

# The 12 Major Scales and Arpeggios

for Trumpet

A Major



D Major



G Major



C Major



F Major



Bb Major

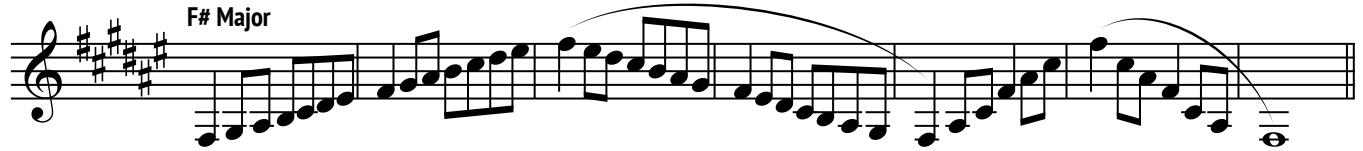


Eb Major



Ab Major





Learning your scales is essential to your advancement as a musician. If we think of music as a language, the notes are like letters, and groups of notes in sequence are like words. Learning scales is like learning the most commonly used vocabulary words in a language. Most of the music you learn will be based on the notes of scales. If you want to be fluent in the language of music, you must first perfect the basic building blocks of the language: scales and arpeggios like the ones above. There are only 12 major scales to learn. You can learn them. Be diligent, and practice these scales daily until they are second nature. Once they are second nature, keep practicing them until they are memorized. Once they are memorized, keep them fresh. Practice scales in some form every day! The rhythmic and articulation patterns presented here are suggestions for a place to start. Be creative; invent your own!

### How to practice these scales

Start slowly, going note by note. Make sure that you are playing the correct note with the correct fingering. I recommend that you finger the notes while saying the note names aloud in sequence just as much or more than you actually play. Once you can confidently finger the scales correctly, practice singing the notes of the scale while using the correct fingerings.

The next step will be to play the scales in tempo. **START SLOWLY.** Using a metronome (if you don't have a metronome, you can download countless free and paid apps on smartphones, or simply search for a metronome tempo in Google--yes, Google is a metronome!), set your metronome to quarter note=60 bpm. Do not increase the tempo until you can play the scale with no errors confidently at least 7 times in a row. When you increase the tempo, do not increase it more than 10 bpm, and limit yourself to one increase per day. It is completely okay to spend days at the same tempo. Be patient! Don't cheat yourself. Learn each scale correctly the first time, and you will not have to unlearn it later! Slow and consistent is the fastest way to learn.

If you have trouble playing a scale, take a break from playing it. Place your trumpet in your lap with your right hand on the valves. Hold your left hand in front of your face, and perform a wind pattern while fingering through the scale with your right hand.

Another way to practice is to hold your mouthpiece alone lightly in your left hand and buzz the pitches of the scale while fingering with your right hand. A good goal is to be able to play the scales at a tempo of quarter note=140 bpm or higher. Practice hard and HAVE FUN getting better.

For more help memorizing your key signatures and scales, check out my Anki practice decks!

Questions? Don't hesitate to reach out. I want to help you improve! Visit [www.williamcoopertrumpet.com](http://www.williamcoopertrumpet.com) for contact information and more resources.

-William Cooper, Trumpet