

# Major Scale: Diatonic Arpeggios

Extracting triads and seventh arpeggios from the Major Scale (key of C). Diatonic = contained within the key

**Order of Triads: M - m - m - M - M - m - dim**

**Order of 7ths: M7 - m7 - m7 - M7 - Dom7 - m7 - m7b5**

Standard tuning

♩ = 60

First, let's look at some ways to play the C Major Scale. Here is the 3-shape system I use...

**Shape 1 (first octave)**      **Shape 2 (1st octave)**      **Shape 3 (first octave)**

E-Gt

*mf*

T  
A  
B

8—10—12    8—10—12    9—10    8—10    7—8—10    7—9—10    8—5—7—8    5—7—9    5

Each of these shapes can be extended by adding one of the other shapes an octave higher...

**Shape 1 (first octave) - Shape 2 (second octave)**

T  
A  
B

8—10—12    8—10—12    9—10    10—12    9—10—12    10—12—13

**Shape 2 (first octave) - Shape 3 (second octave)**

T  
A  
B

8—10    7—8—10    7—9—10    10—7—9—10    8—10    7—8

**Shape 3 (first octave) - Shape 1 (second octave)**

T  
A  
B

8—5—7—8    5—7—9—5    5—7—9    6—8—10    7—8

Let's use Shape 2. Here we take the 1st & 3rd degrees to get our first pair of notes, then the 2nd & 4th degree, 3rd & 5th degree, 4th & 6th degree, etc...

**Third intervals**

Musical notation for 'Third intervals' starting at fret 10. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of eighth notes: C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, B10, A10, G10, F10, E10, D10, C10. The bass clef staff shows the fretting sequence: 8-7-10, 8-7-10-8, 7-10, 9-7-10-9, 7-10-9, 9-10-7, 9-10-7-9, 10-7, 8-10-7-8, 10-7-8.

M3rd m3rd m3rd M3rd M3rd m3rd m3rd (M3rd)

**Third intervals - to make things more interesting we can try the same idea in alternating ascending/descending order..**

Musical notation for 'Third intervals - alternating ascending/descending order' starting at fret 12. The treble clef staff shows: C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, B12, A12, G12, F12, E12, D12, C12. The bass clef staff shows: 8-7-8-10, 7-10, 7-8-10, 9-10-7-9, 7-9-10, 10-9-7, 9-7-10-9, 10-8-7, 10-7-10, 8-7-8.

C Dm Em F G Am Bdim (C)

**Triads - here we build on thirds by taking 1 3 & 5 to get our first triad, then 2 4 6, 3 5 7, 4 6 8 etc...**

Musical notation for 'Triads' starting at fret 14. The treble clef staff shows ascending triads: C14 (1-3-5), Dm14 (2-4-6), Em14 (3-5-7), F14 (4-6-8). The bass clef staff shows: 8-7-10, 10-8-7, 7-10-9, 8-7-10, 10-9-7, 7-10-9, 9-7-10, 10-9-8.

Musical notation for 'Triads' continuing from fret 16. The treble clef staff shows descending triads: G16 (3-5-7), F16 (2-4-6), E16 (1-3-5), Dm16 (10-7-8), C16 (9-10-7), Bdim16 (8-10-7), Am16 (10-7-8). The bass clef staff shows: 8-9-10, 10-7-9, 9-10-7, 7-9-10, 10-7-8, 9-10-7, 7-8-10, 10-7-8.

C Dm Em F G Am Bdim (C)

**Triads (alternating ascending/descending)**

Musical notation for 'Triads (alternating ascending/descending)' starting at fret 18. The treble clef staff shows: C18 (1-3-5), Dm18 (2-4-6), Em18 (3-5-7), F18 (4-6-8), G18 (3-5-7), F18 (2-4-6), E18 (1-3-5), Dm18 (10-7-8). The bass clef staff shows: 8-7-10, 7-8-10, 7-10-9, 10-7-8, 10-9-7, 9-10-7, 9-7-10, 8-9-10.

20

T  
A  
B

CM7 Dm7 Em7 FM7 G7 Am7 Bm7b5 (CM7)  
**7ths - here we build on triads by taking 1 3 5 & 7 to get our first 7th arpeggio, then 2 4 6 8, 3 5 7 9, 4 6 8 10 etc...**

22

T  
A  
B

24

T  
A  
B

CM7 Dm7 Em7 FM7 G7 Am7 Bm7b5 (CM7)  
**7ths (alternating ascending/descending)**

26

T  
A  
B

28

T  
A  
B

Now apply everything previously learnt using the 2 other extended shapes of the C Major Scale. Good luck!

**Shape 1 (first octave) - Shape 2 (second octave)**      **Shape 3 (first octave) - Shape 1 (second octave)**

30

T  
A  
B

8-10-12    8-10-12    9-10    10-12    9-10-12    10-12-13

8    5-7-8    5-7-9    5    5-7-9    6-8-10    7-8