

Fingering Techniques & Exercises



Acknowledgments.

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Fingering techniques and warm ups

This book has been designed to develop and increase accuracy and finger speed. One of the most important aspects of playing the piano is getting the correct fingering. Having agile and fast fingers for playing the piano is essential for any pianist whether they are a beginner or a virtuoso. This book is therefore useful for any pianist at any level.

Before practicing it is a good idea to warm your fingers up. When you first sit down at the piano your fingers might feel a little clumsy or stiff. These exercises are perfect for getting your fingers limber and ready to play.

These exercises have been developed to gain finger independence. This means that each finger can work independently of the next so you get more control over each separate finger. It is also designed to exercise the wrists and help them gain flexibility.

Generally what happens is if you are right handed you will find that your right hand is naturally faster than your left. It is important to develop equal speed in both hands, to become a competent pianist. These exercises are designed to be played by both hands at equal speeds. That way your left hand will get as fast as your right. Many complicated songs have intricate and difficult parts for the left hand. So agility, speed and strength are important in both hands.

Like any good exercise the drills in this book are repetitive. This is so that after a few patterns you should be able to continue the rest of the exercise without having to follow every note. The same patterns are just repeated on each note of the scale. You should find the patterns very easy if you follow the system laid out in this book.

This book will increase your abilities as a pianist and will have you playing like a professional. These exercises should be played daily to get the full effect. In next to no time you will notice the improvements in your playing.

There are 14 exercises in total.

The metronome mark: = 54 - 110

This means that you start playing the exercise at "54" the first time around then gradually increase the speed up to "110" when you get better at playing it. All of the exercises are designed so that you start slow and speed up as your fingers become faster and adapt to the patterns.

I've also included the Jamorama Piano Progress Tracker so that you have a checklist of all the techniques you can expect to learn in the course. Once you have mastered a lesson or skill tick it off on the Progress Tracker, and move on to the next lesson! Commit yourself to ticking off the skills you learn as you go and see your improvement instantly!

Hear a personal message from Ruth!





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Every time you see this button, play the relevant track!



Every time you see this button, download and play the relevant video!



Jamorama Piano Progress Tracker

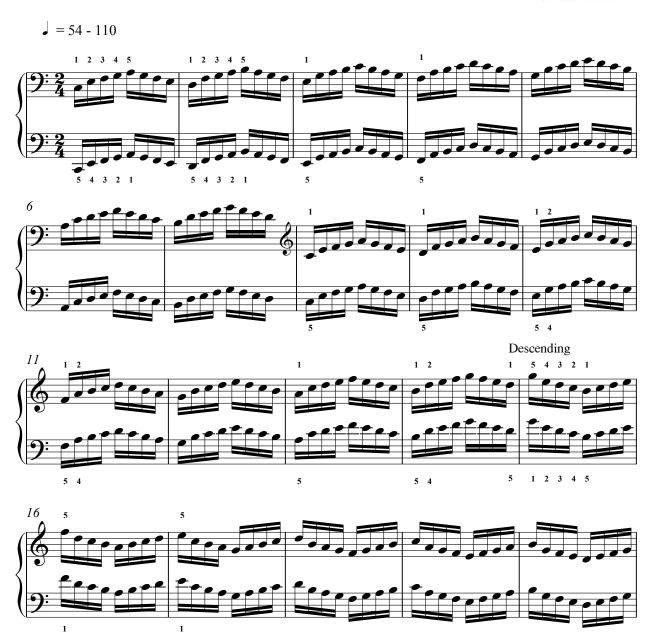
Lesson or Skill Page # Date Signature

☐ Exercise the 4th and 5th fingers	 	
☐ Exercise the 3rd and 4th fingers	 	
☐ Stretch fingers across octaves	 	
☐ The C (common) time signature (4/4)	 	
☐ ¾ time signatures	 	
☐ The 'thumb under 3 finger' technique	 	
☐ 8th note triplets	 	
☐ Fingers 1, 2, & 3 in both hands	 	
☐ Trills	 	
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☐ 3rd intervals	 	
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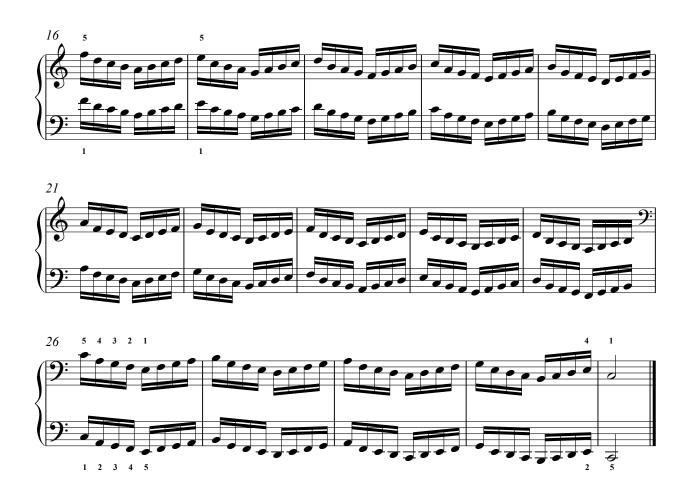
Exercise one

