

Cycle of 5ths Foundation Exercises

1. Major scales, one octave up and down, around cycle both directions.
2. Major seventh arpeggios, one octave up and down, around cycle both directions.
3. Major scales, descending only, around cycle both directions.
4. Major seventh arpeggios, descending only, around cycle both directions.
5. Apply exercises #1-4 to Dominant scales, 1-3-5-b7.
6. Apply exercises #1-4 to Minor scales, 1-b3-5-b7.
7. Apply exercises #1-4 to Half-diminished scales, 1-b3-b5-b7.

More advanced sequences:

8. Up one major scale, down the next, around the cycle both ways.
9. Repeat sequence for dominant, minor, and half-diminished.
10. Up one major arpeggio, down the next, around the cycle both ways.
11. Repeat sequence for dominant, minor, and half-diminished.
12. Major scales full range of instrument, up and down around cycle.
13. Repeat for dominant, minor, and half-diminished.
14. Major scales full range in broken thirds around cycle.
15. Repeat for dominant, minor, and half-diminished.
16. Repeat #12 using jazz melodic minor scale, 1-2-b3-4-5-6-7-8.
17. Repeat #14 using jazz melodic minor scale.
18. Repeat #12 using harmonic minor scale, 1-2-b3-4-5-b6-7-8.
19. Repeat #14 using harmonic minor scale.

Recommended books for further study:

Patterns for Jazz. Jerry Coker, Jimmy Casale, Gary Campbell, Jerry Greene. Studio P/R, 1970.

The first and still the best overall pattern and theory book. Requires ear transposition of all patterns.

Elements of the Jazz Language for the Developing Improviser. Jerry Coker. CPP/Belwin, 1991.

A relatively recent book by Jerry Coker that summarizes many common jazz patterns with examples from the repertoire. Comes with an audio cassette.

The Jazz Sound; A Guide to Tune Analysis and Chord/Scale Choices for Improvisation. Dan Haerle. Hal Leonard, 1989. A great place to start for an understanding of jazz theory.

The Jazz Language. Dan Haerle. Studio P/R, 1980. Basic and concise.

How to Play Bebop. David Baker (three volumes). Alfred, 1987.

David Baker relies heavily on patterns, but this series is better than his early, self-published works. Requires ear transposition. Volumes 2 and 3 are best.

Jazz Improvisation. Trent Kynaston & Robert Ricci. Prentice-Hall, 1978.

Not the greatest theory book around, but it does have a few interesting patterns that are written out in twelve keys, eliminating the need for transposition. Also contains many "scale grids", which some people find useful for ear-training and memorization purposes.

The Charlie Parker Omnibook (available in Concert, Bass Clef, Bb, and Eb versions).

Jamey Aebersold. Atlantic, 1978. Solo transcriptions of the legendary bop saxophonist Charlie Parker.

Jamey Aebersold Play-Along Series. 114 volumes and counting. Recommended volumes: 5, 6, 11, 16, 20, 21, 25, 31, 34, 38, 42, 56, 67, 68, 84. Many other great volumes, depending on your focus.