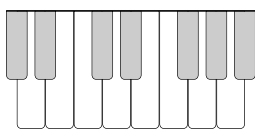

Introduction

Scales and broken chords *are* important. And if taught and learned imaginatively, they can be fun!

Improve Your Scales! is designed to help you approach scale learning methodically and thoughtfully. Its intention is to turn learning scales into a pleasant, positive and relevant experience by gradually building up the skills to play them through cumulative and enjoyable activities.

What *Improve Your Scales!* is about

The idea of *Improve Your Scales!* is to present you with lots of engaging activities that lead up to playing the scale (or arpeggio). Actually playing the scale is the last thing that you do! These activities build up an understanding (of the fingering, technical issues, the sound, particular features, sense of key and connections with the pieces that you play) to help make the learning of scales really relevant.



At the top of each scale is a keyboard showing the notes of that particular scale (the minor keys have two keyboards for the melodic minor pattern). This is for you to fill in with whatever you find most useful. Here are some suggestions:

- highlight or colour in the notes of the scale – so you can see the pattern of black and white notes.
- fill in the note names.
- add the fingering you will use for both hands.

Here are two really important **Golden Rules**:

No 1 Before practising your scales make sure that you:

- Drink some water (this helps get the brain working!)
- Relax (especially shoulders, arms, wrists and fingers)
- Check your posture.

No 2 Always practise the scale (or microscale) and broken chord of the pieces you are learning.

Acknowledgements

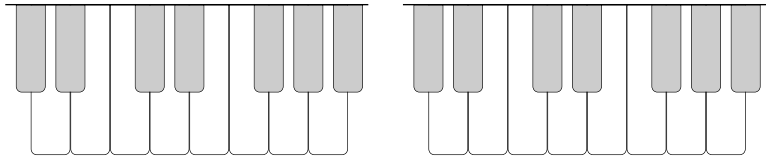
Firstly a big thank you to Diana Jackson who, through her considerable and distinguished teaching experience, has furnished many valuable thoughts and ideas.

Thanks also to Claire Dunham whose terrific eye for detail has been invaluable. Also to my own teacher Graeme Humphrey who helped so much in preparing the first edition, and Ann Priestley for many useful comments.

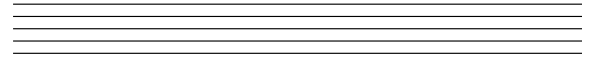
Finally, huge thanks to Lesley Rutherford, my wonderful editor at Faber Music, who always goes well beyond the call of duty.

A minor

Fill in the scale:



Write the key signature of A minor (treble and bass clefs):



The relative major of A minor is: _____

Finger fitness

TOP TIP This is your first minor scale. How does it sound different from a major scale?

Harmonic exercises

1 2

3 4

Melodic exercises

5 6

7 8

Broken chords

9

10

