

SCHEMATICS FOR CHROMATIC SCALES

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Notice that by starting on middle D, the hands are a perfect mirror image – same fingerings, with white keys and black keys happening at the same time.

CHROMATIC SCALE, 3 8VES, HANDS TOGETHER CONTRARY MOTION, STARTING ON MIDDLE D THUMBS

- Black keys are in bold.
- **IMPORTANT:** Block the scale first, saying the blocks out loud ("small, 3, big, 3," etc.).

Say out loud: "small three big three small three big three"

Right hand up: $\overbrace{D \text{ **D\#**}}$ $\overbrace{E F \text{ **F\#**}}$ $\overbrace{G \text{ **G\#** A **A\#**}}$ $\overbrace{B C \text{ **C\#**}}$ $\overbrace{D \text{ **D\#**}}$ $\overbrace{E F \text{ **F\#**}}$ $\overbrace{G \text{ **G\#** A **A\#**}}$ $\overbrace{B C \text{ **C\#**}}$
 1 **3** 1 2 **3** 1 2 3 4 1 2 **3** 1 **3** 1 2 **3** 1 2 3 4 1 2 **3**, etc. – 3 8ves

Left hand down: D **Db** C B **Bb** A **Ab** G **Gb** F E **Eb** D **Db** C B **Bb** A **Ab** G **Gb** F E **Eb**


Come back in (right hand descending, left hand ascending) using the same fingering pattern.


CHROMATIC MINOR 3RDS SCALE*, 3 8VES, HANDS TOGETHER CONTRARY MOTION, STARTING ON MIDDLE D THUMBS

- Encircled fingerings are black keys.
- Right hand starts on middle D (1) and F (5).
- Left hand starts on middle D (1) and B (5).

Fingerings going out (contrary motion - right hand goes up while left hand goes down):


5 **③** 4 **③** 4 **③** 4 5 **③** 4 **③** 4
 1 **②** 2 1 **②** 1 **②** 1 **②** 2 1 **②** repeat 3x (3 octaves)



slide on 2's


slide on 2's

Fingerings coming back in (right hand goes down while left hand goes up):

5 4 **③** 5 **④** 5 4 **③** 4 **③** 5 **④**
 1 **②** 2 1 **②** 1 **②** 1 **②** 2 1 **②** repeat 3x (3 octaves)


slide on 2's


slide on 2's

*Chopin penciled this scale into his "Nocturne in E-flat, Op. 9, No. 2," as a variant for measure 24.

Hear Houle's rendition of this nocturne with variants at <http://www.pianofestival.org/files/ArthurHouleChopin.mp3>.