

Quick-Start Exercises for Flute

One of the most critical factors in getting a quick start is the learning of the first major scales. On flute, we must select certain scales to start with, that offer optimum blowing characteristics and maximum utility in school band situations. B-flat and F are ideal for that purpose.

Unlike most instruments, the flute requires the simultaneous movement of several fingers to move between some adjacent notes--even on its easiest scales. This can be an impediment to learning the scales at speed, so we will use the following exercises to get comfortable with the more complex fingering changes. This will make scale use much smoother in the early stages.

Exercise #1 - B-flat and A - You should be using your B-flat with thumb on the B plate, and right index finger on the F key. Don't use your B-flat thumb plate in the early stages of instruction. This movement requires you to lift your right index finger from the F key at the same time that you put your left middle finger down on the A key.



Exercise #2 - B-flat and C - You should be using the same B-flat fingering as in Exercise #1. This exercise has you lifting your right index finger from the F key at the same time that you lift your left thumb from the B plate.



Exercise #3 - D and C - This is an important maneuver because it involves the simultaneous movement of eight fingers. As you place your left index finger on the C key and your right pinkie on the E-flat key, you are lifting all of the remaining fingers except for your right thumb.



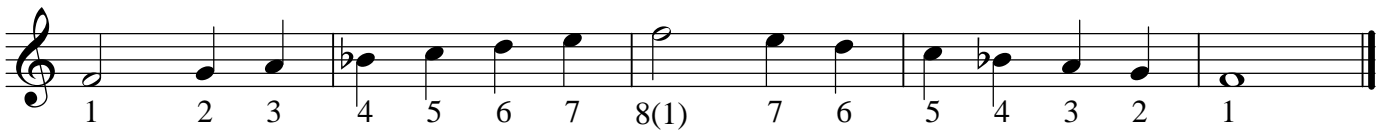
Exercise #4 - D and E - This may be the most difficult--and certainly the most neglected--of this entire set. When going from D to E, you lift your right ring finger from the D key, put down your right pinkie on the E-flat key, and put down your left index finger on the C key. Conquest of this maneuver should result in a nice, smooth F scale.



Exercise #5 - E-flat and F - This is almost the same maneuver as Exercise #4, but it takes place in the B-flat major scale. As you lift the middle and ring fingers of your right hand, you are also putting down your left index finger on the C key.



F Major Scale



B-flat Major Scale

