Foreword

The exercises in this book are intended for any student, beginner or more experienced performer, wherever the technical need exists.

The ultimate objective is to train the student through repeated patterns and precise exercises, to acquire a conscious control in these techniques: the use of the whole arm for lateral freedom and arm weight, the forearm for rotation (Alberti bass and similar patterns) the wrist for flexibility in phrasing and the fingers for dexterity in passage work.

Transposition is an important factor. It will give the student familiarity and ease at the keyboard in the numerous combinations of black and white keys found in the various scales and chords.

The sequences are not written out and are to be extended to one or more octaves. The student must understand the make-up of the pattern to be able to transpose it to each degree of the scale. Often the young student gets satisfaction in being "on his own" and feels he is originating something!

All the exercises are easily analyzed as scale, chord or interval structures.

Strict observance of all markings, staccato, slurs, etc. with the correct technique will result in a good performance.

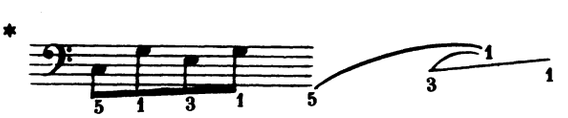
The rotary movements in this book are of two kinds:

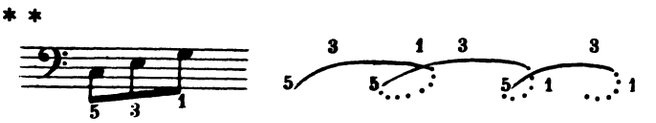
The Rocking* motion, a side-to-side see-sawing of a firm and shaped hand. The motive power comes from the forearm, the two bones of the forearm rolling over each other. The upper arm and elbow are not involved.

The Rolling** motion, a continuous, circular movement of the wrist, powered by a free circular swing of the upper arm from the shoulder socket.

These exercises are loosely graded and the teacher is urged to skip about in the book and use whatever fills the student's immediate needs.

Hazel Cobb





Technique Builders

FUNDAMENTAL STUDY PATTERNS TO IMPROVE PIANO PROFICIENCY

By Hazel Cobb

Contents

ALTERNATING ARM-DROPS IN OCTAVES 2
ALTERNATING ARM-DROPS FOR BALANCE BETWEEN ARMS 3
ARPEGGIO AND SCALE RHYTHMS 5
SHORT SLURS FOR PHRASING MOVEMENT 6
FIVE-FINGER TRIAD AND SCALE SEQUENCES 8
SHORT SCALE FIGURES WITH WALTZ BASS 9
FIVE-FINGER SEQUENCES WITH SLURS AND STACCATO 10
SHORT FIGURES DIVIDED BETWEEN HANDS 11
FIVE-FINGER PATTERNS IN 6/8 RHYTHM 12
ROOT AND FIRST INVERSION TRIADS 13
FIRST INVERSIONS 14
FIRST INVERSION ARPEGGIO IN ACCOMPANIMENT 15
PATTERNS USING SECOND AND THIRD INVERSIONS 16
SECOND INVERSIONS IN WALTZ RHYTHM 17
ALL MAJOR TRIADS 18
CHROMATIC MAJOR TRIADS 19
BROKEN CHROMATIC TRIADS 21
ROTARY PATTERNS 22
CHROMATIC PATTERN FOR THE RIGHT HAND 24
CHROMATIC PATTERN FOR THE LEFT HAND 25
CHROMATIC SCALES IN WALTZ TIME 26
CHROMATIC PATTERNS FOR BOTH HANDS 27
ARPEGGIO OUTLINE 28
SCALE RHYTHMS FOR CO-ORDINATION 29
RHYTHMIC SCALE PASSAGES FOR LEFT HAND 30
SCALE RHYTHMS FOR RIGHT HAND 31
EXTENDED SCALE PASSAGES 32
SCALE PASSAGES 33
LEFT HAND ONLY 34
WHOLE ARM DROPS 35
OCTAVE PATTERNS 36
ROTARY PATTERN 37
SECOND AND THIRD INVERSIONS 38
SEQUENCES WITH ORNAMENTED NOTES 39
ONE PATTERN IN DIFFERENT RHYTHMS 40
SYNCOPATED PATTERNS 41
HELD FINGERS 42
REPEATED BASS FIGURE AGAINST RIGHT HAND 43
E MAJOR AND E♭ MAJOR FIGURES 44
BLACK KEYS 45
BUILDING ARPEGGIO PASSAGES FOR RIGHT HAND 46
BUILDING ARPEGGIO PASSAGES FOR LEFT HAND 47
ARPEGGIO BUILDING 48
BUILDING TO TWO-AGAINST-THREE 49

