



Lesson Seventeen

Gigajam Bass School Lesson 17 IBS DS2

Developing Scales

Lesson Objectives

- Develop understanding of the Major Scale.
- Develop the concept of transferability of Major Scales.
- Develop the ability to be able to play a Major Scale on any Natural note.
- Introduce new notes of F#, C# and G#.
- Introduce Accidentals.
- Introduce Major Scale from an Open String.

Starting Note

As a Bass player we are used to playing the Root note of the chord. When the chord changes, we change.

It is important to be able to do this for everything we learn to play on Bass.

In lesson 15 we learned how to transfer the minor scale shape to any starting note because the fingerboard is symmetrical. This principle also applies to the major scale we learned in lesson 16.

The Major Scale Shape

As we learned in lesson 16, the Major Scale shape can be transferred to any Root note. The fingering of the scale, and the shape remain the same. The only change is the Root note and the scale itself.

Introducing the G Major Scale

In lesson 16 we looked at the C Major Scale, so let's now test the principle by transferring the Major Scale shape. The Major Scale takes its name from the note name of the Root, so we are going to start on G and accordingly introduce the G Major Scale.

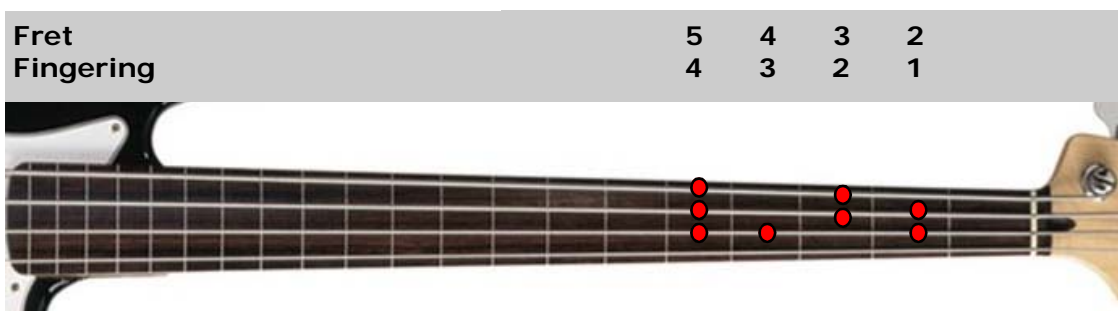
As we have done throughout the course, let's look at the fingerboard to understand the shape and the notes we are to play. Once you understand the position of the scale on the fingerboard, we can then use the multimedia files, as always, to check your understanding. Finally, you can then develop your playing by practising along with Xtractor.

Major Scale Fingering

In the same way that the shape of the scale is the same, so is the pattern of fingering. The major scale fingering is always;

2 4, 1 2 4, 1 3 4.

Fig 1 G Major Scale on the fingerboard



G Major Scale Practice

As before you are going to now practise your ability to play the newly learned scale of G major. You have two exercises.

Firstly, the scale being played using quarter notes, ascending and descending the scale.

Secondly, using eighth notes, which will help you develop your ability to play using alternate right hand picking.

As always start slowly and develop fluency and increase tempo in line with your developing control and understanding of the scale shape, sound and notes.

Exercise 1 G Major Scale lesson017.ibsds2.01



Exercise 2 G Major Scale using eighth notes. lesson017.ibsds2.02



Note Names

Look at the notes in the G major scale. I am sure you have noticed that the F is new, in that it is F#-F Sharp. F# is played on the 4th fret of the D string. F# is between F and G. As F# is above F it is slightly higher in pitch than F and slightly lower than G.

Remember that the G major scale contains F# and not F.

Accidentals

The symmetry of the fingerboard makes it possible to transfer a major scale shape to any Root note. The letter names always appear in alphabetical order starting from the Root.

As we have already observed in the G major scale some of these notes will have an unusual name-# (sharp) for example, or as we found in lesson 15, *b* (flat).

A flat (*b*) before a note means that it is one fret lower than its letter name. A sharp (#) means it is one fret higher. Flat and sharp signs (*b*, #) are known as **Accidentals**.

More Major Scales

The following exercises will help you to become completely comfortable with the major scale. Each scale begins on a different Root note. Each scale includes some Accidentals whether they are **b** (flats) or **#** (sharps).

The shape remains the same as always, along with the fingering, and the notes run in alphabetical order starting from the Root note up to the Octave note.

Take time to practise all these scales, starting at a slow tempo to begin with, increasing the tempo as you progress through.

