

PREPARATORY EXERCISES - BASS CLEF

Below are several exercises every musician should memorize and be able to play in all MAJOR, MINOR (Dorian Minor), and DOMINANT 7th keys. These are basic exercises which will help you gain speed and dexterity. Begin by practicing slowly, then gradually increase speed. Strive for smoothness and slur each exercise. Keyboard and string players should play legato. After you get the feel of several, consult the ARTICULATIONS chapter. These exercises are great for warming up each day. You can apply these to ANY scale or chord, regardless of quality. Due to space considerations, I have only listed three qualities.

CHROMATIC SCALE ONE OCTAVE

(Learn the CHROMATIC SCALE from your lowest note to the highest.)

Major

Dominant 7th

Minor (DORIAN)

1. CHROMATIC SCALE ONE OCTAVE (Learn the CHROMATIC SCALE from your lowest note to the highest.)
2. CA FIRST 5 NOTES (Play 3x) C7 C-7
3. CA FULL SCALE TO THE 9th (Play 3x) C7 C-7
4. CA ROOT, 3rd, 5th (TRIAD) (Play 3x) C7 C-7
5. 7th CHORD (ROOT, 3rd, 5th, 7th) (Play 3x) C7 C-7
6. 9th CHORD (ROOT, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th) (Play 3x) C7 C-7
7. 9th CHORD ASCENDING & FULL SCALE DESCENDING (Play 4x) C7 C-7
8. 9th CHORD SCALE (Play 4x) C7 C-7
9. FULL SCALE ASCENDING & 9th CHORD DESCENDING (Play 4x) C7 C-7
10. EXERCISES ON BLUES SCALE

I strongly urge you to practice the above exercises, using as a guide any of the following root sequences to assure yourself of practice in all keys.

1. C D^b D E^b E F F[#] G A^b A B^b B C
2. C F B^b B^b A^b A^b D^b D^b B E A D G C
3. C D E F[#] A^b B^b/ D^b E^b F G A B D^b
4. C E^b G^b A/ D^b E G B^b/ D F A^b B
5. C B B^b A A^b G G^b F E E^b D D^b C
6. C E^b D^b E D F E^b G^b E G F A^b G^b A G B^b A^b B A C