

# Major Scale Crash Course

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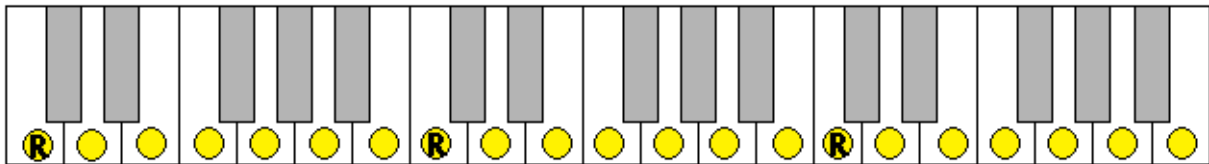
## *Lesson 1: C Major*

### **Introduction**

Thank you for signing up for the Major Scale Crash Course. Our goal in this course is to teach you each major scale as quickly, easily, and efficiently as possible. We assume the learner has basic familiarity to some degree, with general music theory and instrument technique. If not, please check out one of our elementary series to help get you started.

Learning can mean different things, For us, 'learning' here means to be able to read, spell (recite) and play each scale. We will demonstrate each scale on the keyboard, the keyboard being the single most instructive instrument.

In this lesson we are going to learn the notes of the C Major scale, how they appear on both the treble and the bass clefs, and how to play them on piano/keyboard.



## C Major, Treble Clef, Ascending



Note      C D E F G A B C

Here the notes of the C Major scale are shown on the treble clef. The notes are listed in ascending order, from lowest to highest. The low C here represents “middle C.” The higher C at the end is called “treble C”.

## C Major Spelling, Ascending

The notes of the C Major Scale are:

C D E F G A B

To make a complete octave, we add the octave C onto the end of the scale.

C D E F G A B C

**Exercise:** Spell out the note names 10 times.

C D E F G A B C

C D E F G A B C

C D E F G A B C

....

## C Major, Treble Clef, Descending



C B A G F E D C

Here again are the notes of the C Major scale shown on the treble clef. The notes are listed in descending order, from highest to lowest. The high C on the left is “treble C”. The low C on the right is “middle C.” On the keyboard, these notes are played with the right hand.

## C Major Spelling, Descending

The notes of the C Major Scale in descending order are:

C B A G F E D

To make a complete octave, we add the octave C onto the end of the scale.

C B A G F E D C

**Exercise:** Spell out the note names 10 times.

C B A G F E D C

C B A G F E D C

C B A G F E D C

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## Keyboard Fingering Chart

### Right Hand

1	Thumb
2	Index
3	Middle
4	Ring
5	Pinky

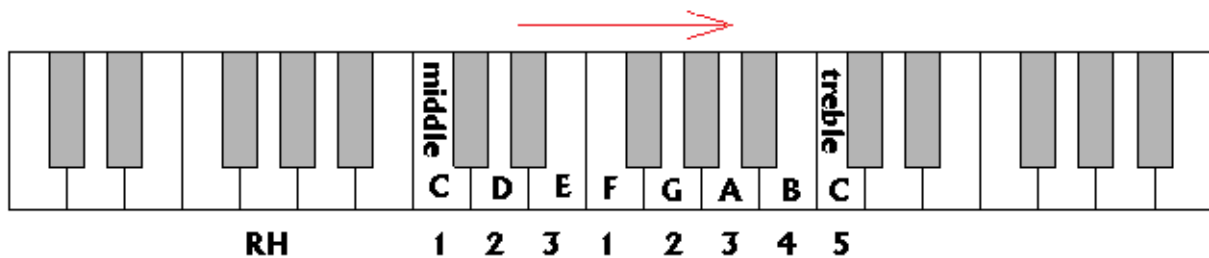
### Left Hand

1	Thumb
2	Index
3	Middle
4	Ring
5	Pinky

## C Major Playing, Treble Clef, Ascending



Note	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
RH Finger	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5



- Align your right hand thumb with middle C on the keyboard.
- Play the note middle C with finger 1 (thumb)
- Play the note D with finger 2 (index)
- Play the note E with finger 3 (middle)
- Play the note F with finger 1 (thumb) Cross your thumb under your index and middle finger.
- Play the note G with finger 2 (index)
- Play the note A with finger 3 (middle)
- Play the note B with finger 4 (ring)
- Play the note treble C with finger 5 (pinky)

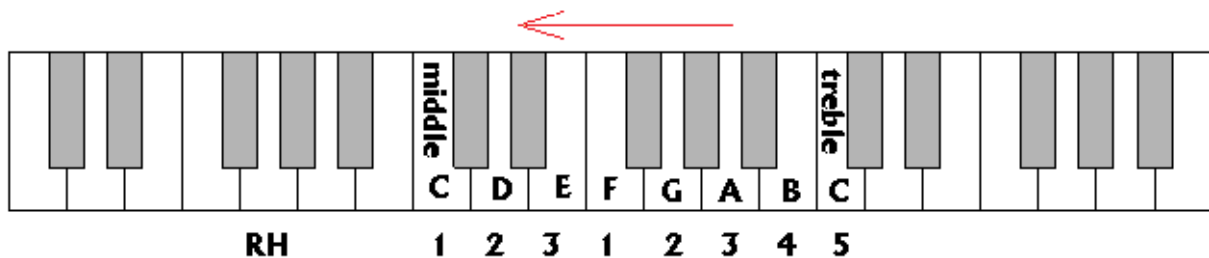
**Exercise.** Play this scale over and over. Play slowly and evenly. Try to play without looking at the keyboard. Hold your wrists up as you play. Increase speed as you improve over time.