This exercise stretches the 4th and 5th fingers of the left hand when ascending and the 4th and 5th fingers of the right hand when descending.



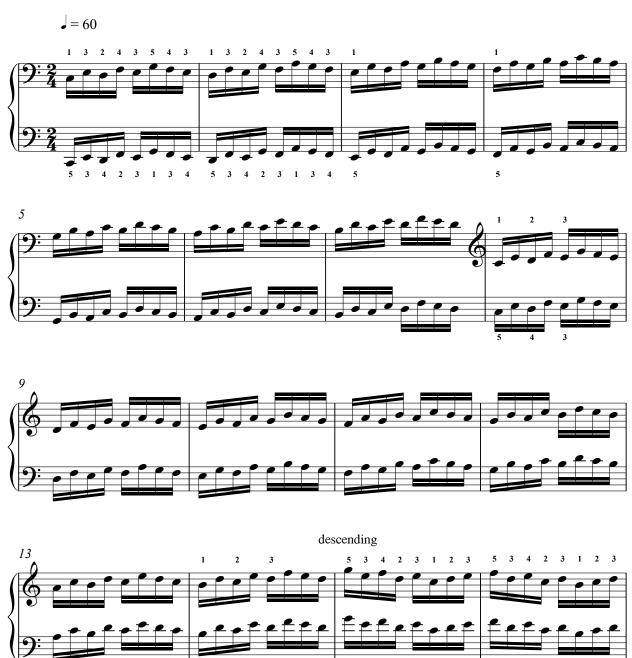


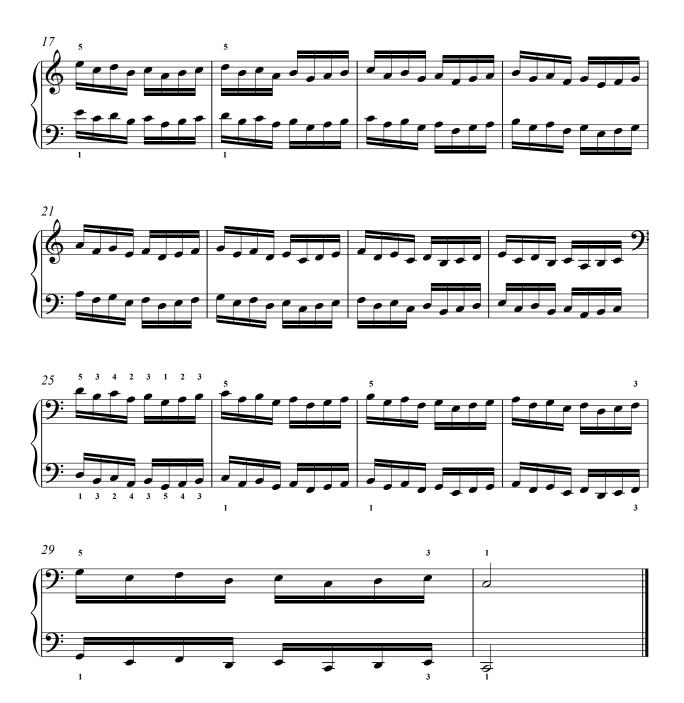
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Exercise two







Exercise three

This exercise is designed to work the 2nd, 3rd and 4th fingers on the left and right hands.

