

# The 24 major and minor piano scales by finger pattern

If you're learning to play piano scales with both hands these charts may help. Whereas flute players can play through their scales keeping their fingers in the same position, pianists are shifting their fingers all the time. Not only that: they have to learn another finger sequence for the other hand (which is fixed on the opposite way, you may have noticed) and then play them both at the same time. The correspondence between the two hands falls into three groups - the F# family with 8 members, the E family with 13 members and the 3 leftovers.

Learn F# major first (the most difficult to write but the easiest to play) followed by E major. Then learn their other family members, then the leftovers. Play at least three octaves of each scale even if the exam you're preparing for only requires two. Three octaves gives you more opportunity to pick up the central pattern.

All the major and minor scales are based on the repetition of 7 notes. We play 7 notes by adding a 3 finger group to a 4 finger group. Here is an extract from the middle of an E family scale. The four finger group is shown in bold.

right hand ... 1 2 3 **1 2 3 4** 1 ...  
left hand ... 1 **4 3 2 1** 2 3 1 ...

When the scale begins, turns around and ends there may be fingerings that are not part of the repeating 7. These are shown in brackets.

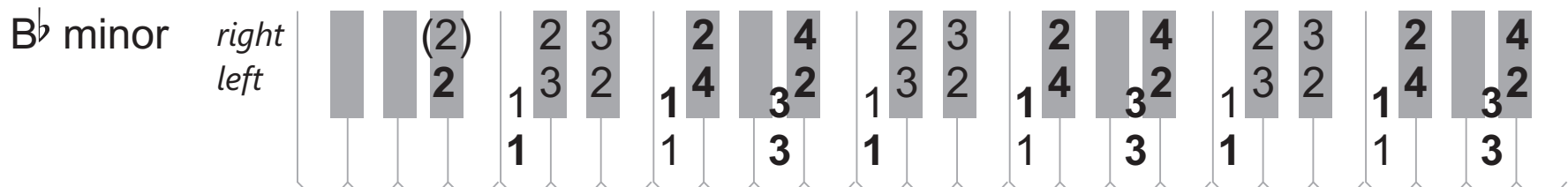
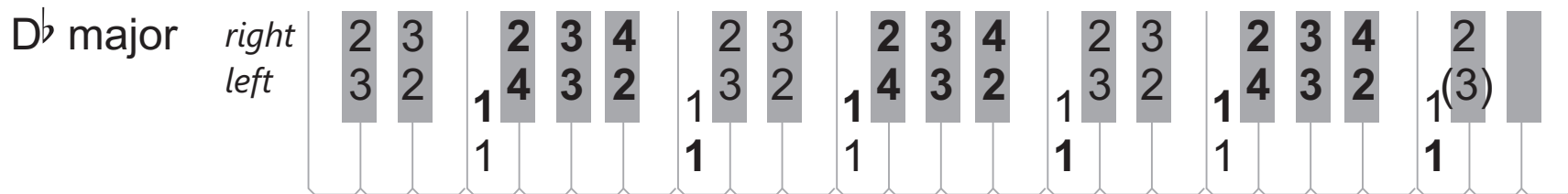
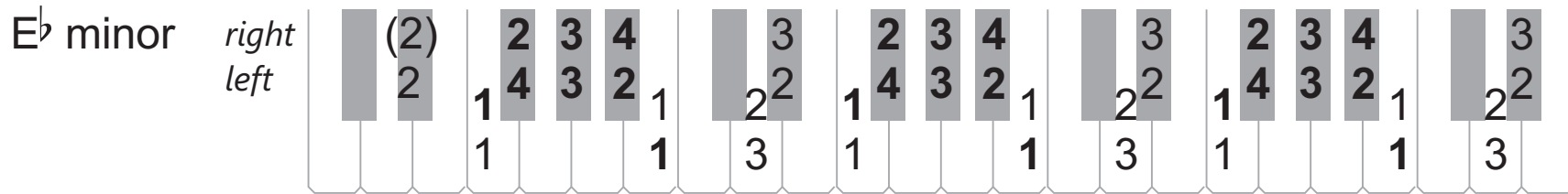
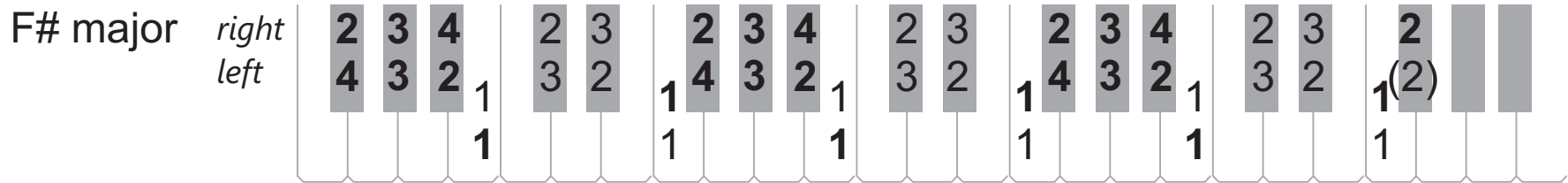
right hand ... 1 2 3 **1 2 3 4** ...  
left hand (5)**4 3 2 1** 2 3 ...

