Scale/Arpeggio Rule Sheet

RULE of PINKY (applies to scales/arpeggios beginning on white notes):

- If the highest tonic note of a right-hand scale/arpeggio ***should*** use a thumb, replace it with the next available finger (usually 5, sometimes 4)
- If the lowest tonic note of a left-hand scale/arpeggio ***should*** use a thumb, replace it with the next available finger (usually 5, sometimes 4)

SCALES (all scales/arpeggios are two octaves ascending/descending)

- CAGED: C, c, A, a, G, g, E, e, D, d
  - RH = 123 – 1234 – 123 – 1234 (5)
  - LH = (5) 4321 – 321 – 4321 – 321
  - 3's line up; thumbs line up on middle tonic
- THUMBS: D♭, e♭, F, f, G♭, b♭, B, b
  - Thumbs line up
- 321: c#, E♭, A♭, g#, B♭
  - LH = 321 – 4321 – 321 – 4321
  - RH thumb of E♭, A♭, and B♭ on C and F
- F# minor is not in these categories

ARPEGGIOS, Tonic

- White-key tonic arpeggios including e♭ and G♭
  - Use fingers 2 and 3
  - RH = 123 – 123 (5)
  - LH = (5) 321 – 321
- Black-key tonic arpeggios
  - RH = 4 – 124 – 124
  - LH = 21 – 421 – 42
  - Use fingers 2 and 4
  - Place thumbs on white keys
  - B♭ is modified (LH = 321 – 321 – 3); b♭ places thumbs on white keys

ARPEGGIOS, Dominant 7 (V^7/x)

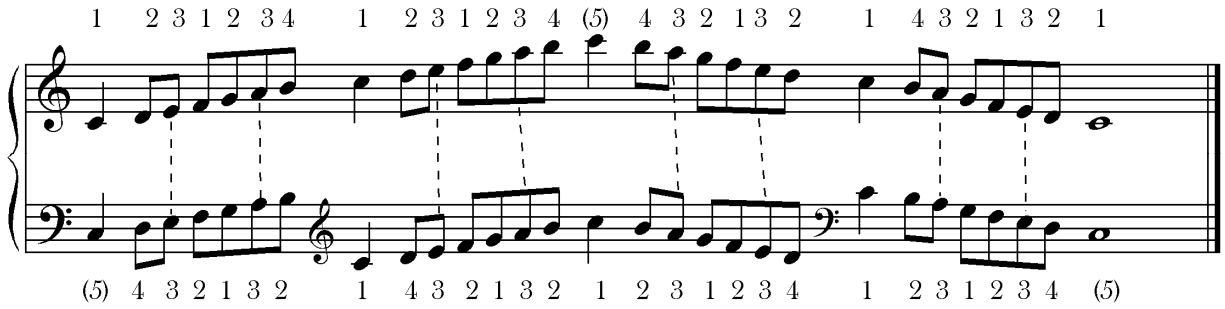
- White-key: RH fingering chord = root position; LH fingering chord = first inversion; thumbs share same note
- Black-key: Fingering chords share thumb on white key
  - D♭7 places thumbs on F; B♭7 = RH 1st inversion, LH 3rd inversion

ARPEGGIOS, Diminished 7 (vii^{o7}/x)

- Fingering chord inversions place finger 1 on white, finger 4 on black (both hands)

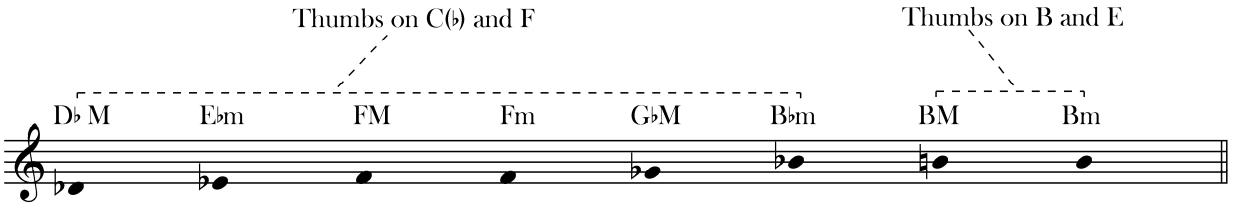
Scales: CAGED

- **CAGED pattern (aka C major pattern): Works for C, c, A, a, G, g, E, e, D, d (notice 3s line up)**

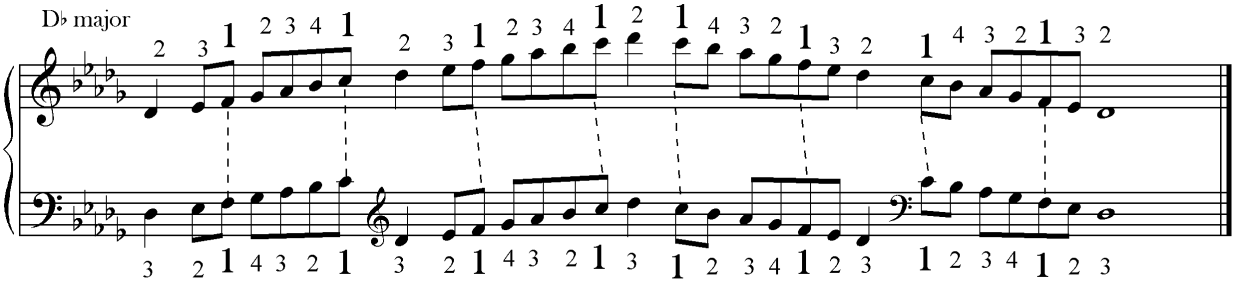


Scales: THUMBS

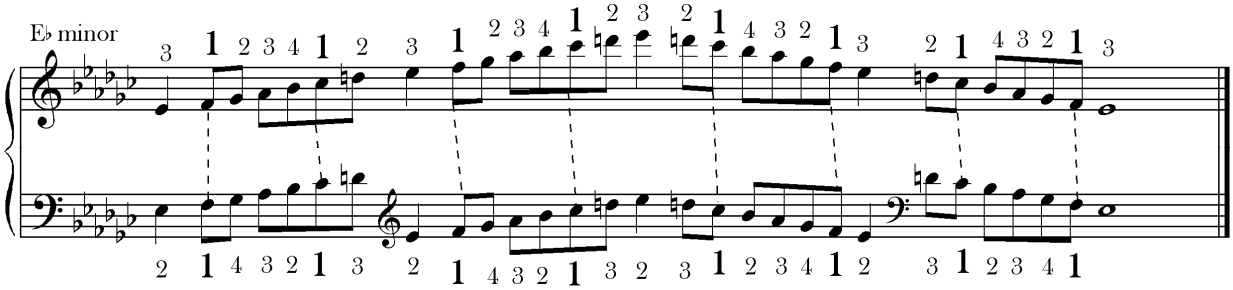
- In these scales, thumbs of both hands engage at the same time (D♭, e♭, F, f, G♭, b♭, B, b)
- Practice these eight scales in the following order:



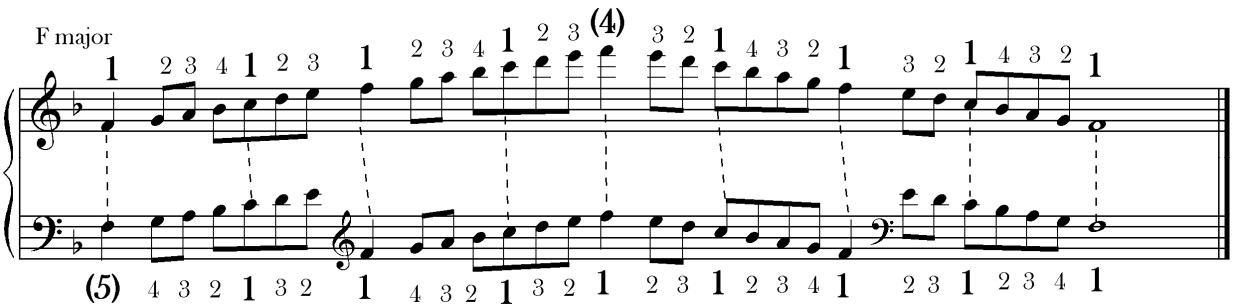
- **D♭ major scale (thumbs on F and C)**



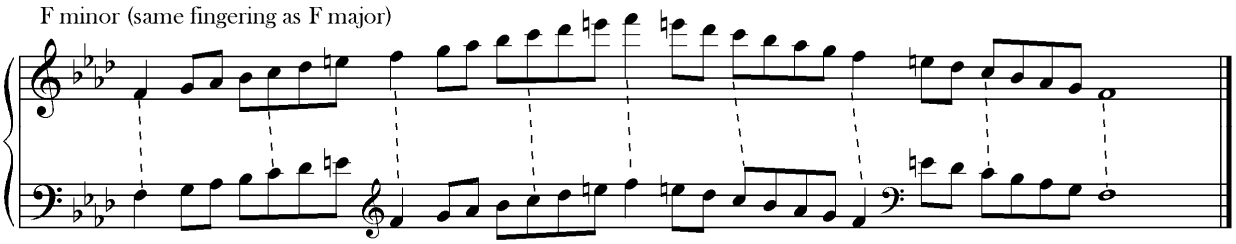
- **E♭ minor scale (thumbs on F and C♭)**



