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speedy fingers

Finger Exercises for all Pop/Rock
Pianists and Keyboarders



Speedy Fingers

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A short explanation

The exercises in this book use the major scale, pentatonic scale, blues scale, and chromatic scale. These are the four most common scales in pop and rock music. The scales are used often for composing melodies and for improvisation.

There are a total of 430 finger exercises in this book. 86 individual exercises are presented in five different keys. The scale studies are broken down into intervals and the exercises contain three and four-part chords, playing each note individually.

At first there is a basic exercise, with the left hand and right hand playing the same notes in unison. The reason for this is to train the often neglected left hand. Then we have the improvisation exercises, applying the study into a musical context. The left hand plays a simple accompaniment, as usual in a musical setting. Now we're having fun! We're playing typical pop and rock harmonies in the improvisation exercises.

All the exercises include fingering to help you learn faster. Fingering is omitted when repeated from the previous exercise. If you find a fingering that suits you better, please use it!

The CD

All 86 exercises (in C major) are recorded on the CD which can be downloaded at www.migu-music.com. Because these exercises are repeated in different keys, we've only included the examples in C major. Every example is played twice: first slow, then faster.

Practice suggestions

Practice each exercise in this book individually with one hand. Mistakes are easier to correct and avoid when each hand is isolated. You can't play it with both hands together, if you aren't able to play it with each hand individually!

Practice with a metronome to keep your rhythm steady. Start each exercise slowly and gradually increase the tempo.

Listen to the exercise on the CD first, in order to hear the correct phrasing.

Seconds/Thirds

C major

C major

1

3 1 4 1 4 1

2 4 1 4 1 4

2 4 1 4 1 4

3 1 4 1 4 1

2

Dm7

G7

CMaj7

3 1 4 1 4 1 4 1

4 5

4 4

3

Dm7

G7

CMaj7

2 4 1 4 1 4

1 4 1 4

1 5

Triads

C major

C major

37

C Dm Em F G Am Bmb5 C

Bmb5 Am G F Em Dm C Bmb5 C

38

Dm7 G7 C

39

Dm7 G7 C

Blues scale in E

G major

78

8va - - - - -

4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 2 3 1 3 3 1 2

79

G Em C D

8va - - - - -

G major

Em Em/D C D G

8va - - - - -

80

Em Em/D C D Em

Bb major Pentatonic

Bb major

54

Treble Staff Fingerings: 1 3 1, 4 1 2, 3 1, 4 1 2, 4 2, 4 1, 4 1 2, 1 2, 4 2, 4 3, 2, 2 3, 4 1.

Bass Staff Fingerings: 3 1 4 2, 4 2 3 2, 3 1 4 2, 4 3 2 2 3 4 1.

Treble Staff Fingerings: 1 4 2, 4 2, 3 1, 2 4 1 3, 1 3, 1 2 4 2, 4 5 1 2, 4 1 4 3 1, 3 2 3 5.

Bass Staff Fingerings: 2 4 1 3, 1 3, 1 2 4 2, 4 5 1 2, 4 1 4 3 1, 3 2 3 5.

55

Treble Staff Chords: Bb, F/A, Gm, Bb/F.

Eb Bb/D Cm7 Fsus4 Bb

Treble Staff Chords: Eb, Bb/D, Cm7, Fsus4, Bb.

51

120 BPM

100 BPM

120 BPM

100 BPM

52

120 BPM

100 BPM

Em7 A7 D

53

120 BPM

100 BPM

Bm7 G Em7 A7 D

Chromatics

D major

83

4

84

D

Em

D/F #

G

4 1 3 1 3 4 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 3 1 2 1 2 1 4 1 3 1 3

3 1 2 1 2 1 4 # 1 3 1 3

3 1 2 1 2 1 4 # 1 3 1 3

3 1 2 1 2 1 4 # 1 3 1 3

D/A

G/B

A/C#

D

D major

The first section of the sheet music consists of four measures. The first measure is labeled 'D/A' and contains a treble clef, a bass clef, and a key signature of one sharp. It features a sequence of eighth notes with fingerings: 4, 1, 2, 1, 3. The second measure is labeled 'G/B' and contains a treble clef, a bass clef, and a key signature of one sharp. It features a sequence of eighth notes with fingerings: 1, 3, 4, 1, 2. The third measure is labeled 'A/C#' and contains a treble clef, a bass clef, and a key signature of one sharp. It features a sequence of eighth notes with fingerings: 1, 3, 1. The fourth measure is labeled 'D' and contains a treble clef, a bass clef, and a key signature of one sharp. It features a sequence of eighth notes with fingerings: 3, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1.