

Suggested Fingerings for Harp Technical Work

All of the fingerings shown are given as a guide only. Other placings and groupings are acceptable as long as they produce controlled, rhythmic and musical results.

One octave

Musical notation for a one-octave scale. The notation is presented on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The scale is written in a single octave. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above or below the notes. The treble clef part starts with a 4, 3, 2, 1 sequence for the first four notes, followed by 2, 3, 4, 1 for the next four notes. The bass clef part starts with a 4, 3, 2, 1 sequence for the first four notes, followed by 2, 3, 4, 1 for the next four notes. Slurs and accents are used to indicate phrasing and emphasis.

Two or more octave scales

Musical notation for two or more octave scales. The notation is presented on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system shows a scale starting in the treble clef, ascending and then descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4. The second system shows a scale starting in the bass clef, ascending and then descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4. Slurs and accents are used to indicate phrasing and emphasis.

i.e. first octave ascending, fingered as for one-octave scale, then 3rd finger turns under after the tonic (key-note) and the 4th finger plays on the dominant (5th) of scale. Descending, the thumb turns over onto the subdominant (4th) and the tonic.

Alternative two or more octave scales

The first system shows a scale starting on G4. The right hand (treble clef) ascends with fingering 4-3-2-1, 3-2-1, 4-3-2-1, and 4-3-2-1. The left hand (bass clef) descends with fingering 4-3-2-1, 3-2-1, and 4. The second system shows a scale starting on G5. The right hand descends with fingering 2-3-4-1, 2-3-4, 2-3-1, 2-3-4, and 2-3-4. The left hand ascends with fingering 1-2-3-1, 2-3-4, and 1-2-3-4.

i.e. first octave ascending differs in fingering from the previous example, and the 4th finger is used on subsequent tonic notes with the thumb turning to descend from the top. Scales starting from the top will be fingered as for the descending fingering versions of these scales followed by the ascending patterns with all fingering patterns turning on the 4th finger at the bottom.

Contrary motion scales

The first system shows a scale starting on G4. The right hand (treble clef) ascends with fingering 4-3-2-1, 3-2-1, 4-3-2-1, and 4-3-2-1. The left hand (bass clef) descends with fingering 1-2-3, 1-2-3-4, and 1-2-3-4. The second system shows a scale starting on G5. The right hand descends with fingering 2-3-4-1, 2-3-4, 2-3-1, 2-3-4, and 2-3-4. The left hand ascends with fingering 3-2-1-4, 3-2-1-3, 2-1, and 3-2-1.

This fingering pattern achieves consistency of turning under between hands, which is easier for co-ordination, but other fingering patterns may be used.

Arpeggios

One octave

Musical notation for one-octave arpeggios. The right hand (treble clef) shows an ascending arpeggio (C4-E4-G4-B4) and a descending arpeggio (B4-G4-E4-C4). The left hand (bass clef) shows a descending arpeggio (C4-E4-G4-B4) and an ascending arpeggio (B4-G4-E4-C4). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 below the notes.

Ascending: the 3rd finger always turns under to the 3rd degree of the scale.

Descending: the thumb turns over to the tonic.

Two or more octaves

Musical notation for two or more octaves of arpeggios. The right hand (treble clef) shows an ascending arpeggio (C4-E4-G4-B4-C5-E5-G5-B5) and a descending arpeggio (B5-G5-E5-C5). The left hand (bass clef) shows a descending arpeggio (C4-E4-G4-B4) and an ascending arpeggio (B4-G4-E4-C4). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 below the notes.

Dominant and diminished sevenths in all inversions

Four-octave example

Musical notation for four-octave examples of dominant and diminished sevenths in all inversions. The notation is split into two systems. The first system shows the bass clef (left hand) and the second system shows the treble clef (right hand). Each system contains four octaves of arpeggios. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 below the notes.

Ascending, 4th finger always turns under and, descending, the thumb always turns over. There are no 3-finger groups.