Ascending.....L.H fingers 3, 4 R.H fingers 2, 3

Descending.....L.H fingers 2, 3 R.H fingers 3, 4



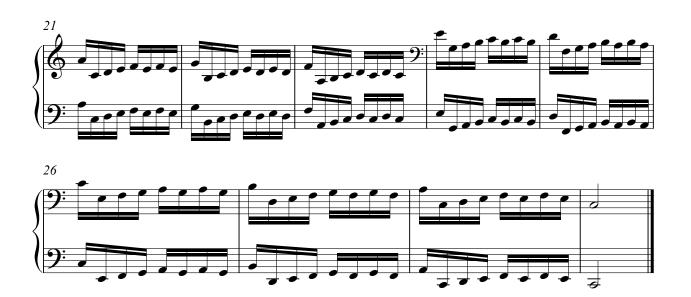








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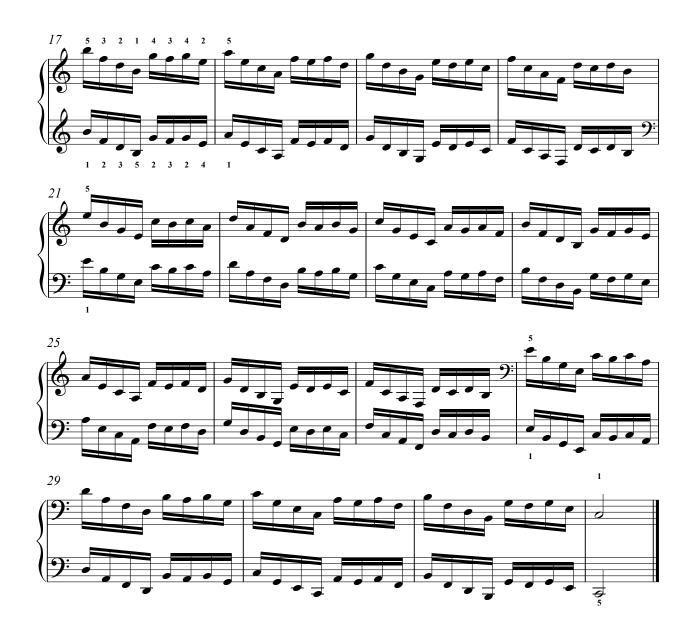


Exercise four

This next exercise is quite difficult so take your time and be patient! This exercise is used to stretch each of the fingers across the octaves.



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Next exercises

The next exercises are slightly longer and a little more tricky.

These exercises are designed to work each individual finger.

Some of the next exercises are also in 4 otherwise known as common time. This can also be indicated by a **C** appearing in the place where the time signature usually goes.

This now means that the patterns that are within each exercise now have more notes within each loop. So the looped pattern is larger. This will become more clear when you practice the exercises.

Keep up the good work!

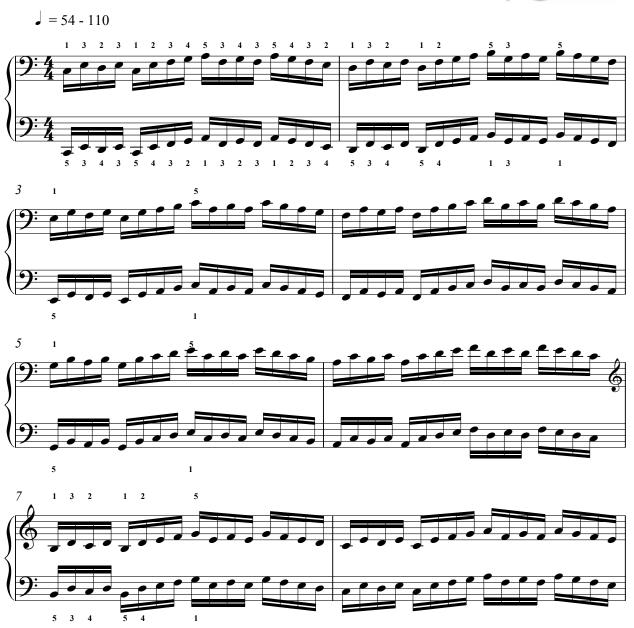
Its difficult I know but you'll be playing like a professional in no time!!