The note between A and C, called B in the US, UK etc. and H by the northern Europeans, is here written as the hybrid **b** so that it can be interpreted by both readerships in their own tradition (and as it was written before the traditions split).

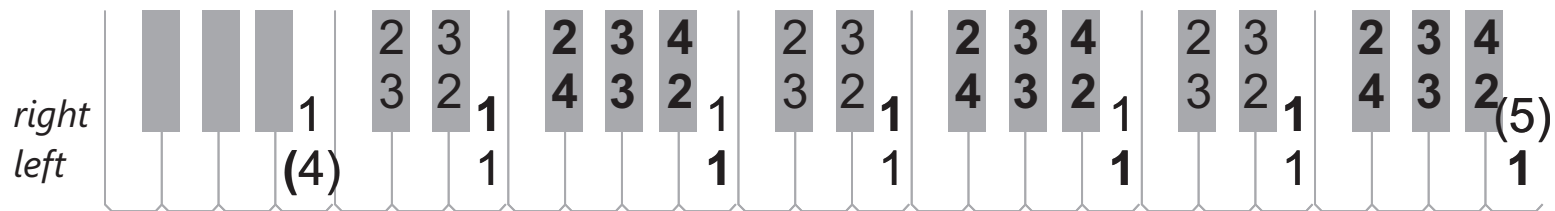
It is quicker to learn harmonic minors than melodic so only the harmonic minors are included in this version.

# The F# Group

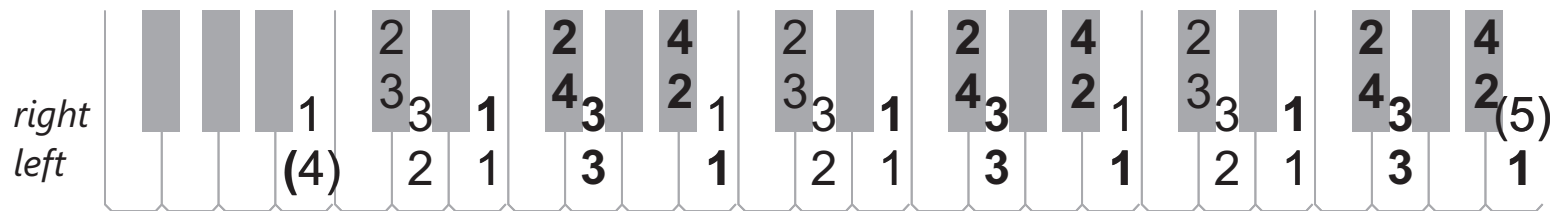
F# major, E $\flat$  minor, D $\flat$  major, B $\flat$  minor,  $\flat$  major,  $\flat$  minor, F major, F minor