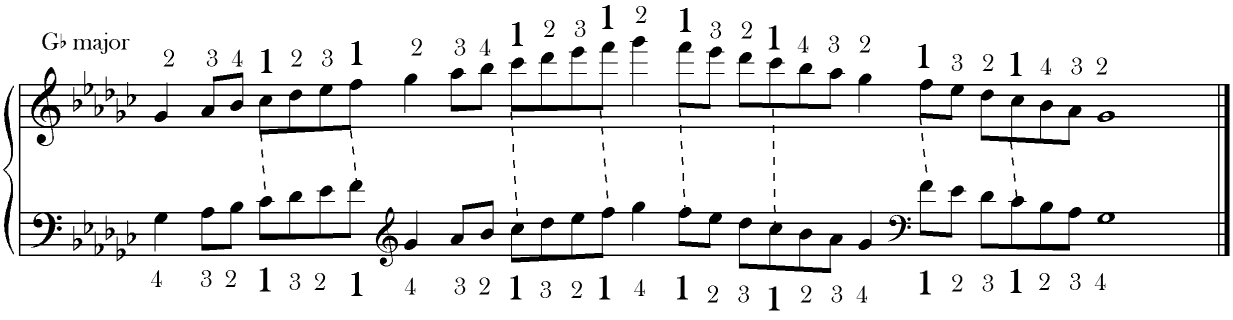
- **F major scale (thumbs on F and C)**



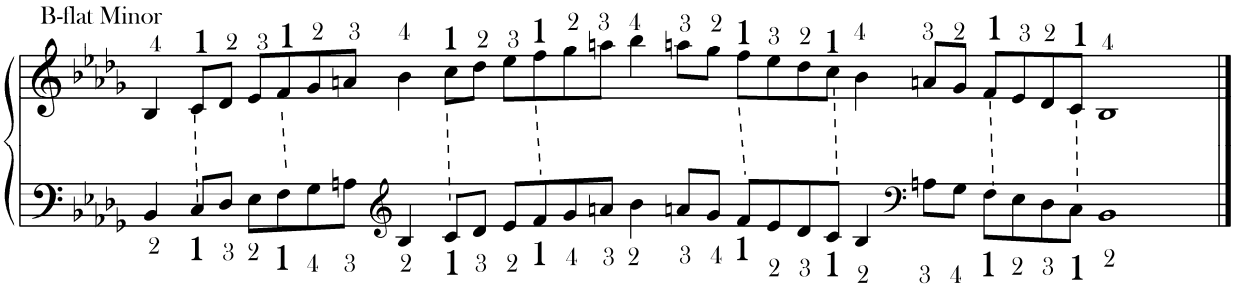
- **F minor scale (thumbs on F and C)**



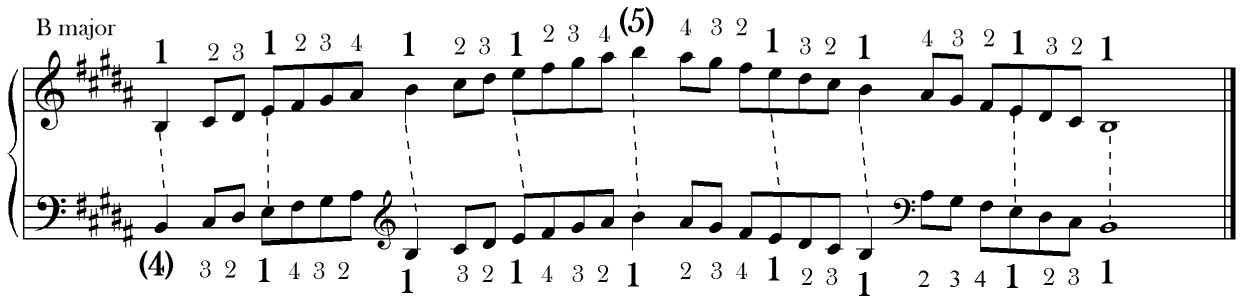
- **G♭ major scale (thumbs on C♭ and F)**



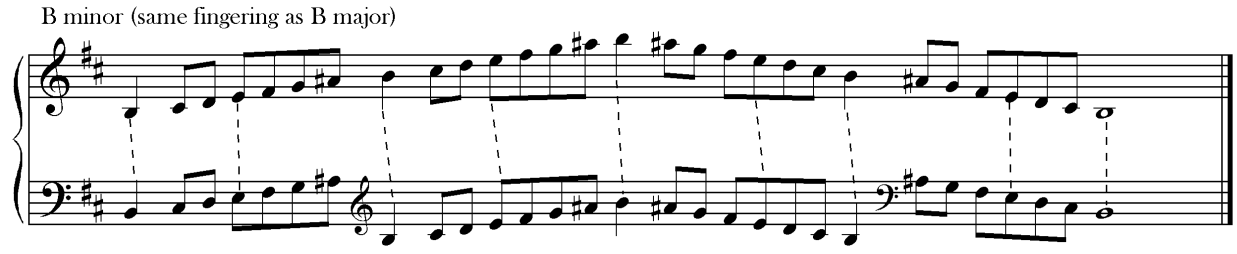
- **B♭ minor scale (thumbs on F and C)**



- **B major scale (thumbs on B and E)**



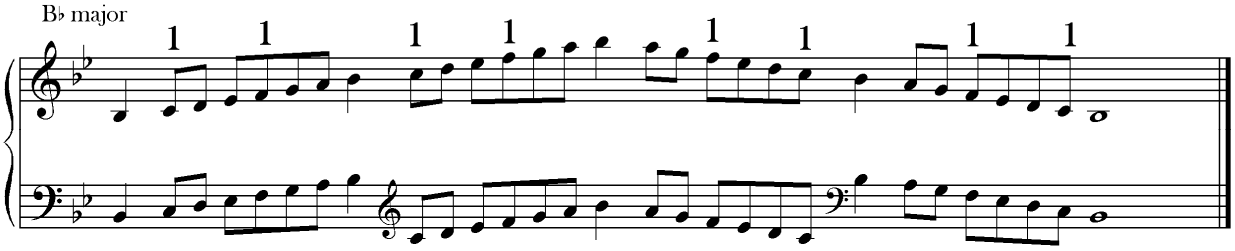
- **B minor scale (thumbs on B and E)**



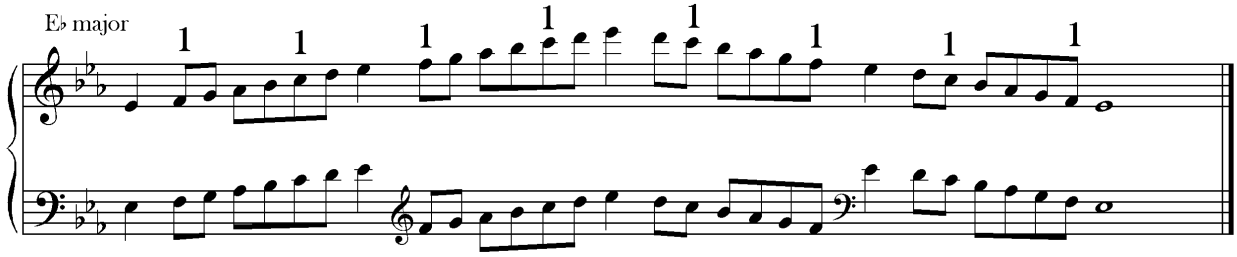
Scales: 321

- **321 scales (B♭, E♭, A♭, c#, and g#) have the same fingering for the left hand:**
  - **321** – 4321 – 321 – 4321 – 3
- Practice the left hand alone. After solidifying the left hand fingering, find the right hand thumb markers and fill in the next available fingers.

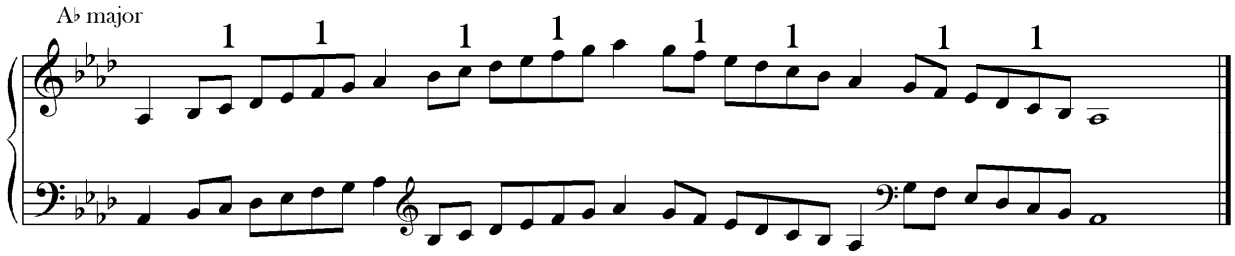
- **B♭ major scale (RH thumb on C and F)**



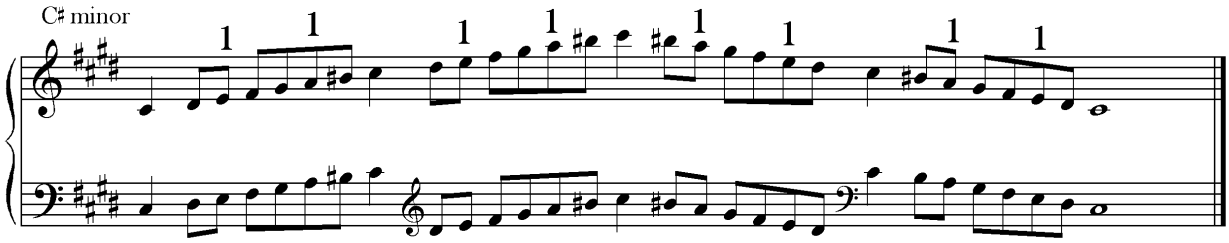
- **E♭ major scale (RH thumb on F and C)**



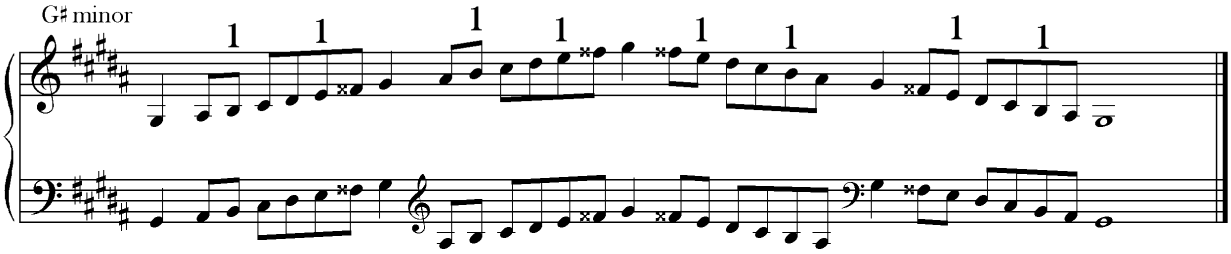
- **A♭ major scale (RH thumb on C and F)**



- **C# minor scale (RH thumb on E and A)**

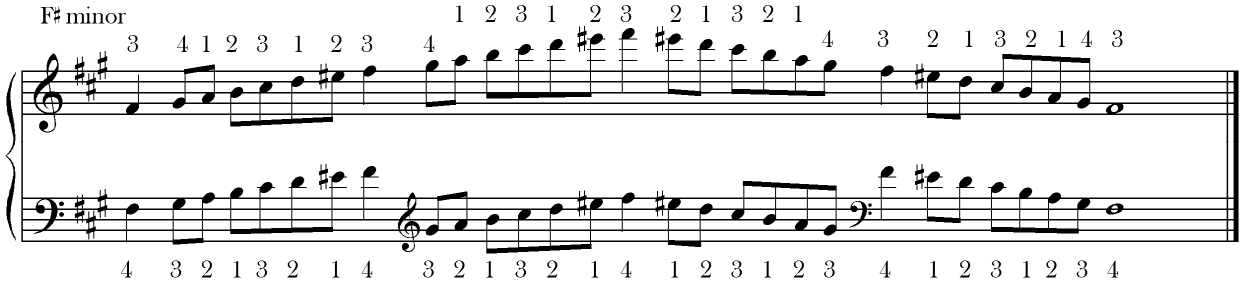


- **G# minor scale (RH thumb on B and E)**



- F# minor does not fit into the three previous categories.