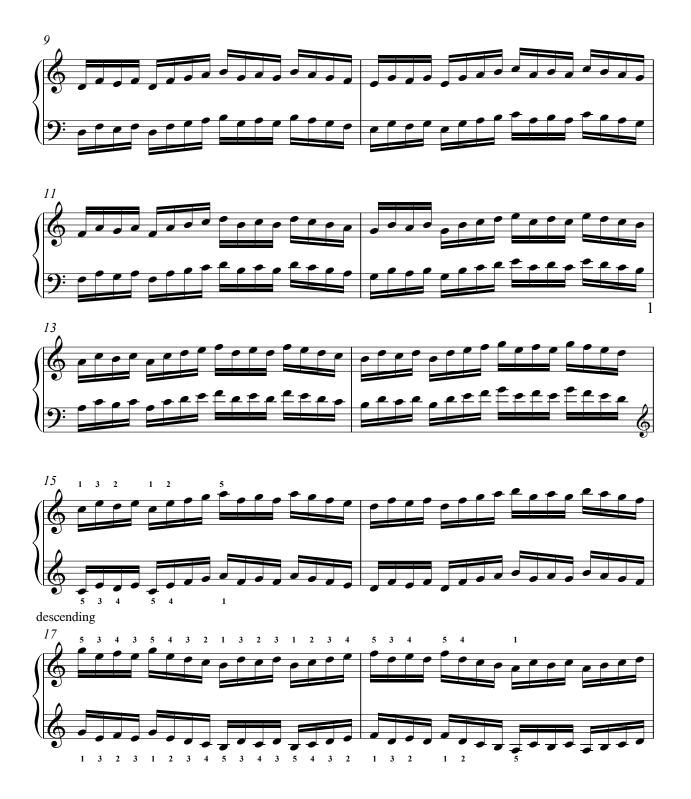
Exercise five

This next exercise is in $\frac{4}{4}$. The previous exercises have all been in $\frac{2}{4}$