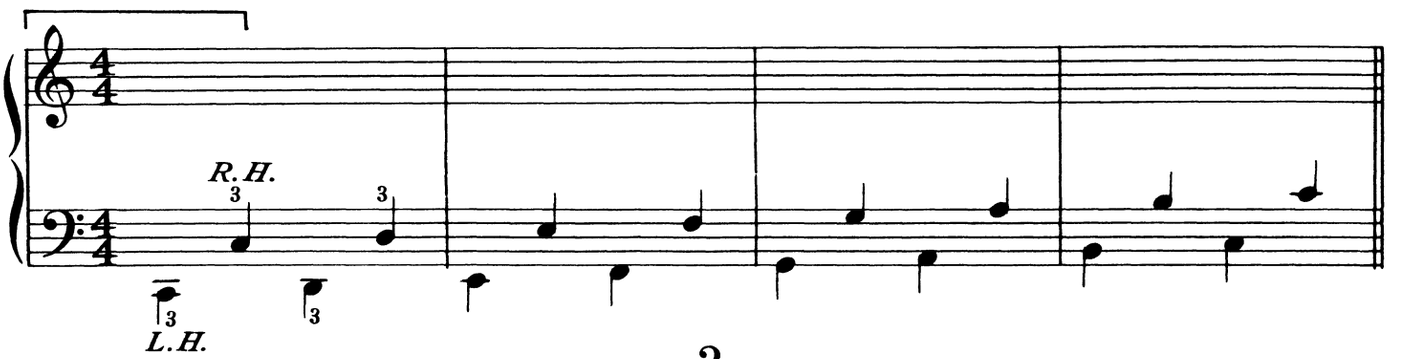
Copyright © 1964 (Renewed 1992) BELWIN MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Assigned to and Controlled by WARNER BROS. PUBLICATIONS INC., Miami, FL 33014
International Copyright Secured Made in U.S.A. All Rights Reserved

