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LESSON 4: THUMB CROSSING TECHNIQUE

Classical Piano: Major 5-Finger Patterns on Black Keys

THUMB CROSSING TECHNIQUE - shift from position to position

without lifting the hands and to keep the notes connected

Crossing thumb under

- Thumb follows right behind each note that is played (thumb behind C as it's played, thumb behind D as it's played)
- Use the 3rd finger as a pivot, transfer the weight from the 3rd finger to the thumb
- The rest of the fingers followed - new position!



Crossing over thumb

- Using the thumb as a pivot, swing the 3rd finger and the rest of the hand over the thumb, weight is transferred from thumb to 3rd finger
- The rest of the fingers followed - new position!



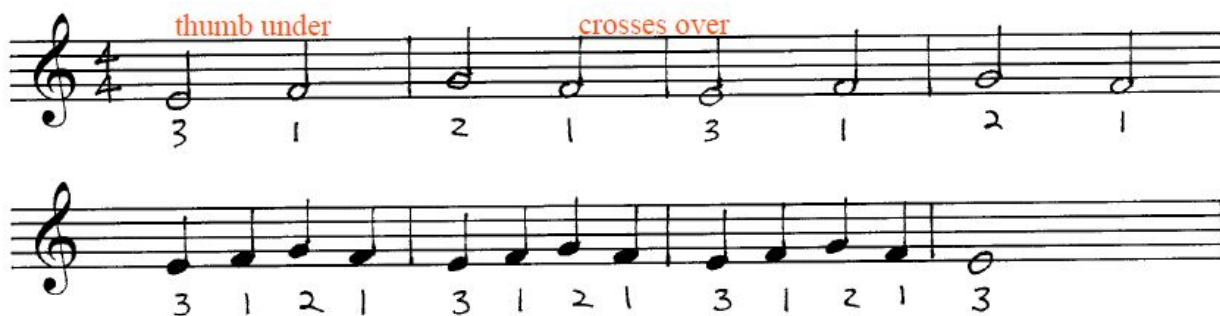
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Pitfalls

- Avoid collapsing hand position (unwanted accents)
- Avoid twisting elbows (misalignment of hands and wrists)

THUMB CROSSING EXERCISE RH



Crossing thumb under

- Balance weight on the 3rd finger, using it as a pivot, tuck the thumb, passes the thumb under the 3rd finger
- Transfer the weight from 3rd finger to thumb - new position!

Crossing over thumb

- Balance weight on the thumb, using it as a pivot, swing the 3rd finger over, keep the thumb tucked



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- Transfer the weight from thumb to 3rd finger

THUMB CROSSING EXERCISE LH



- Pivoting and transferring weight from 3rd finger to the thumb
- Pivoting and transferring weight from thumb to 3rd finger

SCALES BY TURK





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A NICE MAN BY TURK

Andante piacevole A NICE MAN

THUMB CROSSING TECHNIQUE REVIEW

- Transfer weight from pivoting finger to next finger
- Avoid collapsing hand position
- Avoid twisting elbows