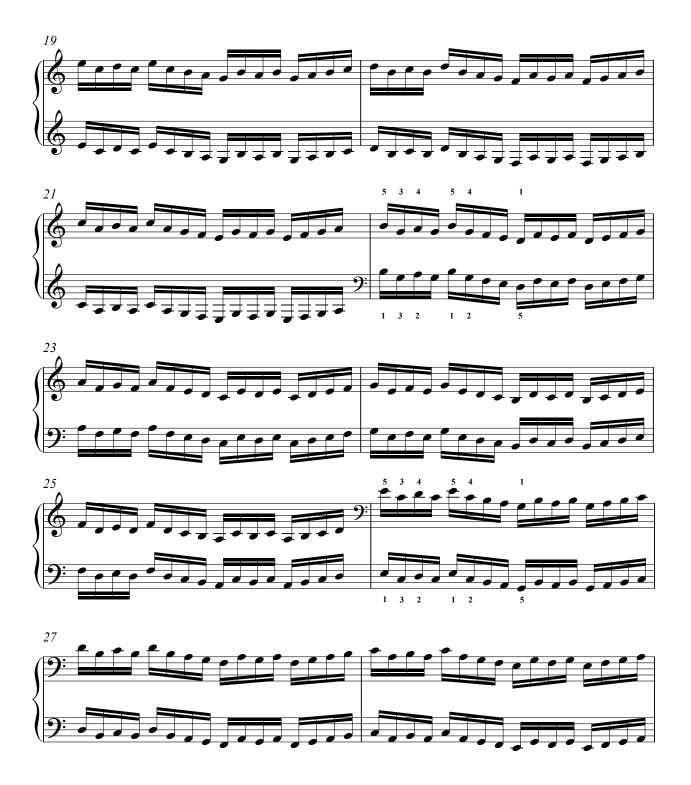




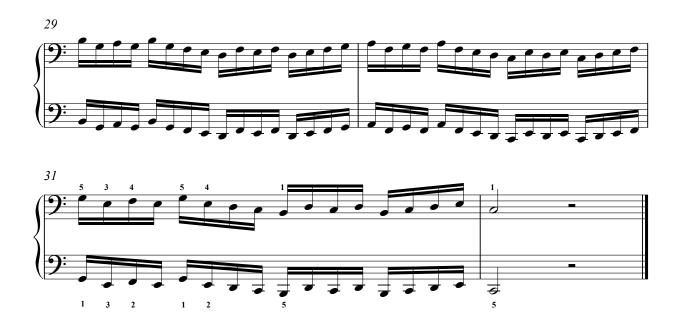
Exercise five continued



Exercise five continued



Exercise five continued



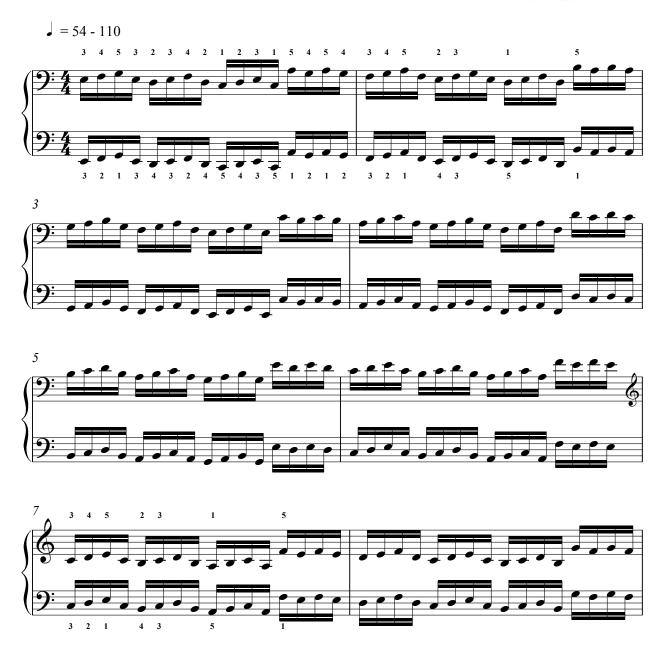
More about the exercises

Because the exercises are now mostly in 4 the patterns are becoming more intricate. So there is a lot of notes to study and learn in each bar. This will take time but it is extremely valuable to your playing.

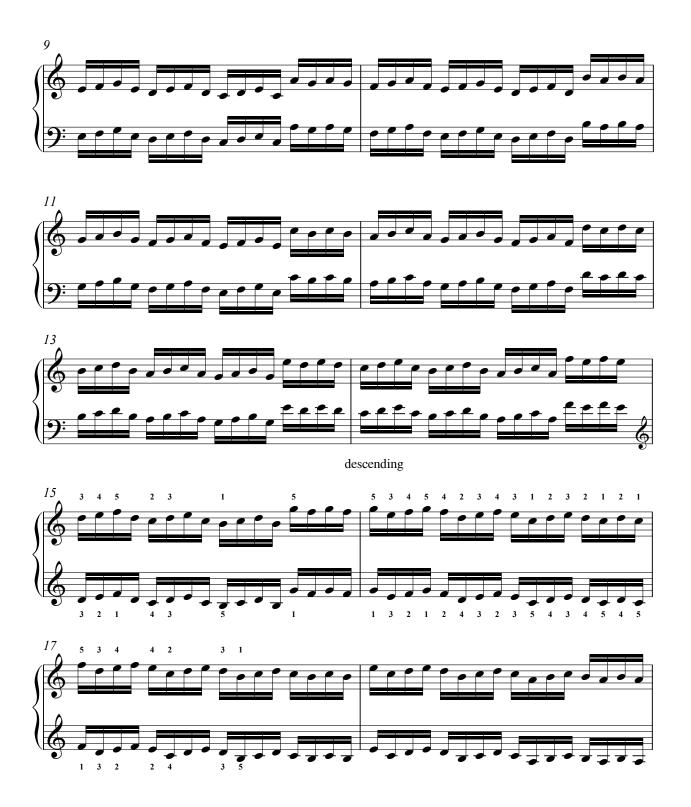
Exercise six

This exercise is quite hard so take as long as you need to get comfortable.