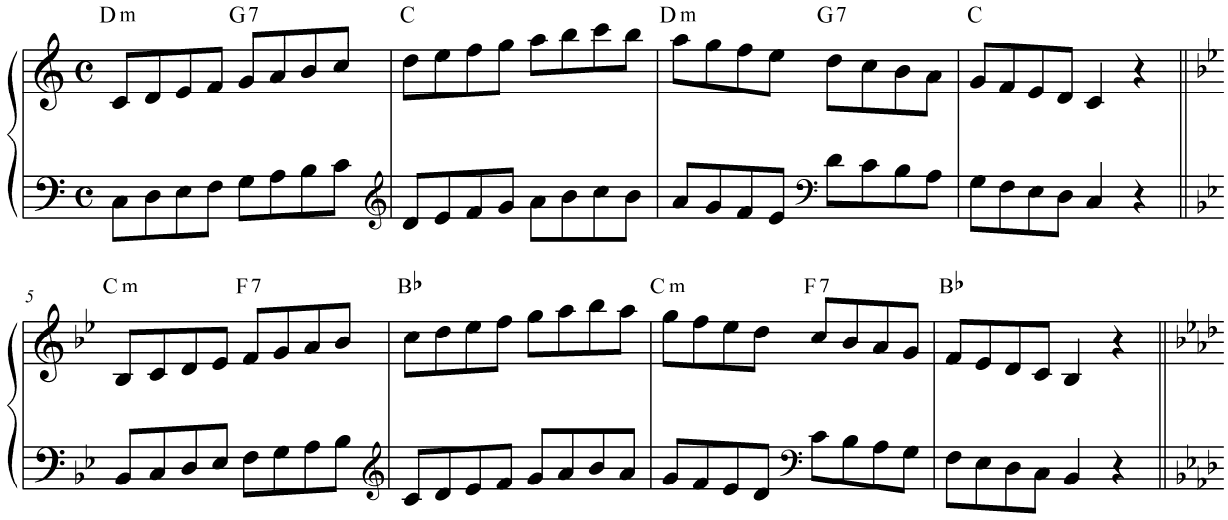
- **F# minor scale**



❖ **With Track I (key sequence: C, B♭, A♭, G♭, E, D, D♭, B, A, G, F, E♭ majors)**

- **Think of the key sequence as two consecutive descending whole-tone scales (six notes each), one beginning on C and the other beginning on D♭**

➢ Quarter = ca. 54; begin practice at 40 until ready for play-along

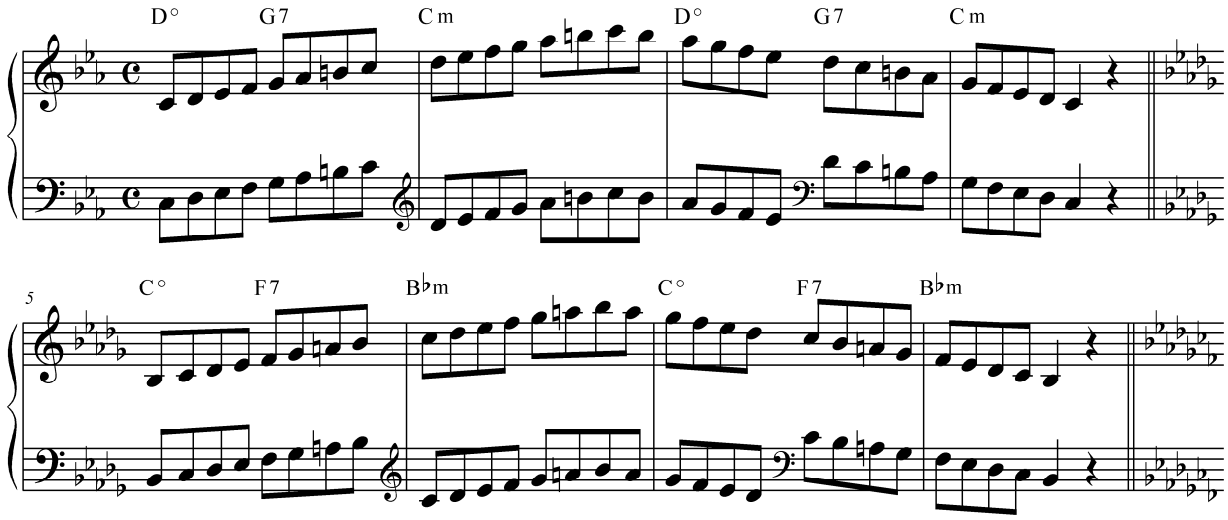


Etc…

❖ **With Track no. 2 (key sequence: C, B♭, A♭, G♭, E, D, D♭, B, A, G, F, E♭ minors)**

- **Think of the key sequence as two consecutive descending whole-tone scales (six notes each), one beginning on C and the other beginning on D♭**

➢ Quarter = ca. 54; begin practice at 40 until ready for play-along



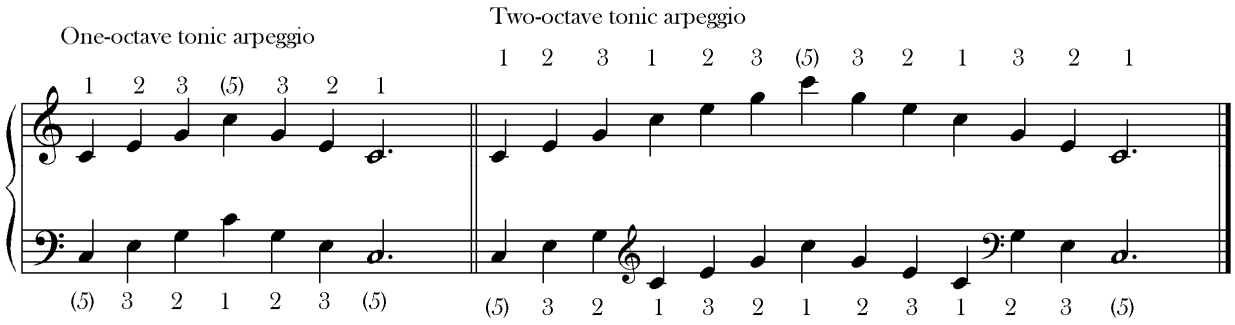
Etc…

Tonic Arpeggios

There are two categories of tonic arpeggios: white-key and black-key. White-key tonic arpeggios begin on a white note while black-key tonic arpeggios begin on a black note. There are two major exceptions to the black-key category: G♭ major and E♭ minor. Despite beginning on a black note, G♭ major and E♭ minor tonic arpeggios adopt the white-key fingering.

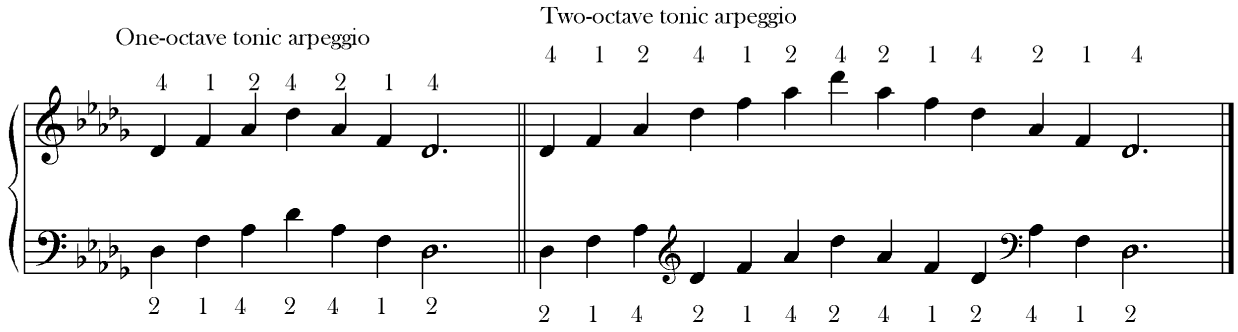
The white-key tonic arpeggio pattern works for all white-key major and minor arpeggios (plus G♭ major and E♭ minor). Again, notice that the pinky is used only for the right hand's highest tonic and the left hand's lowest tonic.

- **White-key one- and two-octave tonic arpeggio fingering**



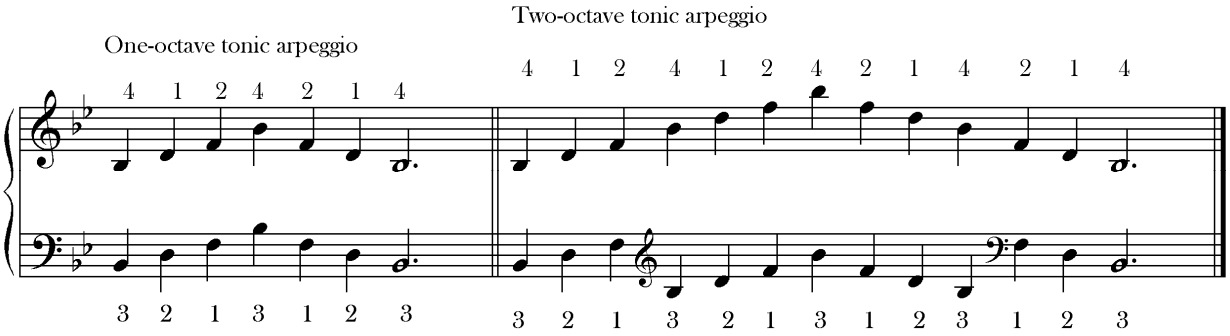
The black-key pattern works for all remaining keys.

- **Black-key one- and two-octave tonic arpeggio fingering**

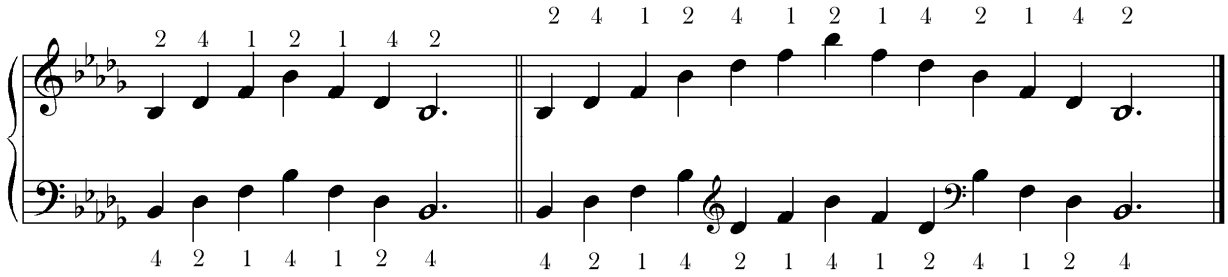


B♭ major/minor are modified black-key tonic arpeggio patterns.

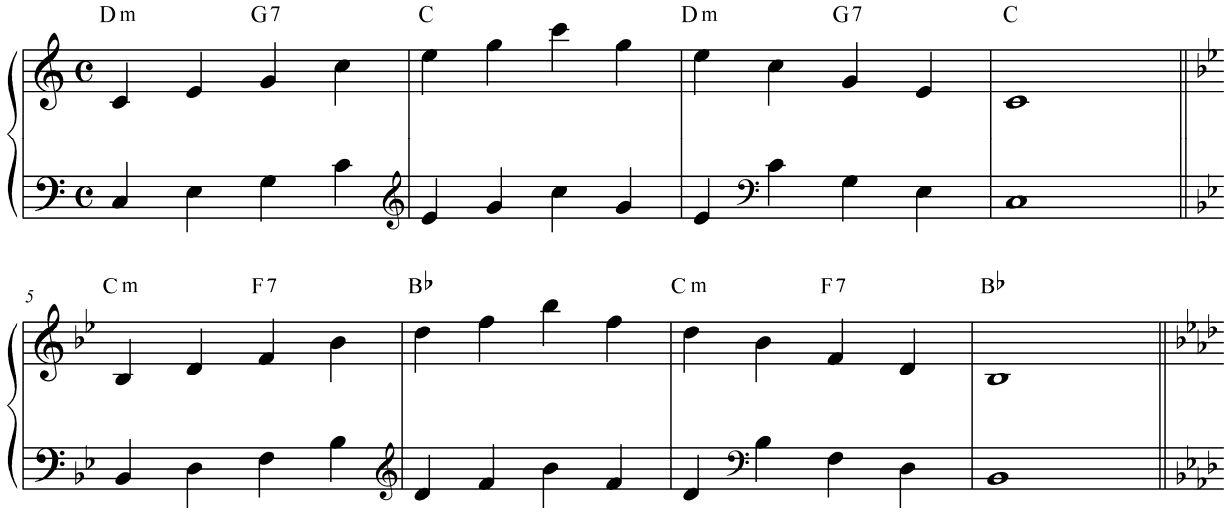
- **B♭ major one- and two-octave tonic arpeggio pattern**