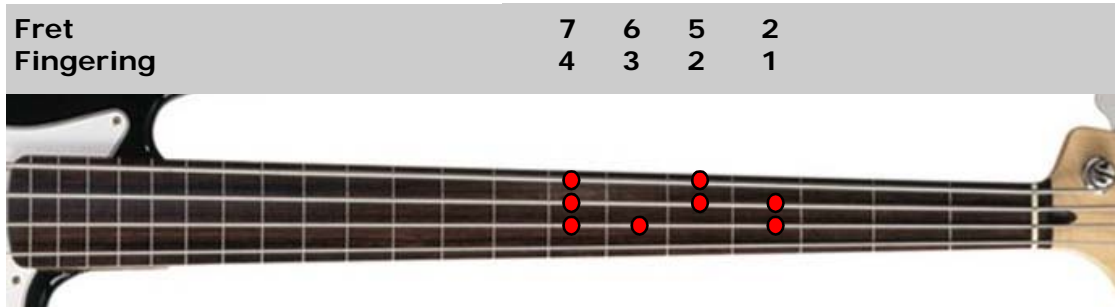
Try to memorise the sound of the Major scale along with the note names in each scale. Watch out for the Accidentals and keep checking your fingering.

Run through each scale step by step in the following manner;

1. Look at the shape and position of the scale on the fingerboard.
2. Check your understanding of the scale by watching and listening to the Video clip.
3. Play the quarter note exercise along with the Xtractor.
4. Play the eighth note exercise along with the Xtractor, using right hand alternate picking.

Introducing A Major Scale

Fig 2 A Major Scale on the fingerboard



Exercise 3 A Major Scale
lesson017.ibsds2.03



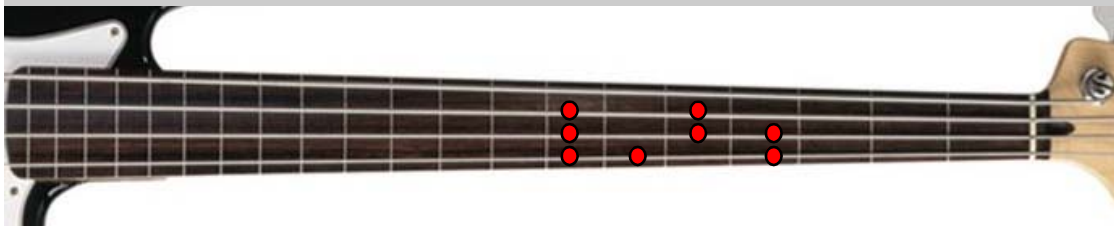
Exercise 4 A Major Scale using eighth notes.
lesson017.ibsds2.04



Introducing D Major Scale

Fig 3 D Major Scale on the fingerboard

Fret	7	6	5	2
Fingering	4	3	2	1



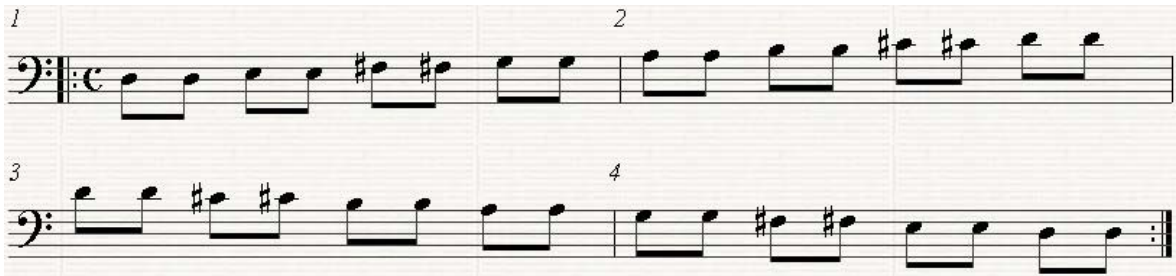
Exercise 5 D Major Scale

lesson017.ibsds2.05



Exercise 6 D Major Scale using eighth notes.

lesson017.ibsds2.06



Open String Major Scale Shape

As we have seen in this lesson the major scale shape is always the same and can be transferred anywhere on the fingerboard. Starting on an open string however requires a slightly different fingering.

The first note of the major scale (Root) is usually played with the second (middle) finger of the left hand. When playing a major scale from an open string the first (Root) note is played with an open string. Therefore, the second finger (middle) has not yet been used and is free to play the second note of the scale.

The same fingering and shape applies to any major scale played from an open string.

Fingering	0 2 4, 0 2 4, 1 2
Frets	0 2 4, 0 2 4, 1 2

As we did with the minor scales, the blue circles represent open notes on the strings and you play the open string first before playing the red circle notes each time you move string.

Use the multimedia files to check your understanding and confirm that you have the shape and fingering correct, before playing along with the Xtractor.

Introducing A Major Scale-Rooting from the Open String

Fig 5 A Major Scale on the fingerboard rooted from an Open String

Fret	Open				
Fingering	Open				
		4	3	2	1
		4	3	2	1

Exercise 9 A Major Scale lesson017.ibsds2.09

Exercise 10 A Major Scale using eighth notes. lesson017.ibsds2.10