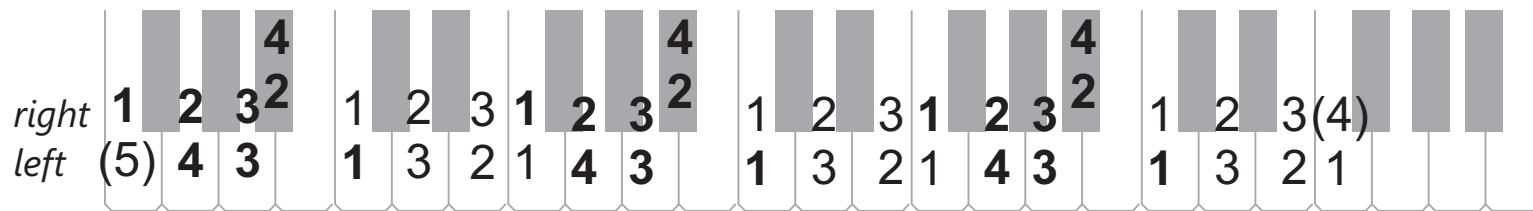
### b major



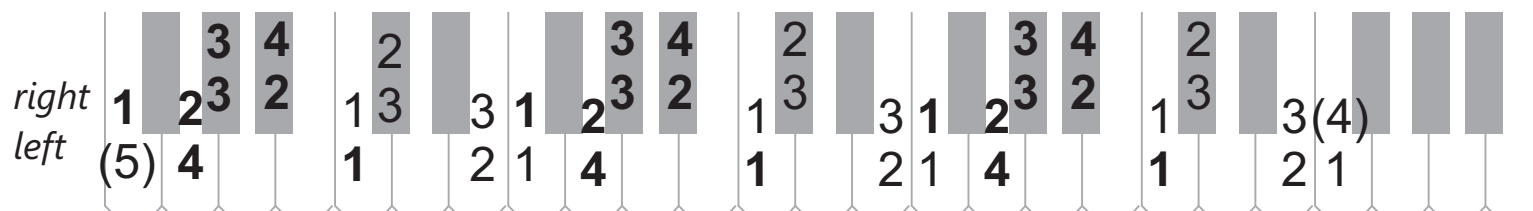
### b minor



### F major



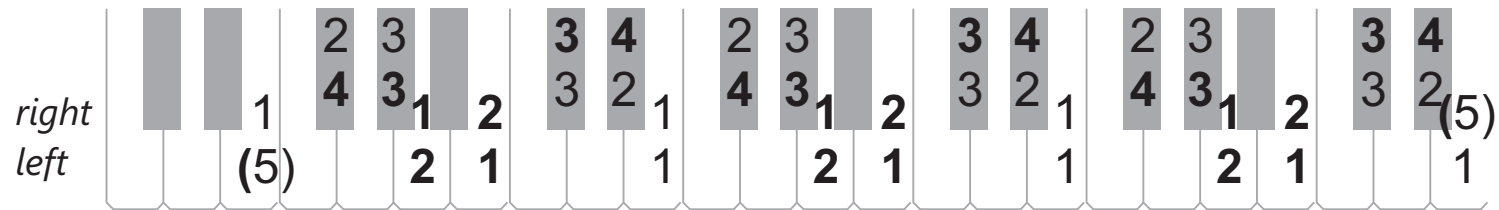
### F minor



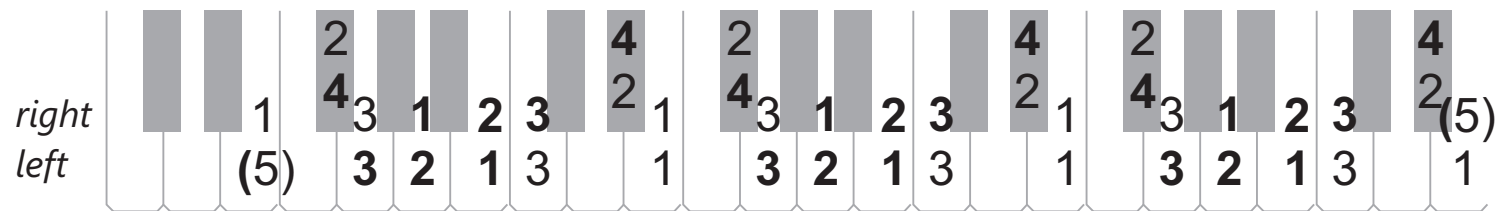
# The E major group

E major, E minor, A major, A minor, D major, D minor, G major, G minor  
 C major, C minor, Ab major, G# minor and C# minor