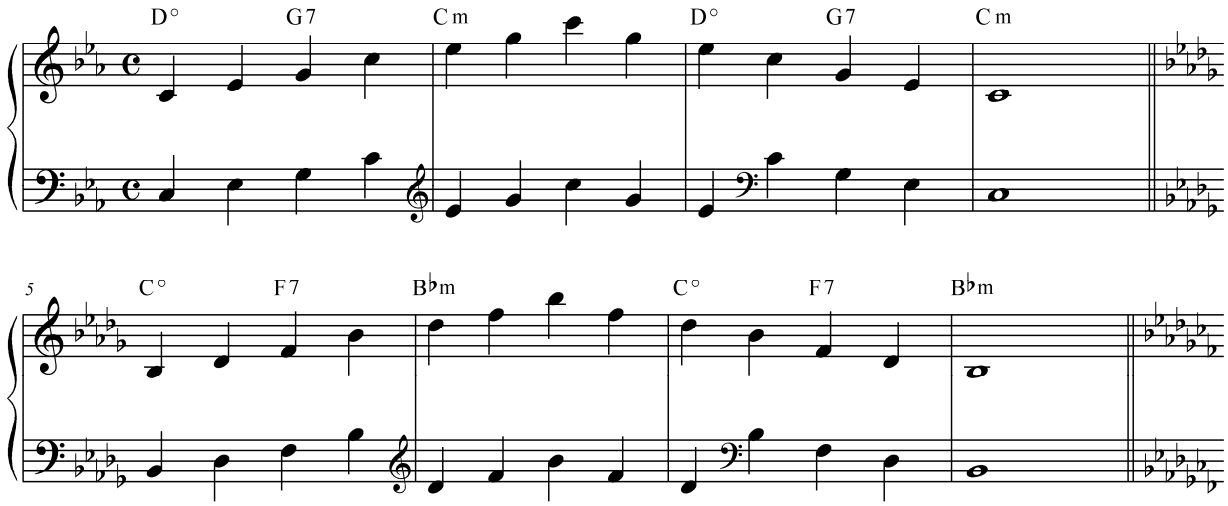
- **B♭ minor one- and two-octave tonic arpeggio pattern**



- **With Track no. 1: Major Tonic Arpeggios**



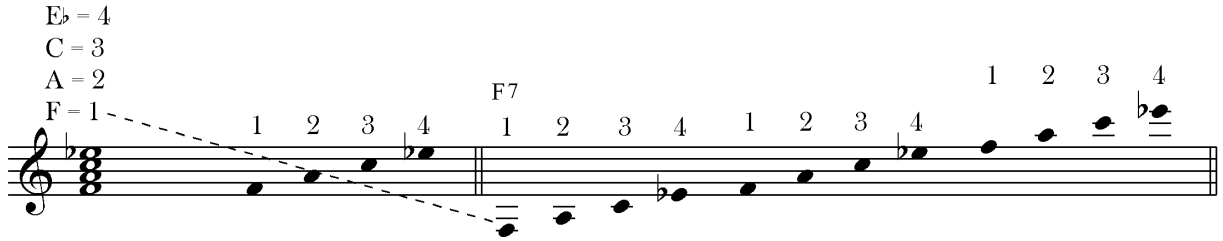
❖ **With track 2, Minor Tonic Arpeggios**



Dominant 7 Arpeggios

There are two categories of dominant 7 arpeggios: white-key and black-key. White-key dominant 7 arpeggios begin on a white note while black-key dominant 7 arpeggios begin on a black note. The following example shows an F7 chord, its fingering, and the resulting fingering of the arpeggio based upon that chord.

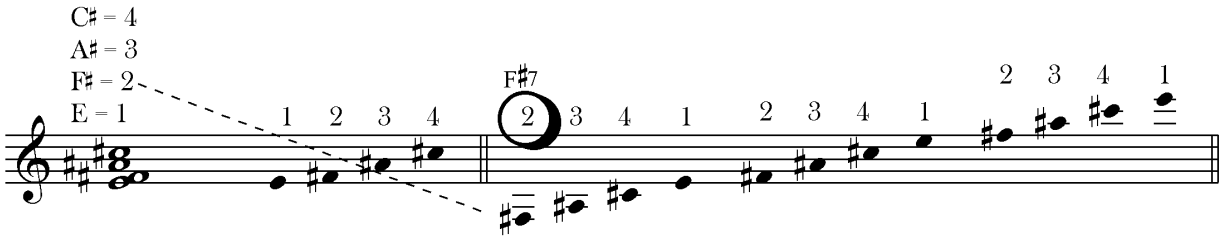
➢ **Right-hand F7 fingering chord and arpeggio**



On the piano proficiency, arpeggios will always begin on the root (F7 begins on F, F#7 begins on F#, B-flat tonic arpeggio begins on B-flat, etc.). However, the fingering chord associated with the arpeggio may not necessarily be in root position. The fingering chord is based upon the shape of the hand and how it fits the keyboard.

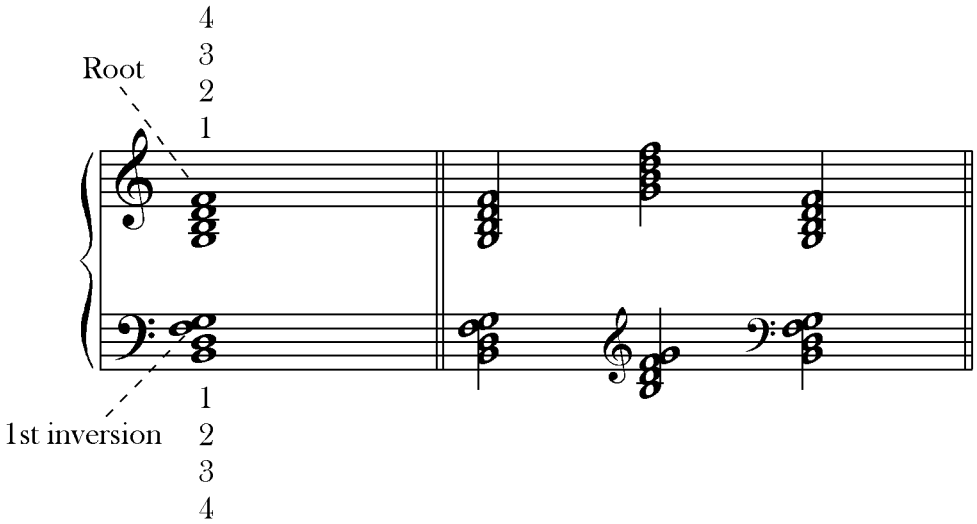
The following example shows the fingering for an F#7 arpeggio chord. Notice that the fingering chord is not in root position, it's in 3rd inversion. Again, fingering chords do not dictate upon which note the arpeggio necessarily begins, it simply dictates which fingers are assigned to which notes. All of this is in an effort to keep thumbs on white keys at all cost (for scales and arpeggios).

- **Right-hand F#7 fingering chord and arpeggio**

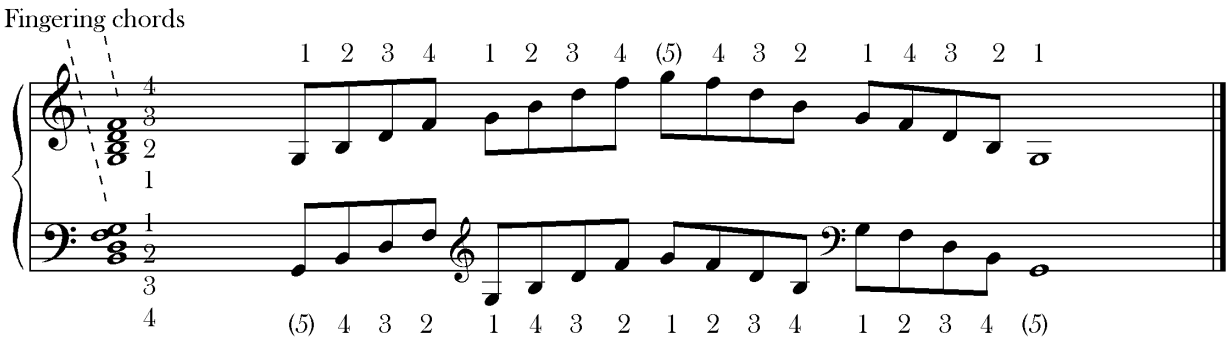


White-key dominant 7 arpeggios are based upon right-hand chords in root position and left-hand chords in first inversion. ***The thumbs in all white-key and black-key fingering chords (except $B_{\flat}^{7}$) will share the same note.***

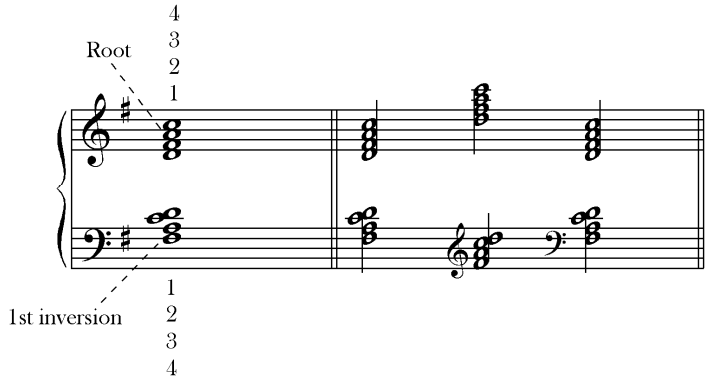
- **G7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on G)**



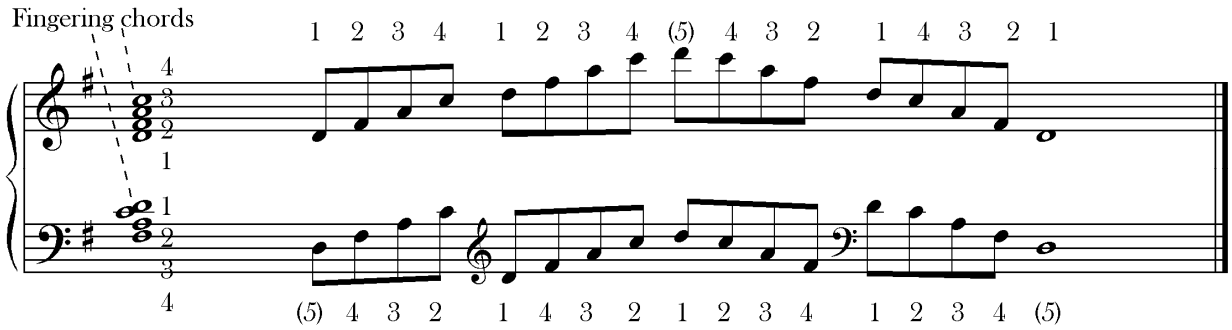
- **Two-octave ascending/descending G7 arpeggio (Thumbs on G)**