Alternating Arm-Drops on Octaves

1

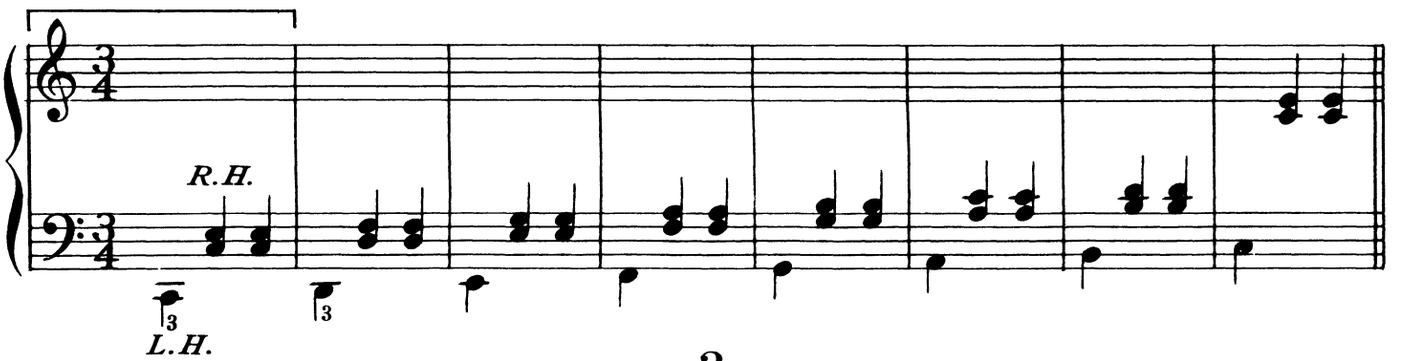
Half measure pattern

Octave