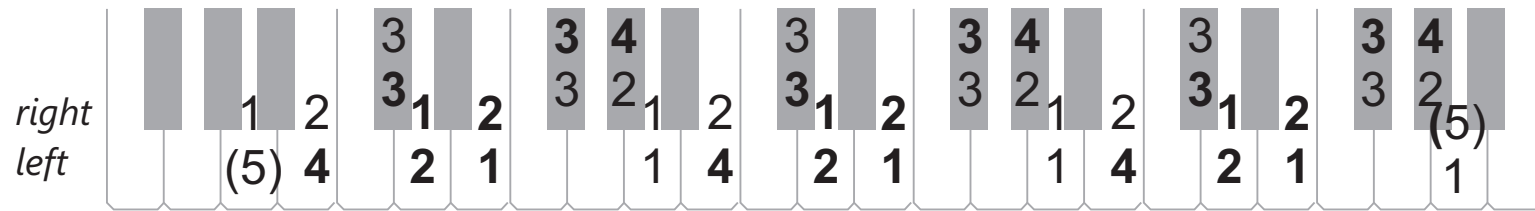
E major



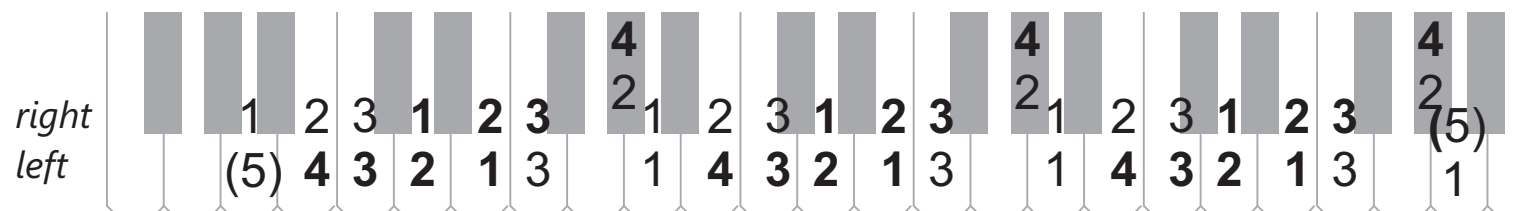
E minor



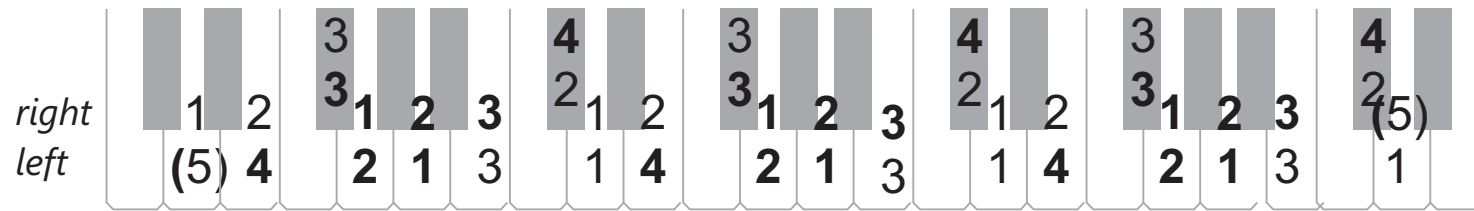
A major



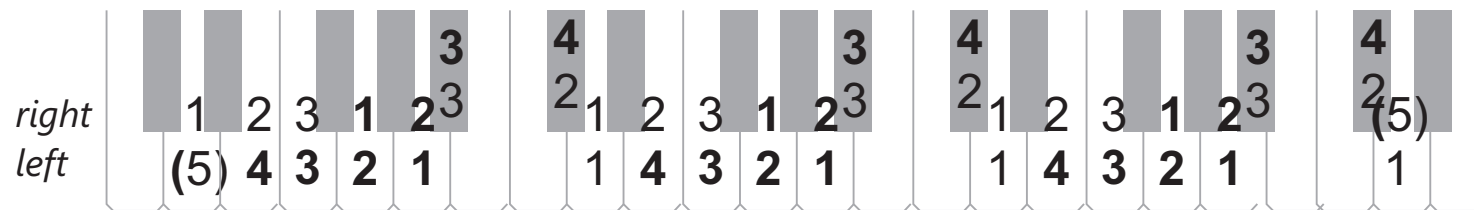
A minor



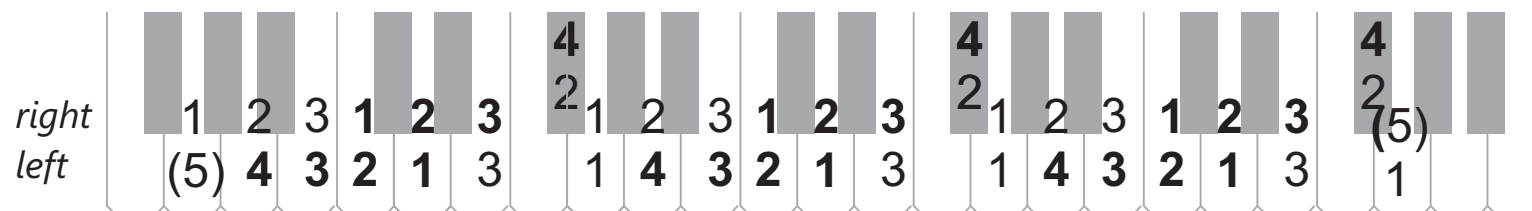
## D major



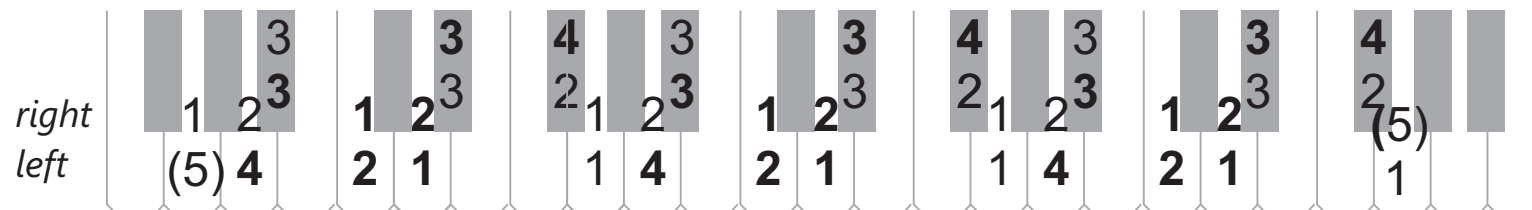
## D minor



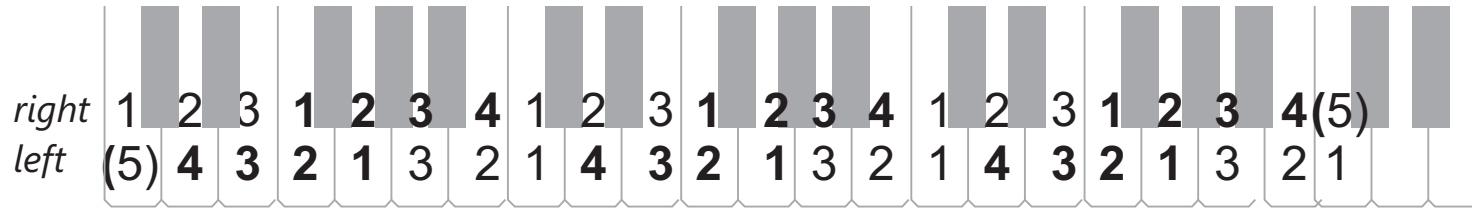
## G major



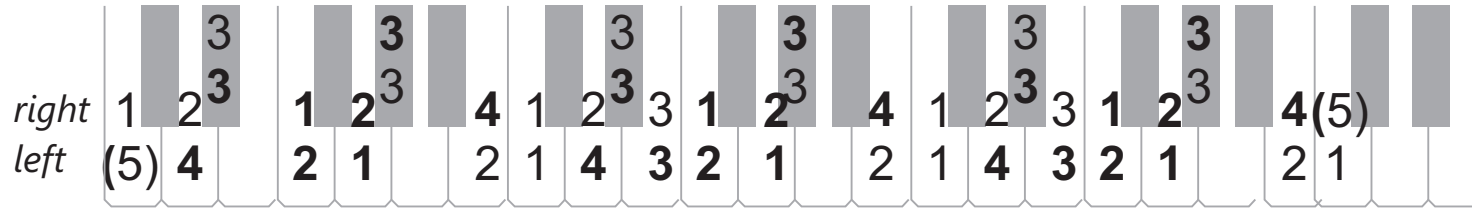
## G minor



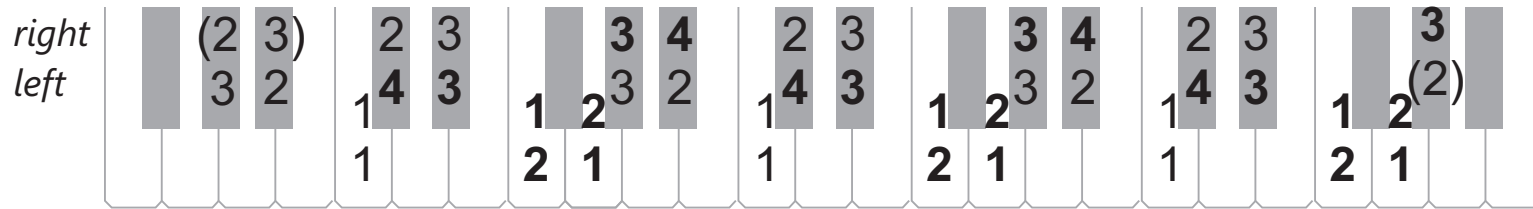
### C major



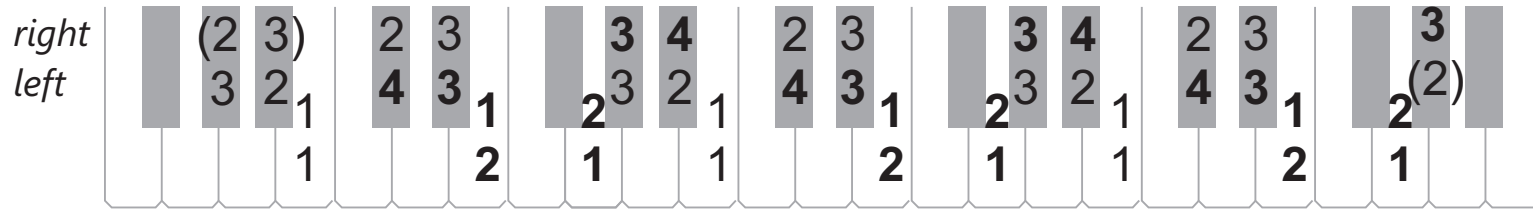
### C minor



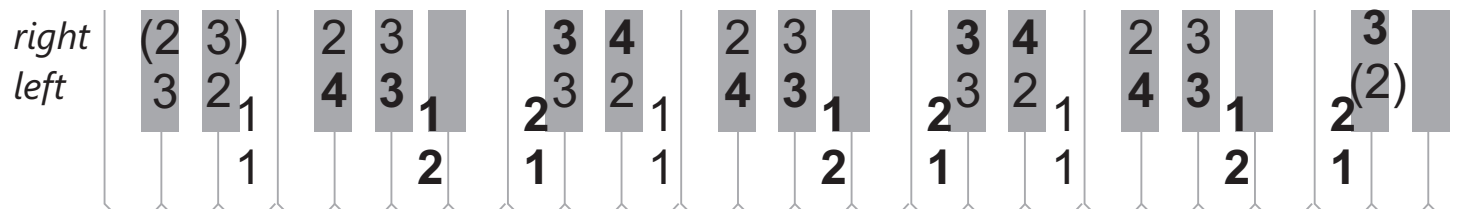
### Ab major



### G# minor



### C# minor



# The Leftovers Eb major, F# minor, Bb major

**E♭ major** *right left*

The diagram shows the fingerings for the Eb major scale. The right hand starts with the thumb on