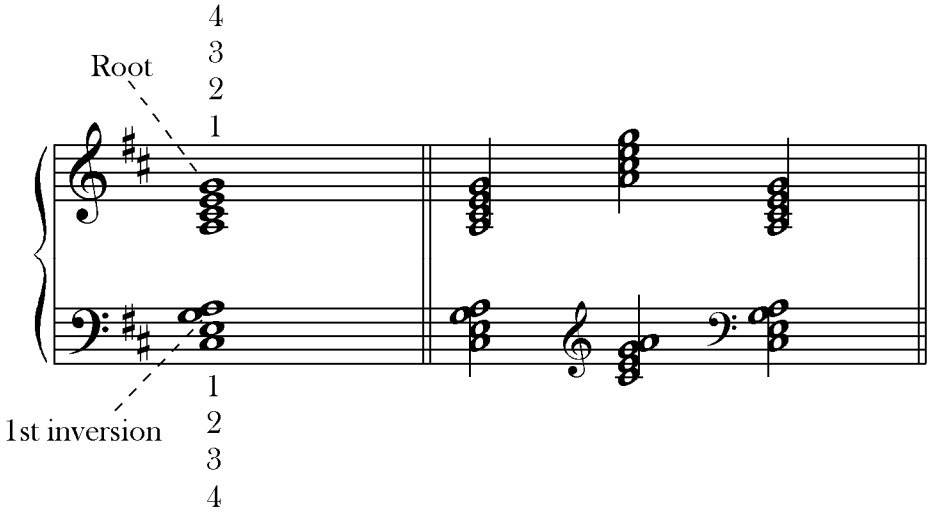
- **D7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on D)**



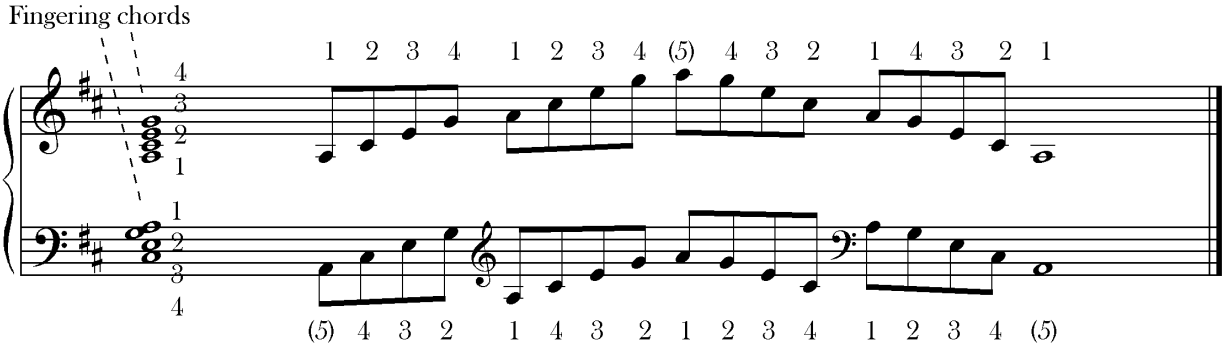
- **Two-octave ascending/descending D7 arpeggio (Thumbs on D)**



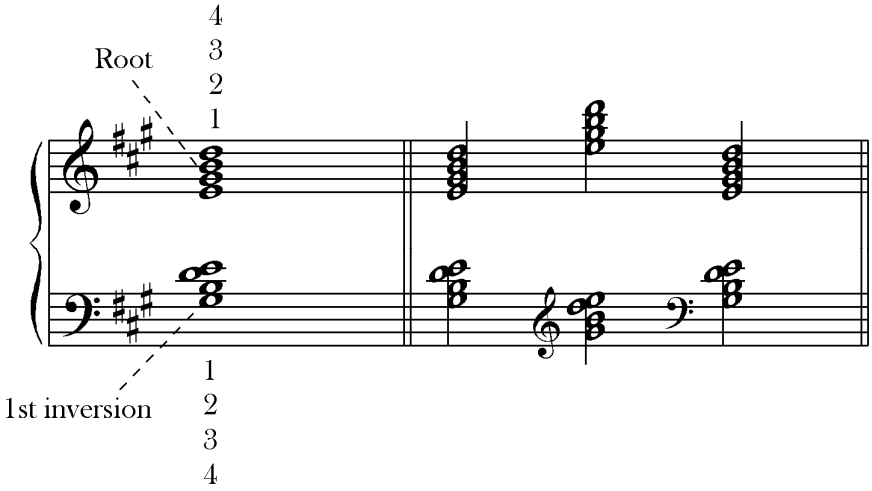
- **A7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on A)**



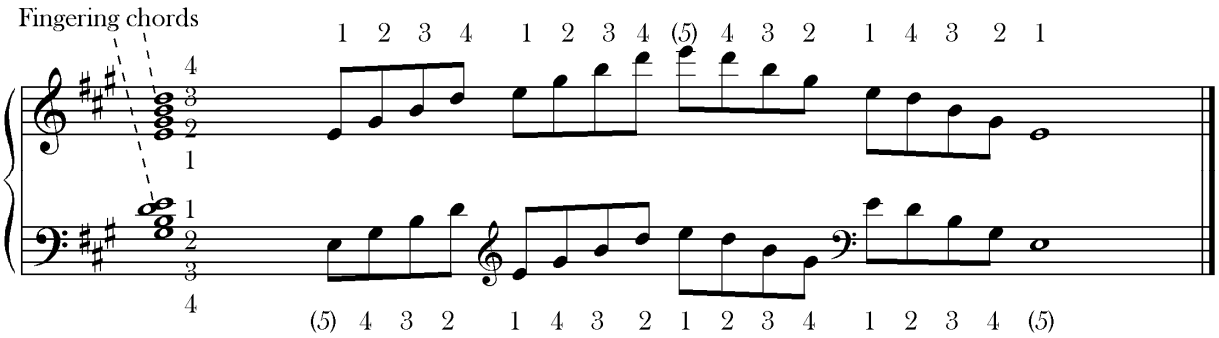
- **Two-octave ascending/descending A7 arpeggio (Thumbs on A)**



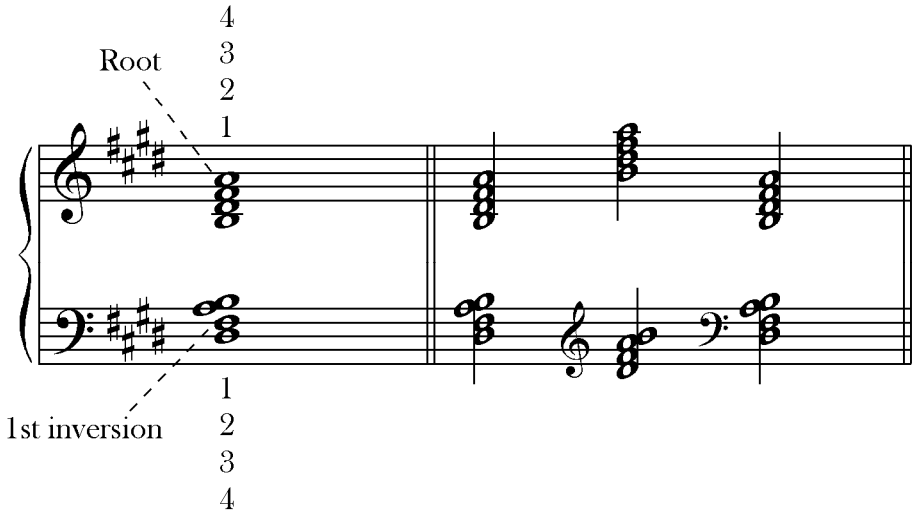
- **E7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on E)**



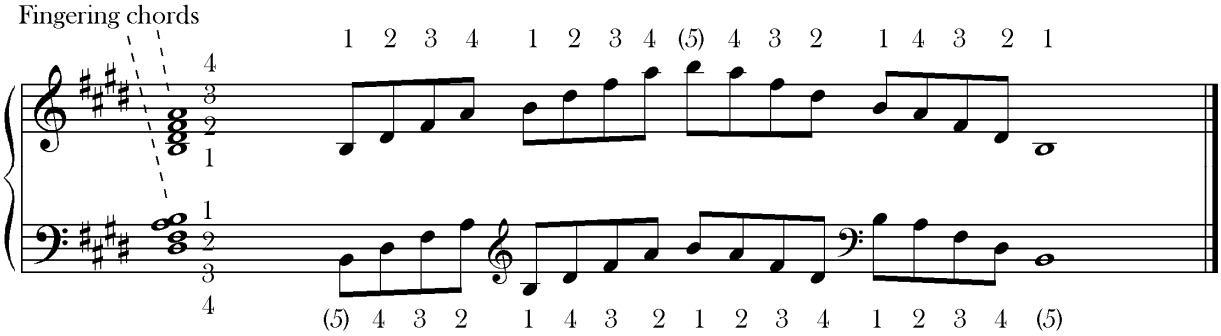
- **Two-octave ascending/descending E7 arpeggio (Thumbs on E)**



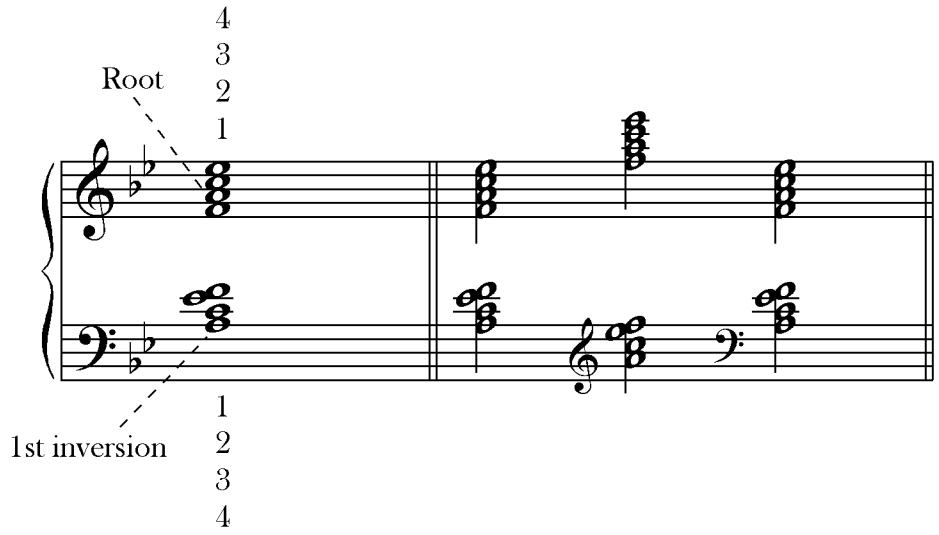
- **B7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on B)**