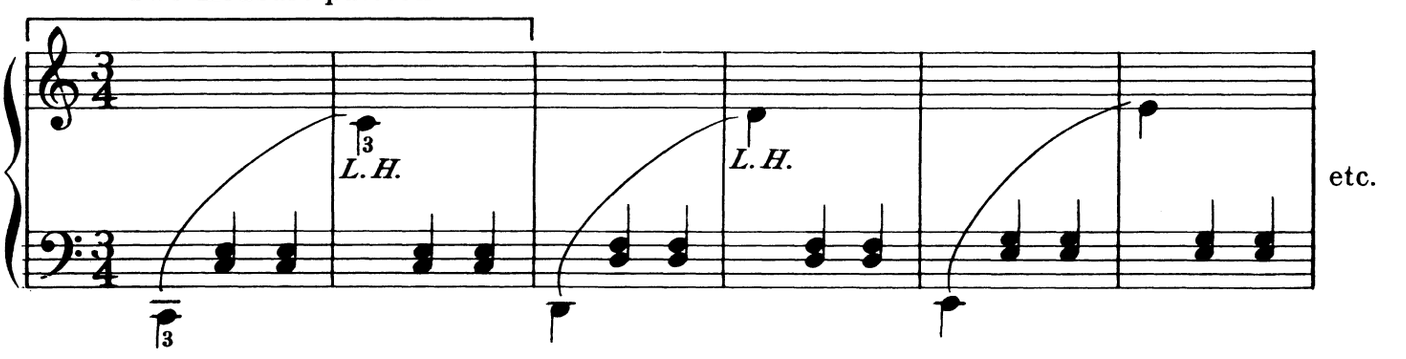
2

One measure pattern



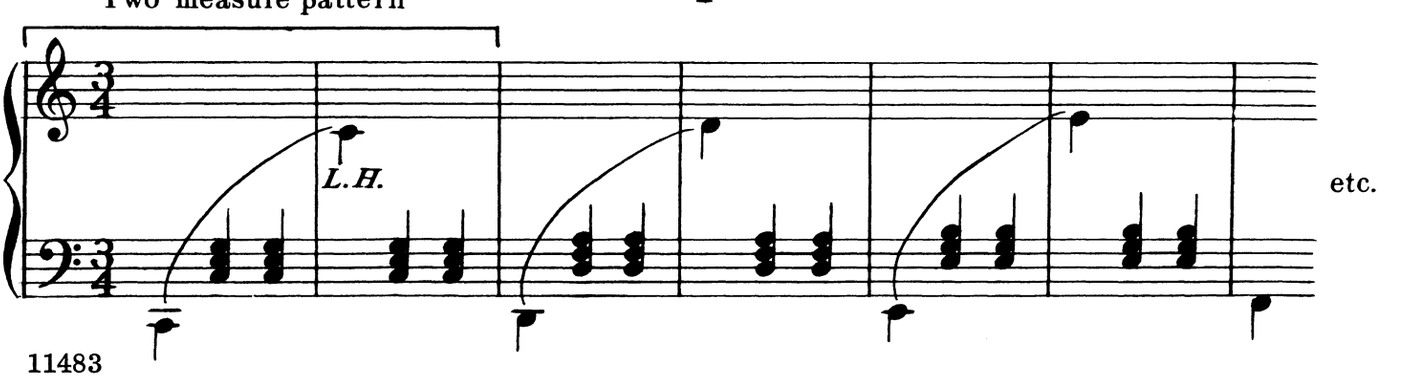
3

Two measure pattern



