

High School Level Scale Skills

The three basic skills are the Major Scale, Scale in Thirds and the I/IV/V Arpeggios.
 Transpose all three exercises using the 'number method' so they appear in the key and ranges provided by the instructor.
 The instructor will then check your work and mark in any special fingerings to be used.
 Practice skills slowly until fingerings are perfected, and repeat until your fingers can work the exercises by rote.

Major Scale

Play regular scale in as many octaves as All-District audition guidelines call for.

Scale in Thirds

Arpeggios (I/IV/V)

Arpeggios are broken chords. Listen to the sound of your basic I, IV and V chords as you play the exercise

Transposing the Exercises to Other Keys

Each major scale has seven notes. The first, second, third note, etc. of each scale corresponds with the first second, third note, etc. note of the other.

Make a chart lining up the notes of the C scale, and the notes of the scale that you wish to transpose to.

Note that 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 sounds like the same melody in E-flat as well as in C. Notes vary from scale to scale but the numbers never change!

Example: Transposing "The Simpsons" Theme from C to E-flat

Play both examples on your instrument. They should sound like the same melody.

Note that accidentals vary as keys change—a sharp 4 in the key of C is an F#, but in the key of E-flat, the 4 is A-flat, so a sharp 4 will be A natural.