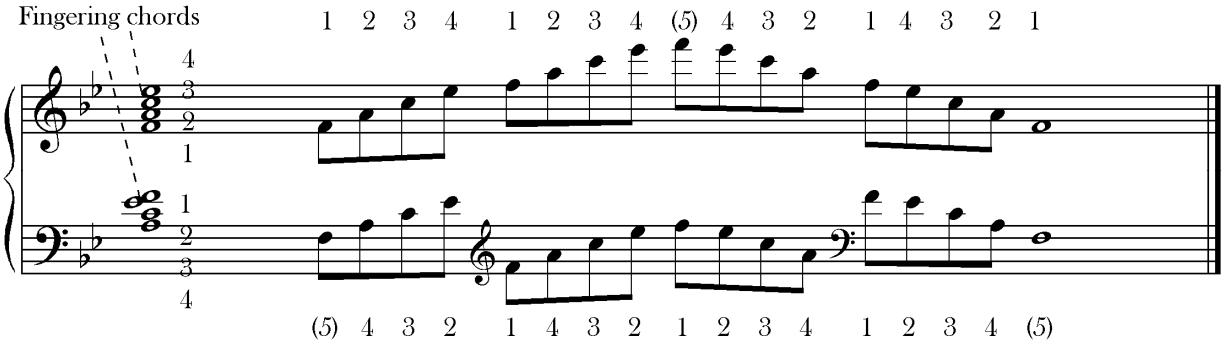
- **Two-octave ascending/descending B7 arpeggio (Thumbs on B)**



- **F7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on F)**

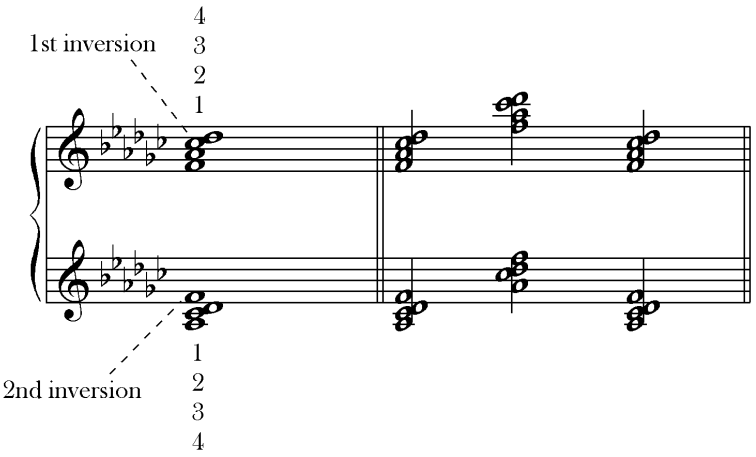


- **Two-octave ascending/descending F7 arpeggio (Thumbs on F)**

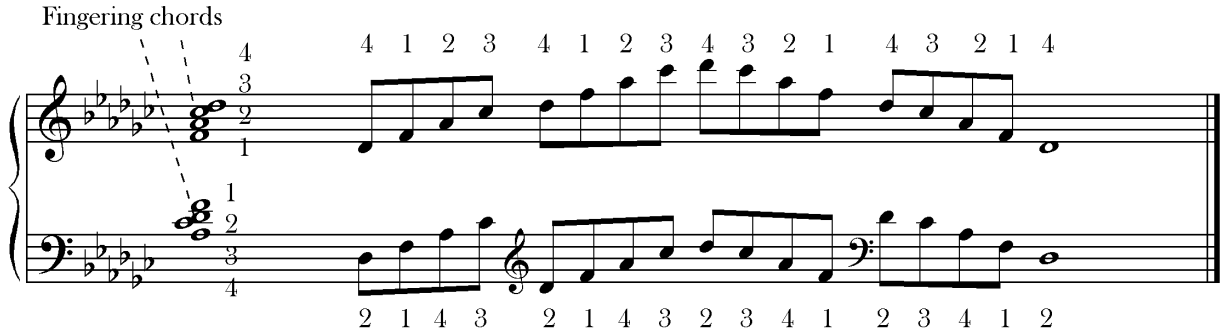


Black-key dominant 7 arpeggios: The chord inversions are not universal like the white-key dominant 7 arpeggios. The black-key fingering chords arrange themselves so that finger 1 is on a white note and finger 4 is on a black note. Again, the thumb is shared (not in B♭7).

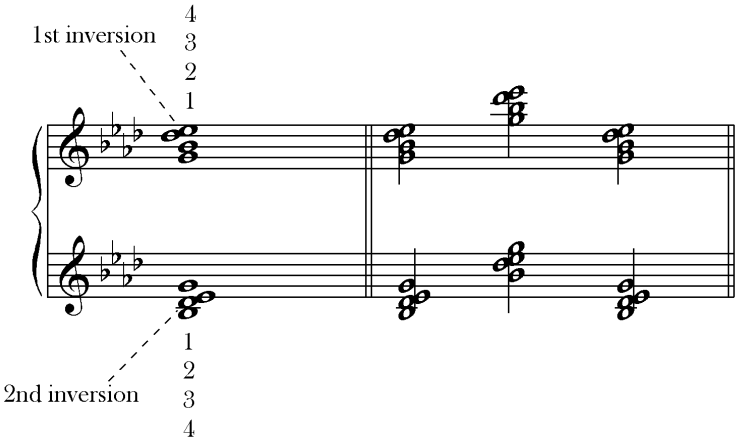
- **D♭7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on F)**



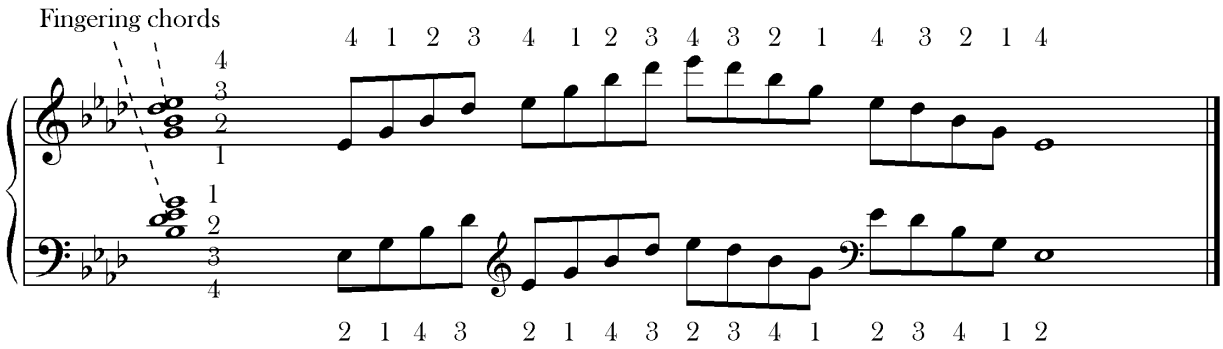
- **D♭7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on F)**



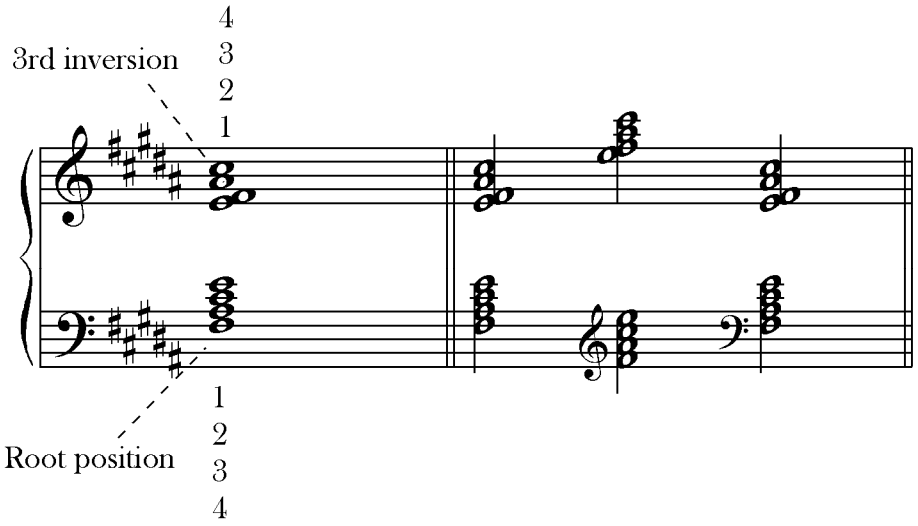
- **E♭7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on G)**



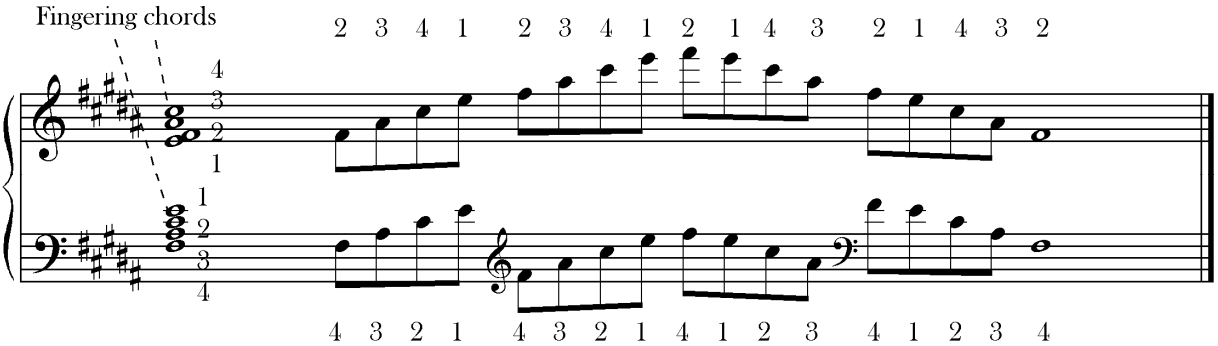
- **Two-octave ascending/descending E♭7 arpeggio (Thumbs on G)**



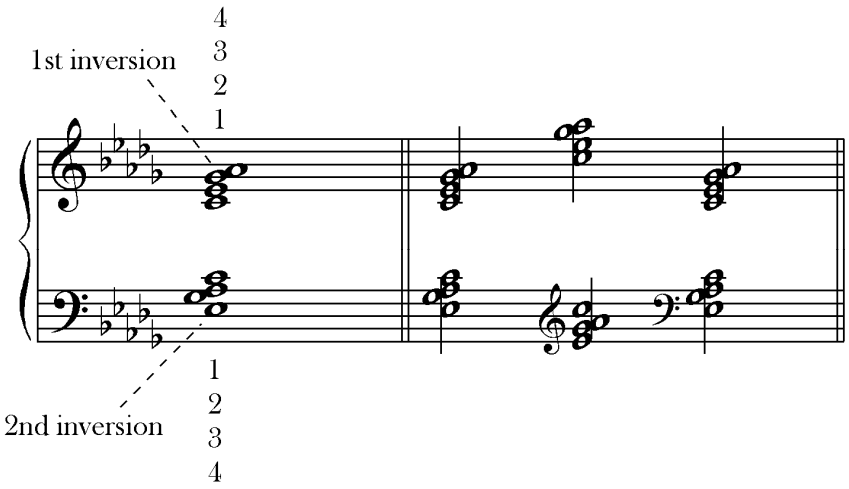
- **F#7 arpeggio fingering chords (Thumbs on E)**