Eb, then the index finger on E, middle on F, ring on F#, and pinky on G. The left hand starts with the thumb on Eb, then the index finger on E, middle on F, ring on F#, and pinky on G. The sequence of notes and their fingerings is: Eb (thumb), E (index), F (middle), F# (ring), G (pinky), F# (ring), F (middle), E (index), Eb (thumb), G (pinky), F# (ring), F (middle), E (index), Eb (thumb), G (pinky), F# (ring), F (middle), E (index), Eb (thumb).

**F# minor** *right left*

The diagram shows the fingerings for the F# minor scale. The right hand starts with the index finger on F#, middle on G, ring on A, and pinky on B. The left hand starts with the thumb on F#, index on G, middle on A, ring on B, and pinky on C#. The sequence of notes and their fingerings is: F# (index), G (middle), A (ring), B (pinky), C# (pinky), B (ring), A (middle), G (index), F# (index), C# (pinky), B (ring), A (middle), G (index), F# (index), C# (pinky), B (ring), A (middle), G (index), F# (index), C# (pinky), B (ring), A (middle), G (index), F# (index).

**B♭ major** *right left*

The diagram shows the fingerings for the Bb major scale. The right hand starts with the thumb on Bb, index on B, middle on C, ring on C#, and pinky on D. The left hand starts with the thumb on Bb, index on B, middle on C, ring on C#, and pinky on D. The sequence of notes and their fingerings is: Bb (thumb), B (index), C (middle), C# (ring), D (pinky), C# (ring), C (middle), B (index), Bb (thumb), D (pinky), C# (ring), C (middle), B (index), Bb (thumb), D (pinky), C# (ring), C (middle), B (index), Bb (thumb), D (pinky), C# (ring), C (middle), B (index), Bb (thumb).

# Summary of finger patterns

## The F# Group

**1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4**  
**4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1**

## The E group

**1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4**  
**4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1**

## E<sup>b</sup> Major and F#Minor

**1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4**  
**4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1**

## B<sup>b</sup> Major

**1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4**  
**4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1**

Comments and suggestions to [bobstuckey@gmail.com](mailto:bobstuckey@gmail.com)  
It is hoped to include melodic minors and natural minors in future versions.