

## Preface

Mastering scales is an important part of becoming a horn player. Scales are also a foundation of the daily practice throughout one's career.

This collection of exercises has two purposes.

First, it guides an aspiring horn player through all the major and minor (harmonic) keys. Mastering scales will lay a solid foundation for working with other practice routines. Clarke, Singer and Standley and other routines will be more accessible.

Poor ability to play the full range of tonalities will stand in the way of performing some pieces with ease. For example, a shaky B Major (H-Dur) will be an issue when learning Weber's Concertino. Working through this collection will help to cover any possible gaps.

Second, you can use the book as a tool for daily practice at any point of the career. The book will lead you through all the tonalities and cover a range of variations.

## Pathways through the book

There are many pathways to you can take through this book. Start with one key each day. Get familiar with the exercises and the way they are built up. Take breaks between exercises.

Once you are familiar with the exercises, you can start jumping between the groups. You will notice that exercises 1 to 3, or 6 to 8, or 17 to 19 follow the same idea. The diagram on the opposite page illustrates how you can move around the book.

You can also take one group of exercises and play them in in all the keys.

How do you move between keys? You can work through book in the order the keys are presented. But you can use different patterns. For example, Circle of Fifths (up or down) or "A Christmas Tree" (moving up and down by increasing intervals).

Playing through all the exercises of one key might serve as a warm-up session. 3-4 different keys will be a decent foundation of daily practice needs.

## Guiding principles

You will notice that the exercises are divided into groups. Each group builds up gradually. This way you will learn an important practice technique. First, master the small, simple bits and then put them together in larger structures.

Taking small breaks between each step will give time to focus on important skills. Pay particular attention to taking full breaths and audiation.

By audiation I refer to imaging the sounds you are going to play before you play them. Frédéric Duvernoy has described the idea like this:

Every sound that is made on the horn must be produced in advance within the imagination. It is therefore very necessary to foresee the difference between one interval and another. If the perception of our imagination is false, our sounds become so also.

Audiation is a process of constant anticipation of future sound. It is an integral part of the playing technique. I encourage you to imagine several notes ahead. Try "hearing" the full chords, or how a cluster of several notes sounds. Develop the feeling of "being in a key".

Reading music from the sheet uses your mental power and leaves less "space" for audiation. Play the exercises by memory and use the book to for an occasional glimpse of what comes next.

## On Variations and patterns

The amount of variation in playing scales is endless. The size of this book demonstrates the issue. It is unfeasible to present every possible variation in every key.

For this collection, I wanted to present some exercises with variations in every key. I hope this will help to move beyond the most "comfortable" keys.

Here are some variations I have included

- basic articulation patters
- note groupings (eights, triplets etc.)

- different octaves (most keys work in 3 different octaves)
- adding breaks
- adding repetitions

I have not included:

- tempo variations (very slow, very fast)
- dynamics (from pp to ff)
- type of tonguing (staccato, >, fp, sfz, etc)
- rhythmic patterns and accentuations
- character (light, heavy, singing, etc)
- note shapes (blocks of sound, bell-like etc)

I encourage you to add some of these variations, once you are familiar with the basic exercises. You can repeat each small step and make variations on each repetition. Combine different variations.

Good luck!

Julius Pranevičius

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