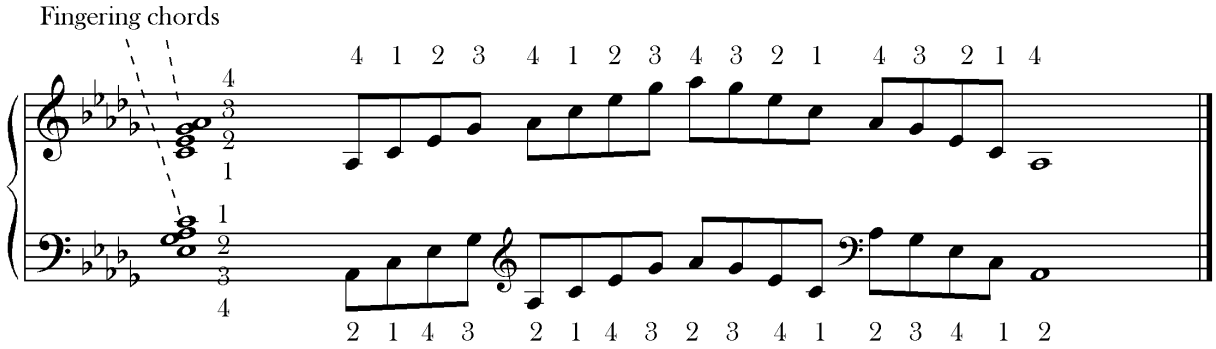
- **Two-octave ascending/descending F#7 arpeggio (Thumbs on E)**



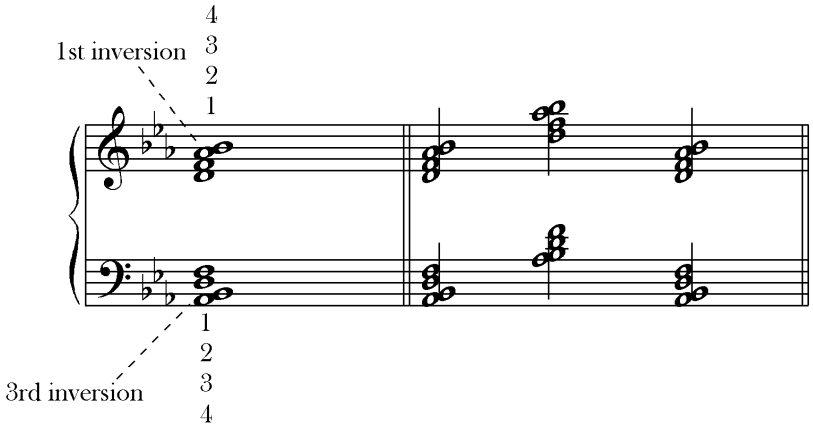
- **A♭7 arpeggio fingering chords (thumbs on C)**



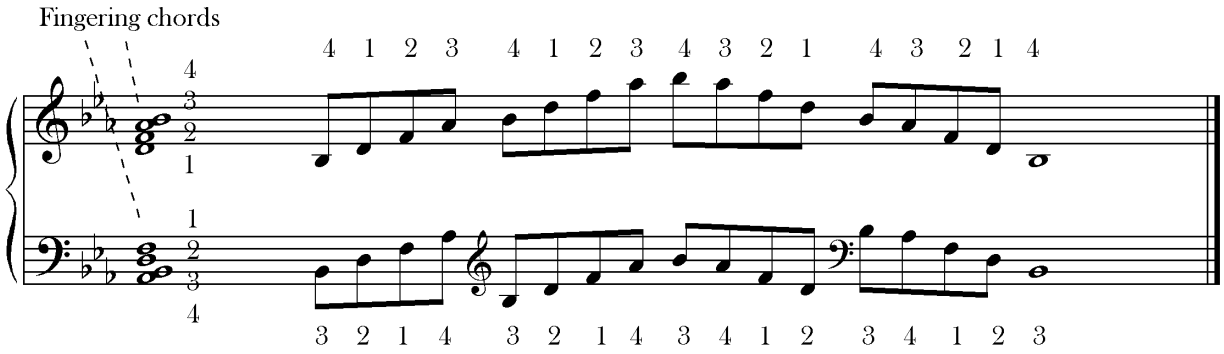
- **Two-octave ascending/descending A♭7 arpeggio (thumbs on C)**



- **B♭7 arpeggio fingering chords (RH thumb on D, LH thumb on F)**



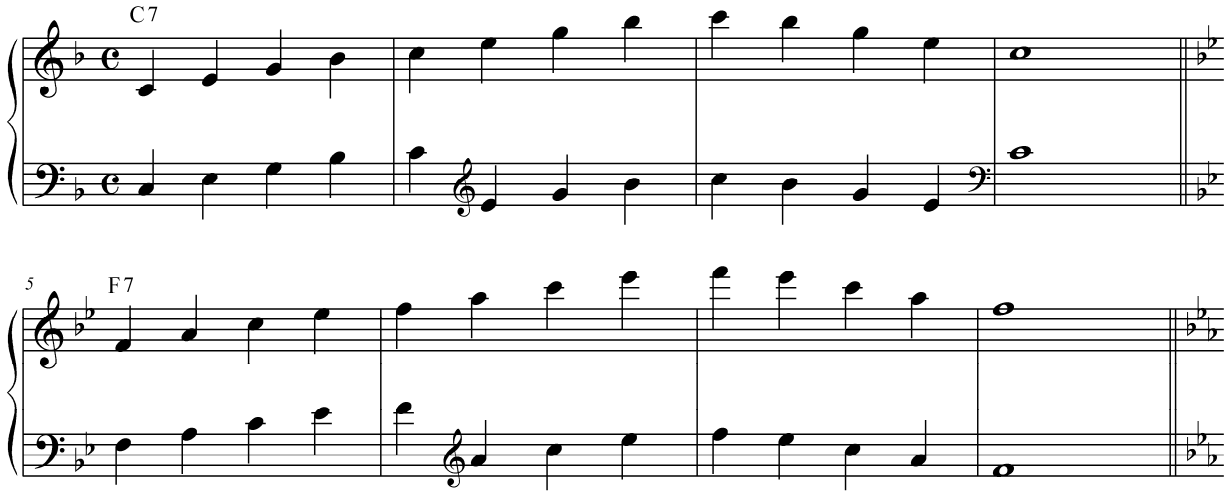
➢ **Two-octave ascending/descending B♭7 arpeggio**



✓ ***IMPORTANT***: You will be asked to play a dominant 7 arpeggio in theoretical context (V^7/x). If asked for a dominant 7 arpeggio in the key of C, you would play a G^7 arpeggio because G is the dominant (based on 5th scale degree) of the C major/harmonic minor scales

❖ **With Track 3 (Descending circle of 5ths from key of F)**

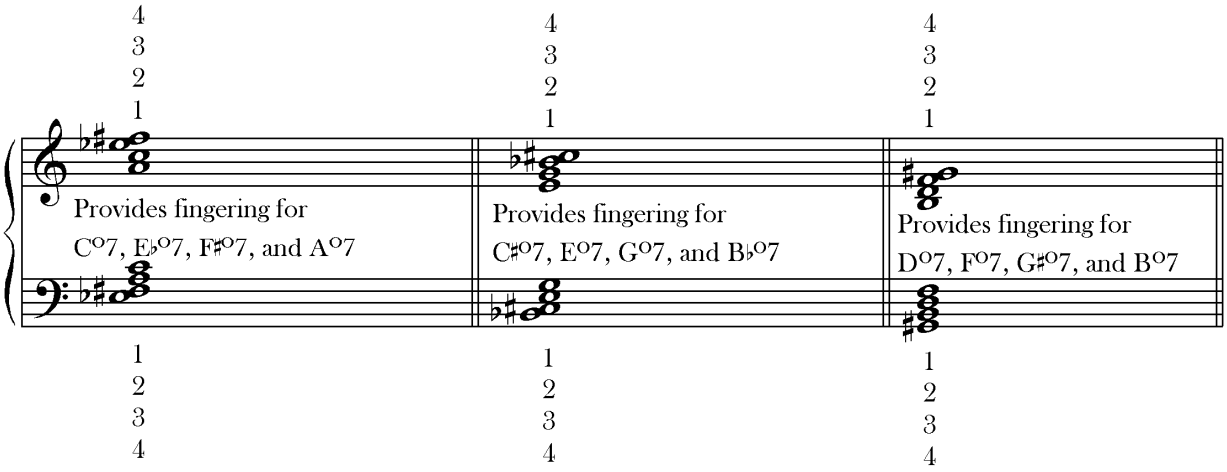
➢ Dominant 7 arpeggios (quarter = ca. 60)



Diminished 7 Arpeggios

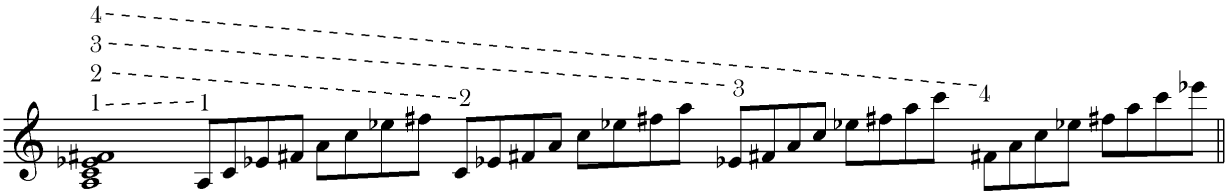
Like dominant 7 arpeggios, diminished 7 arpeggios stem from fingering chords. All 12 diminished 7 arpeggios come from the following three fingering chords. Despite beginning on different notes, **don't change the inversions**.

- **The three diminished 7 fingering chords**



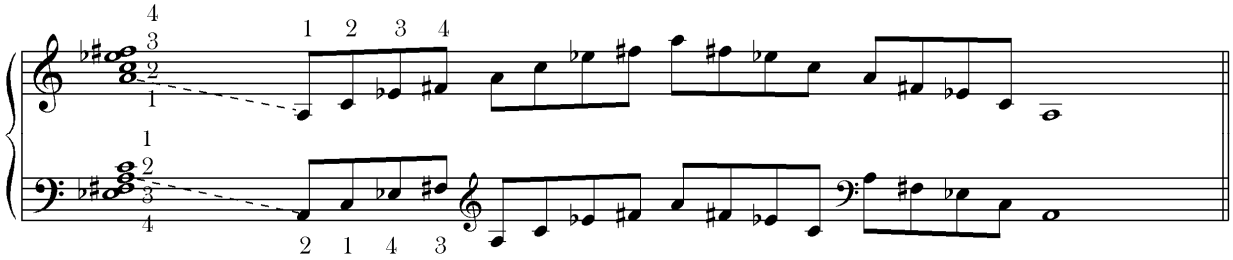
For example, C°7, E-flat°7, F#°7, and A°7 arpeggios all contain the same notes, and therefore stem from the same fingering chord.

- **Right-hand fingering for the four diminished 7 arpeggios stemming from the first fingering chord.**

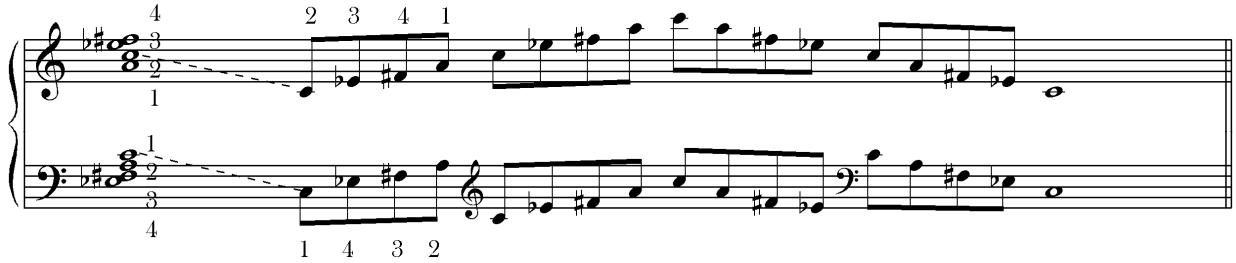


- ✓ ***IMPORTANT***: You will be asked to play a diminished 7 arpeggio in theoretical context (vii°7/x). If asked for a diminished 7 arpeggio in the key of C minor, you would play a B°7 arpeggio because B is the leading tone (7th scale degree) of the C harmonic minor scale.