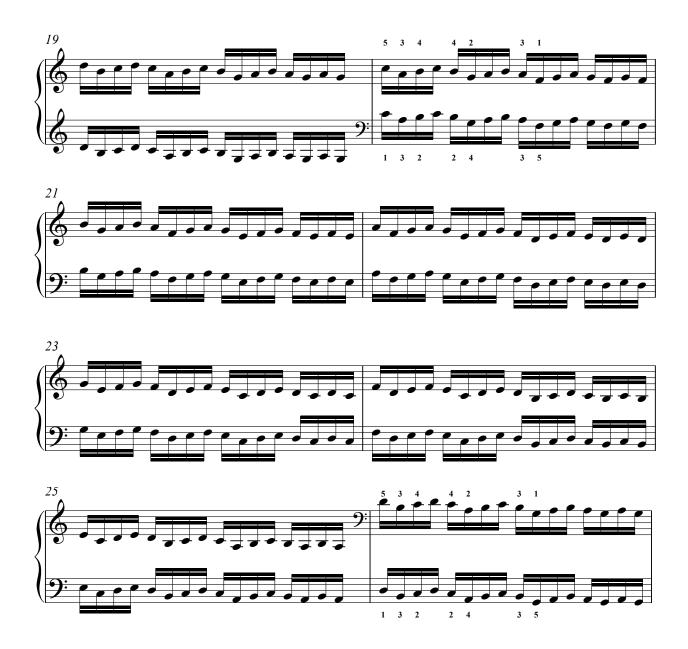




Exercise six continued



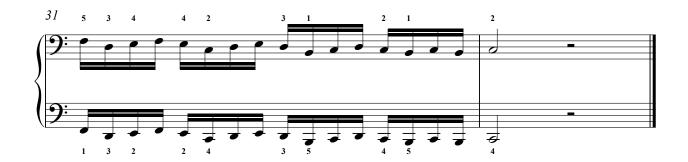
Exercise six continued



Exercise six continued



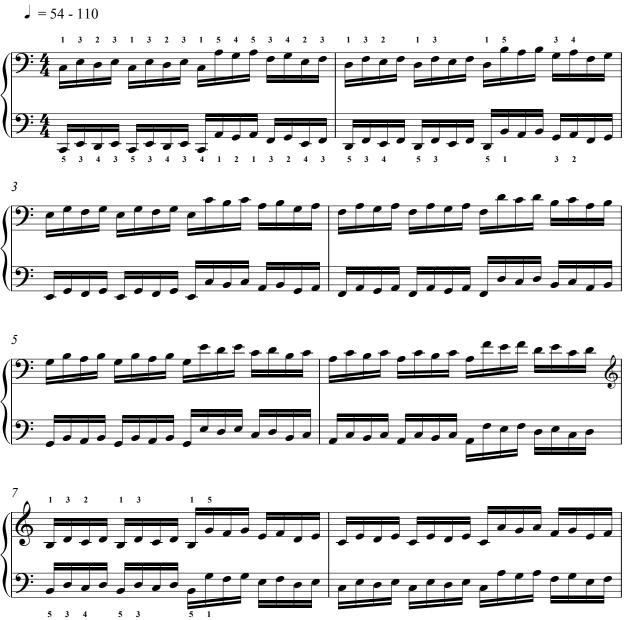




Exercise seven



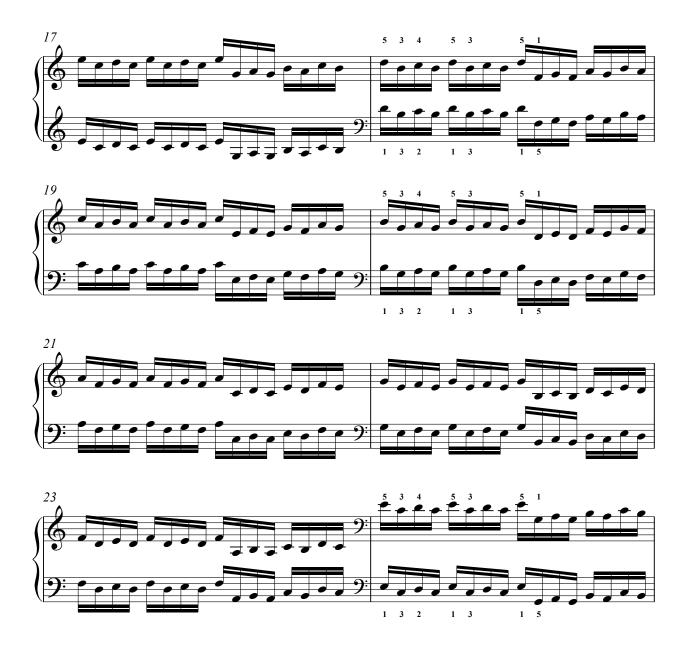




Exercise seven continued



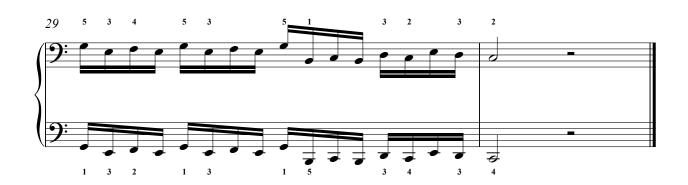
Exercise seven continued



Exercise seven continued



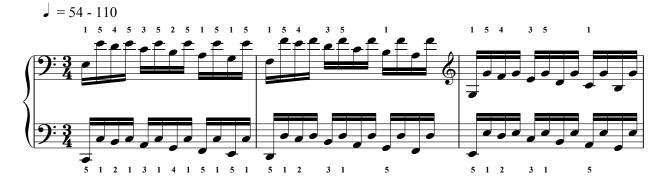




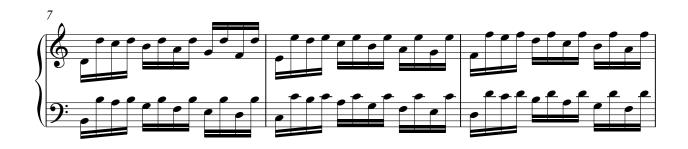
Exercise eight

08 PLAY MEDIA

This exercise uses $\frac{3}{4}$ time signature. This one is my favourite.

