they are located on the fingerboard in this new position.

Exercise 3 C Major Scale rooting at the 8th fret lesson016.ibsis2.03



Exercise 4 C Major Scale rooting at the 8th fret using eighth notes lesson016.ibsis2.04