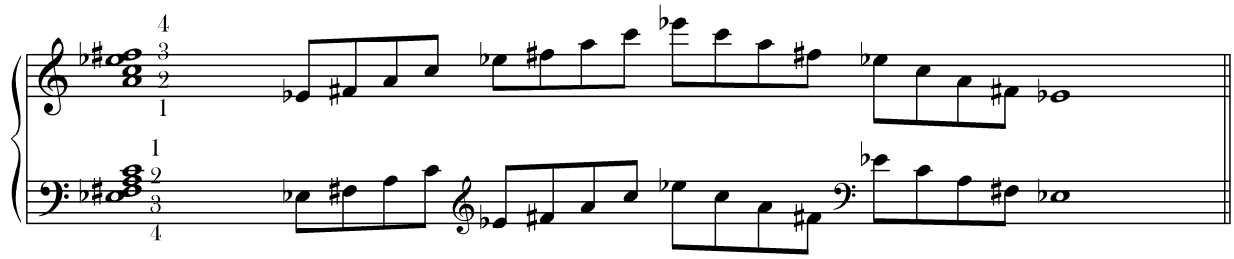
- **A^{o7} arpeggio**



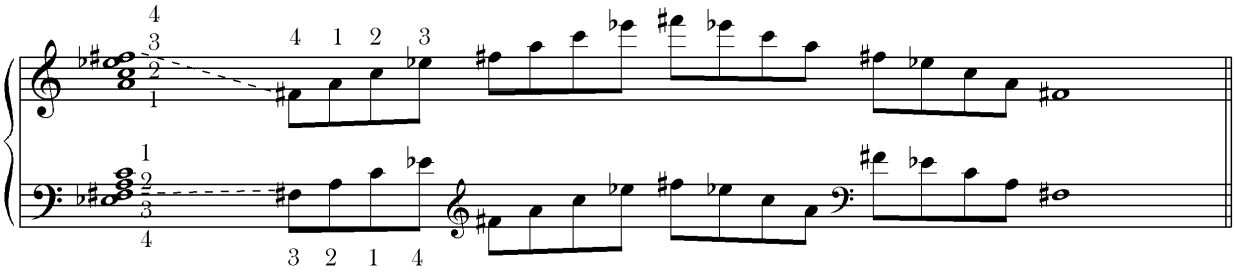
- **C^{o7} arpeggio**



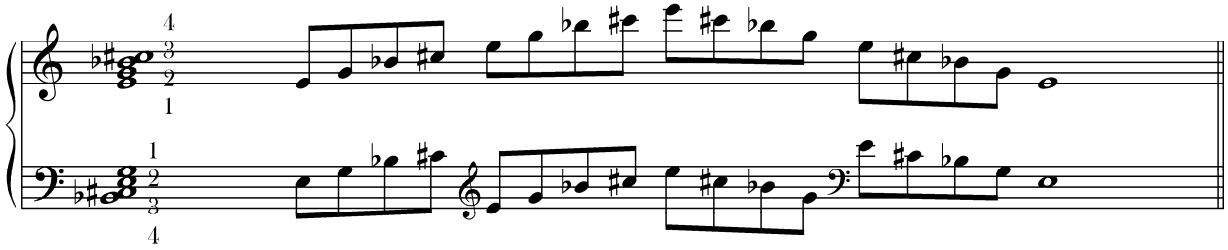
- **E♭^{o7} arpeggio**



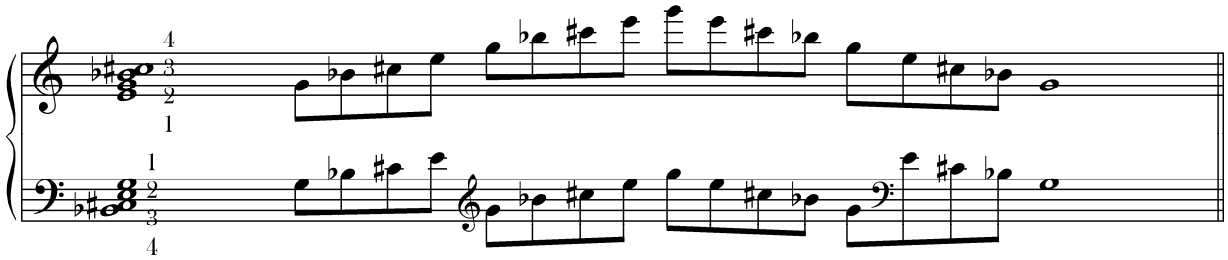
- **F#^{o7} arpeggio**



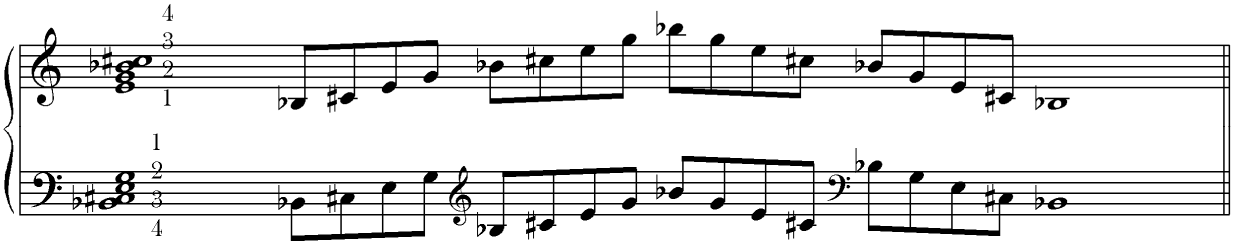
- **E^{o7} arpeggio**



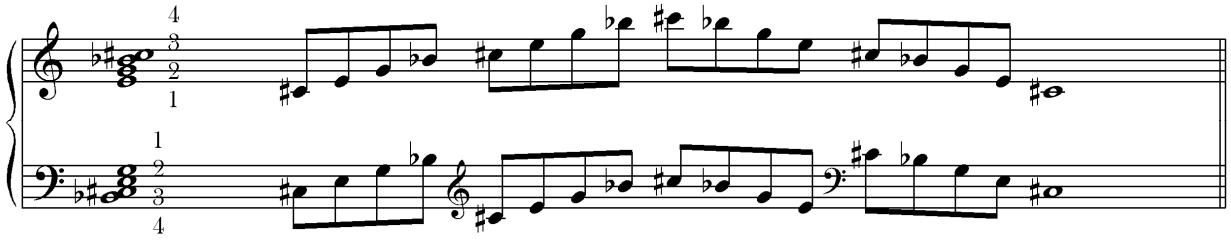
- **G^{o7} arpeggio**



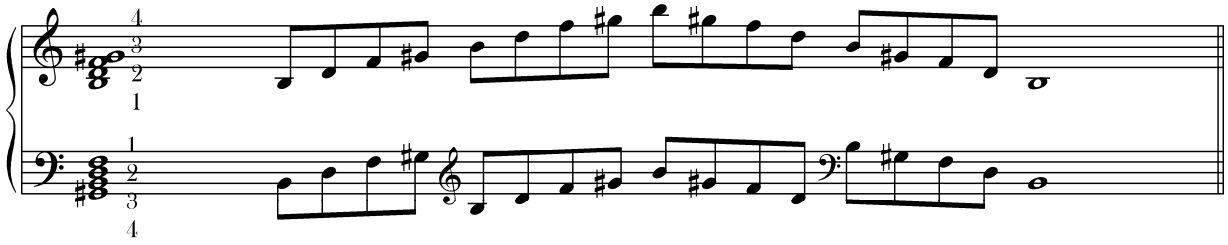
- **B♭^{o7} arpeggio**



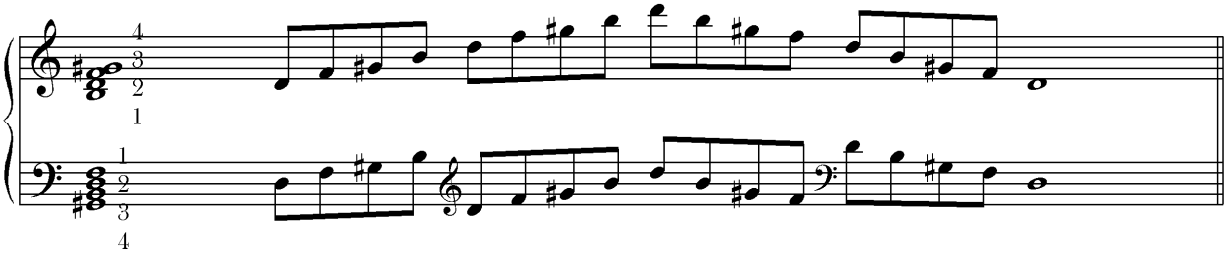
- **C#^{o7} arpeggio**



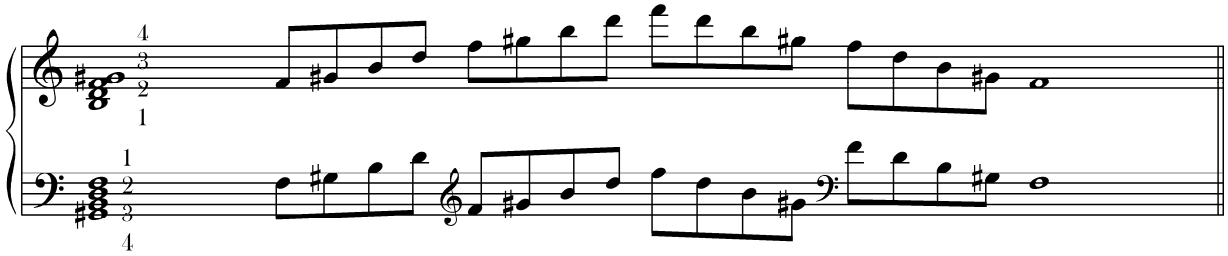
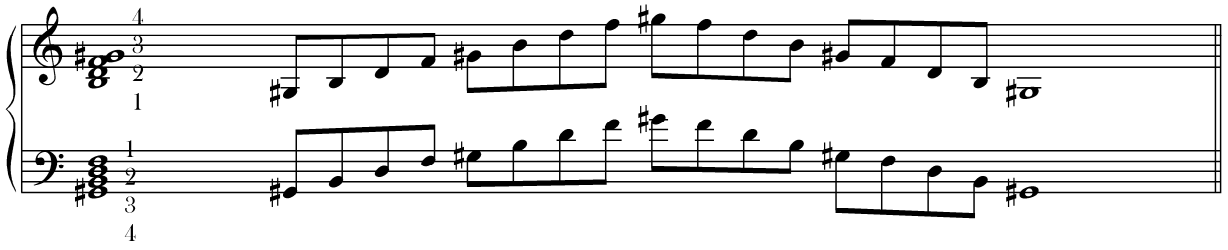
- **B^{o7} arpeggio**



- **D^{o7} arpeggio**



- **F^{o7} arpeggio**



- **G#^{o7} arpeggio**