

Tutorial 1E: Flexible Scale Levels



Welcome! In this tutorial you'll learn how to:

1. Use Practice Strategies for Flexible Scales
2. Learn to use Levels 1-4
3. Learn to use Levels 5-7
4. The Next Step

Enjoy the learning!

Other Level 1 Tutorials

- 1A: Virtual Practice
- 1B: Chords and Scales
- 1C: Melodic Color
- 1D: Rhythmic Variety
- 1F: Using Expression
- 1G: Develop Motifs/Phrases
- 1J: Chords, Keys, Progressions

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- You can take the approach you've already learned to Flexible Scales to new heights! As you do so, you'll not only learn how to improve your technique & use of SHAPE, but you'll bridge the gaps from scale practice to improvisation.

Part 1 ~ Use Practice Strategies

A) What are the practice strategies for flexible scales?

- Stay with one flexible scale and move through various practice levels.
- Go through all keys (circle of fourths) in one level at a time.
- Randomly pick a key and a practice level for a flexible scale.
- For new rhythms, use the techniques you learned in Tutorial 1D: *Rhythmic Variety*.
- Use longer ascending or descending lines, such as nearly an octave or more than an octave.
- Stay in the lower or higher range for a longer time.
- Occasionally stay within a three-note or four-note range.

*Be sure to cover all keys with major, Lydian, Mixolydian, Dorian, blues, pentatonic, and other scales. See Tutorial 2A for additional scales to practice.

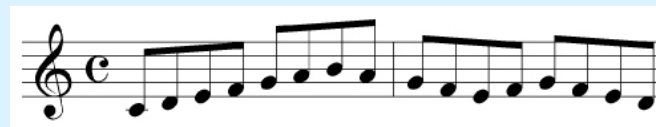
B) What are the 7 Practice Levels for flexible scales?

*They are new approaches to flexible scales that help you bridge the gap between scales and improvisation!

Part 2 ~ Practice Levels 1-4 MORE

A) What is Level 1? SAMPLE

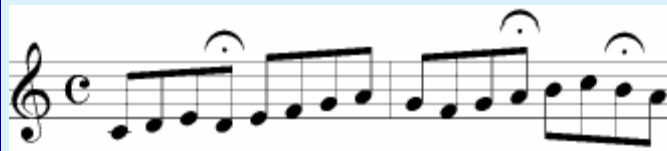
*Simply move up and down the flexible scale by single steps. For example:



- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Hum and finger each flexible major scale in the circle of 4ths. [Practice Pages](#)

B) What is Level 2? SAMPLE

*It's like Level 1, except that every so often you pause on (hold out) a color note (2, 4 or #4, 6, 7). For example:



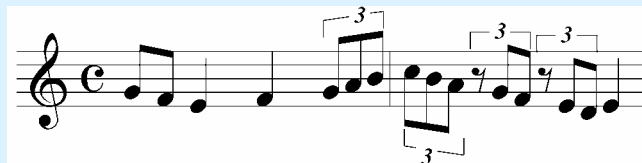
- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Hum and finger each flexible major scale in the circle of 4ths. [Practice Pages](#)

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(Part 2 – Practice Levels 1-4)

B) What is Level 3? SAMPLE

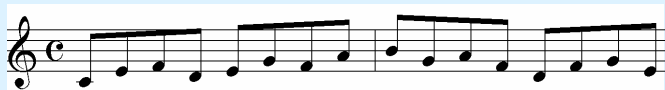
*Use new rhythms (quarter-notes, rests, dotted quarters, triplets, etc.). For example:



- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Hum and finger each flexible major scale in the circle of 4ths. [Practice Pages](#)

C) What is Level 4? SAMPLE

*Use some skips; alternate between seconds and thirds. For example:



- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Hum and finger each flexible major scale in the circle of 4ths. [Practice Pages](#)

Part 3 – Practice Levels 5 – 7

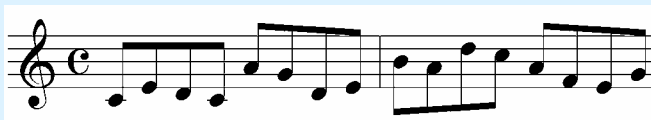
A) What is Level 5? SAMPLE

*It's like Level 4, except that you add new rhythms to the flexible scales.. For example:

- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Hum and finger each flexible major scale in the circle of 4ths. [Practice Pages](#)

B) What is Level 6? SAMPLE

*It's like Level 4, except that you use wider intervals. For example:



- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Hum and finger each flexible major scale in the circle of 4ths. [Practice Pages](#)

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(Part 3 – Practice Levels 5-7)

C) What is Level 7? SAMPLE

*It's like Level 6, except that you add new rhythms to the flexible scales. For example:

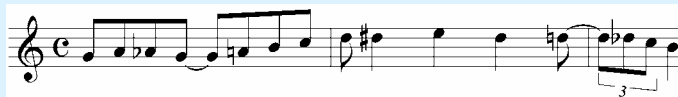


- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Hum and finger each flexible major scale in the circle of 4ths. [Practice Pages](#)

Part 4 – The Next Step

A) OK, what is the Next Step? SAMPLE

*Add non-harmonic tones (see Tutorial 3A) to your flexible scales, for a richer sound at any of the 7 practice levels. For example:



That's all for Tutorial 1 ☑!

There is no Quiz for this Tutorial – just plenty of flexible scale practice.



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