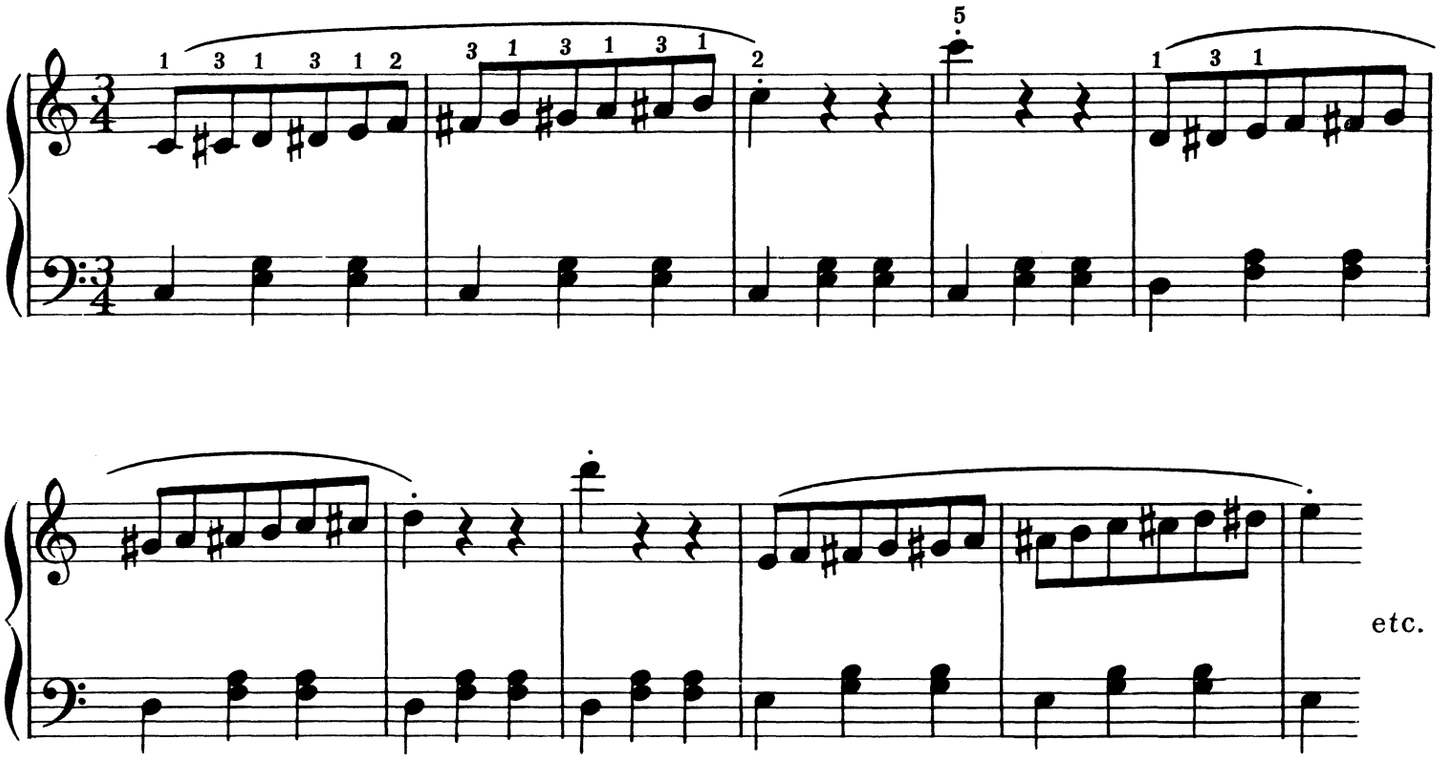
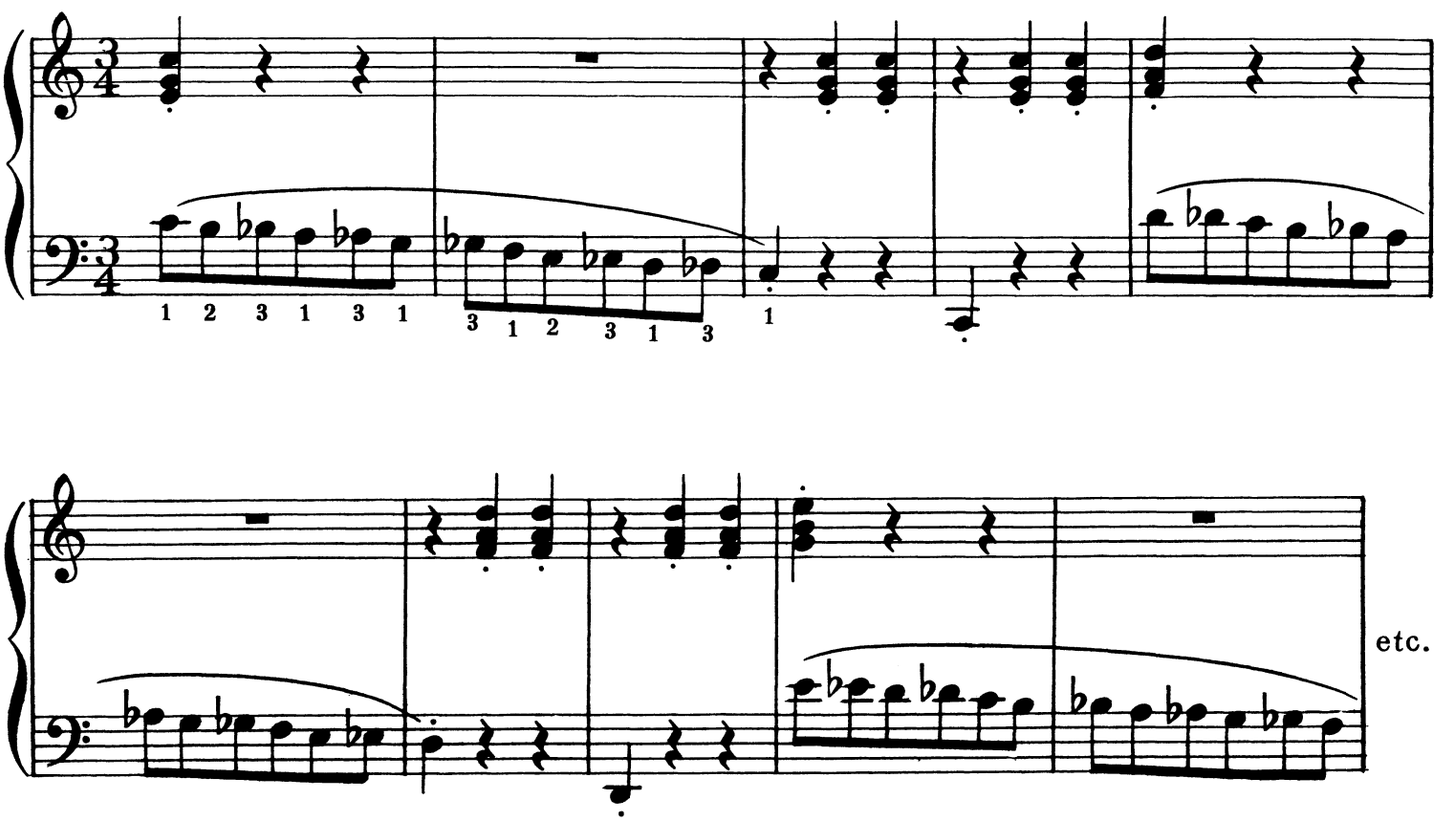
4

Two measure pattern



Chromatic Scales in Waltz Time

1



2