## C Major Playing, Treble Clef, Descending



Note: C B A G F E D C

RH Finger: 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1



- Align your right hand pinky with treble C, one octave above middle C.
- Play the note treble C with finger 5 (pinky)
- Play the note B with finger 4 (ring)
- Play the note A with finger 3 (middle)
- Play the note G with finger 2 (index)
- Play the note F with finger 1 (thumb)
- Play the note A with finger 3 (middle) Cross your middle finger over your thumb.
- Play the note B with finger 2 (index)
- Play the note middle C with finger 1 (thumb)

**Exercise.** Play this scale over and over. Play slowly and evenly. Try to play without looking at the keyboard. Hold your wrists up as you play. Increase speed as you improve over time.

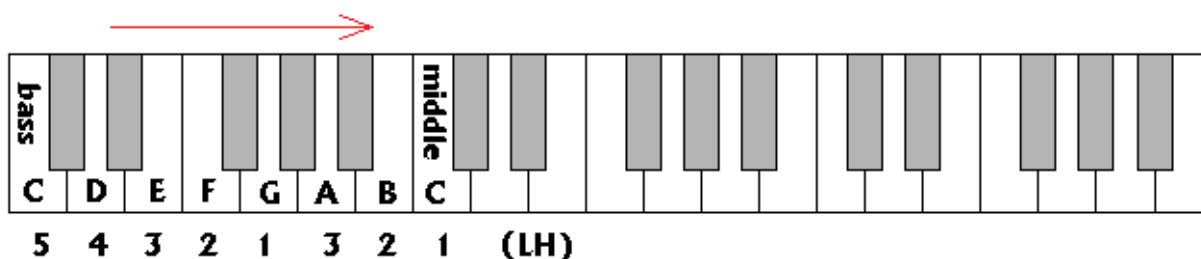
## C Major, Bass Clef, Ascending



Note: C D E F G A B C

LH Finger: 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

Here are the notes of the C Major scale shown on the bass clef. The notes are listed in ascending order. They range from bass C, 1 octave below middle C, to middle C. On the keyboard, notes indicated on the treble clef are played with the left hand.



- Align your left hand pinky with bass C, one octave below middle C
- Play the note bass C with finger 5 (pinky)
- Play the note D with finger 4 (ring)
- Play the note E with finger 3 (middle)
- Play the note F with finger 2 (index)
- Play the note G with finger 1 (thumb)
- Play the note A with finger 3 (middle) (Cross finger 3 over your thumb.)
- Play the note B with finger 2 (index)
- Play the note middle C with finger 1 (thumb)

**Exercise.** Play this scale over and over. Play slowly and evenly. Try to play without looking at the keyboard. Hold your wrists up as you play. Increase speed as you improve over time.

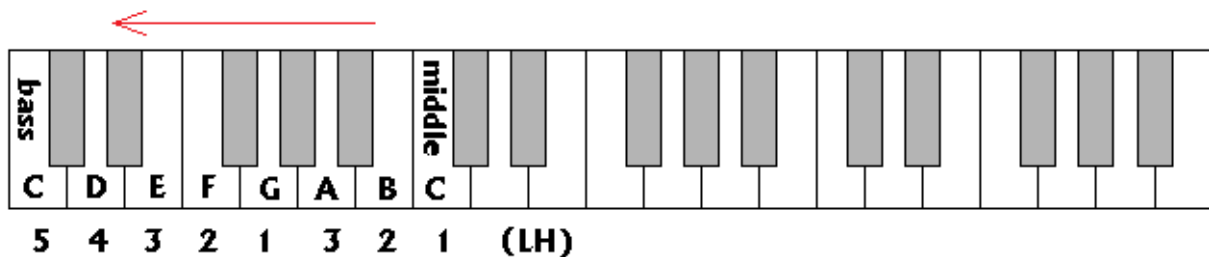
## C Major, Bass Clef, Descending



Note: C B A G F E D C

LH Finger: 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

Here are the notes of the C Major scale shown on the bass clef. The notes are listed in descending order. They range from middle C, to bass C, one octave below middle C. On the keyboard, notes indicated on the bass clef are played with the left hand.



- Align your left hand thumb with middle C
- Play the note middle C with finger 1 (thumb)
- Play the note B with finger 2 (index)
- Play the note A with finger 3 (middle)
- Play the note G with finger 1 (thumb) (Cross your thumb under fingers 2 and 3.)
- Play the note F with finger 2 (index)
- Play the note E with finger 3 (middle)
- Play the note D with finger 4 (ring)
- Play the note bass C with finger 5 (pinky)

**Exercise.** Play this scale over and over. Play slowly and evenly. Try to play without looking at the keyboard. Hold your wrists up as you play. Increase speed as you improve over time.

**Exercise.** After learning to play the treble scale with your right hand and the bass scale with the left hand separately, practice playing both parts at the same time.