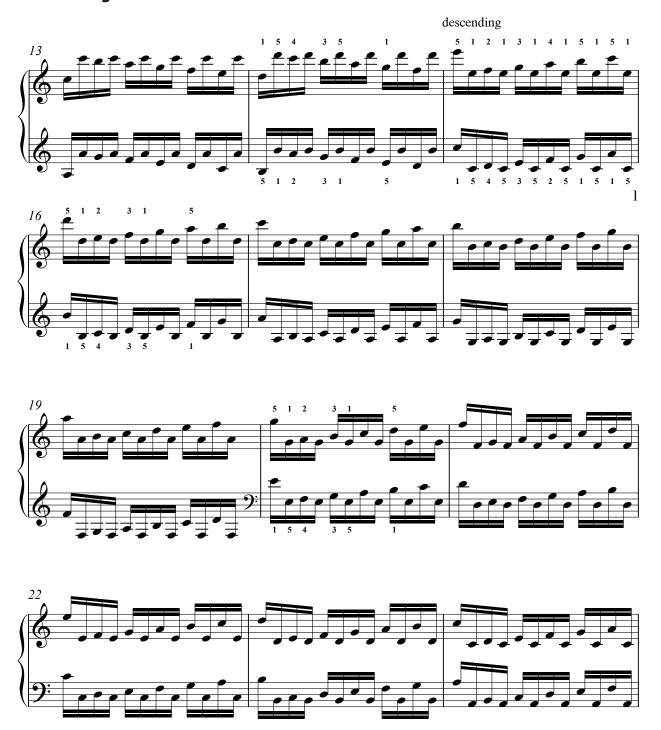






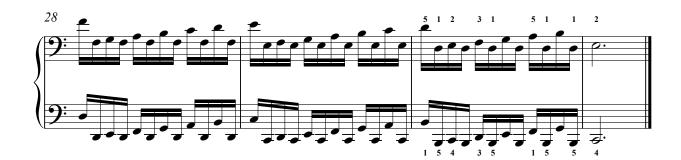


Exercise eight continued



Exercise eight continued





Exercise nine

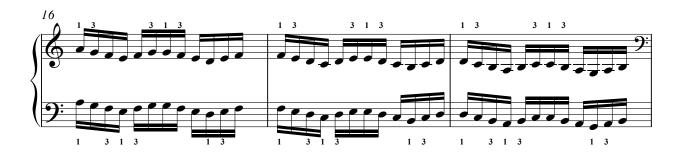


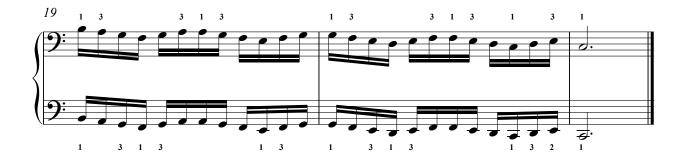
This exercise is designed to work on the 'thumb under the 3 finger' technique. This technique is very important when playing scales. In some pieces it is important to reposition the hand so it can reach the extra notes. Remember to keep your hand nice and loose and high. This will help with getting the thumb under. If you keep your wrist nice and relaxed this will also help when the 3 finger goes over.



Exercise nine continued







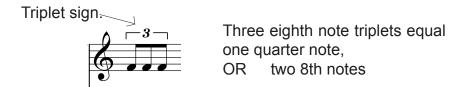


Eighth note triplets

The next exercise uses eighth note triplets so before you play that exercise we will briefly look at what eighth note triplets are.

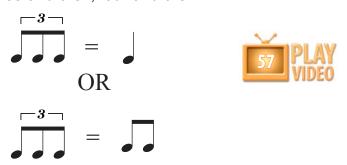
Eighth note triplets occur when there are three eighth notes played in the time of two eighth notes, or one quarter note. To do this you spread the playing of the three eighth notes evenly across the time you would normally play a quarter note.

When eighth note triplets are written, a little number 3 appears above or below the group of notes.

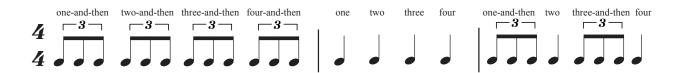


So when counting eighth note triplets you can count:

one-and-then, two-and-then, three-and-then, four-and-then

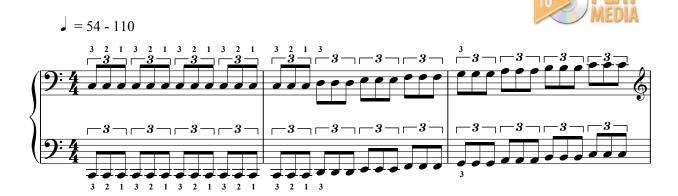


Clap the beats and count aloud the rhythm.

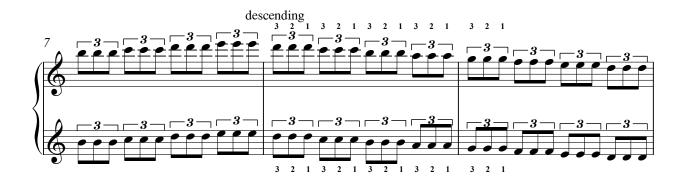


Exercise ten

This next exercise is designed to get the 1st, 2nd and 3rd fingers working on both hands. It has the three fingers playing the same note. This kind of close fingering is useful for when the hand has to shift positions smoothly. It is also good for increasing the speed and strength of the three fingers.







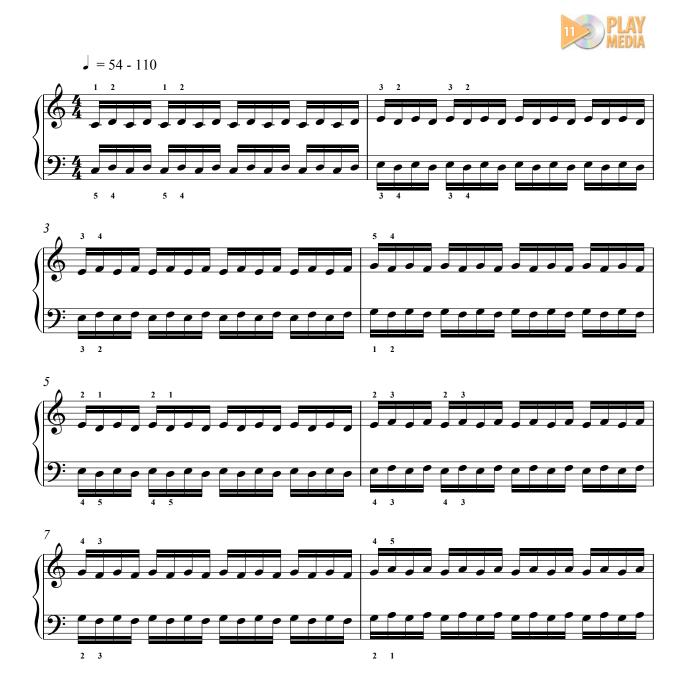
Exercise ten continued



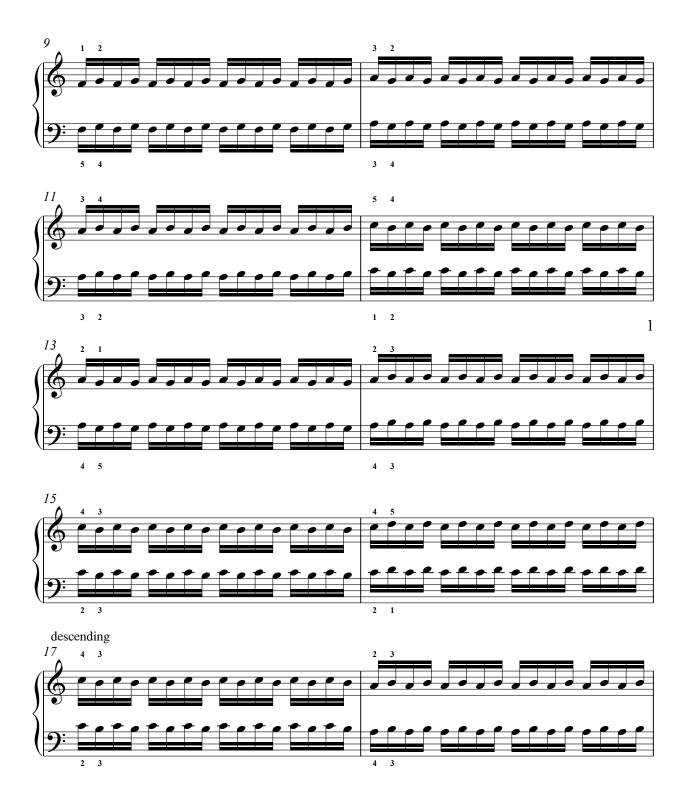


Exercise eleven

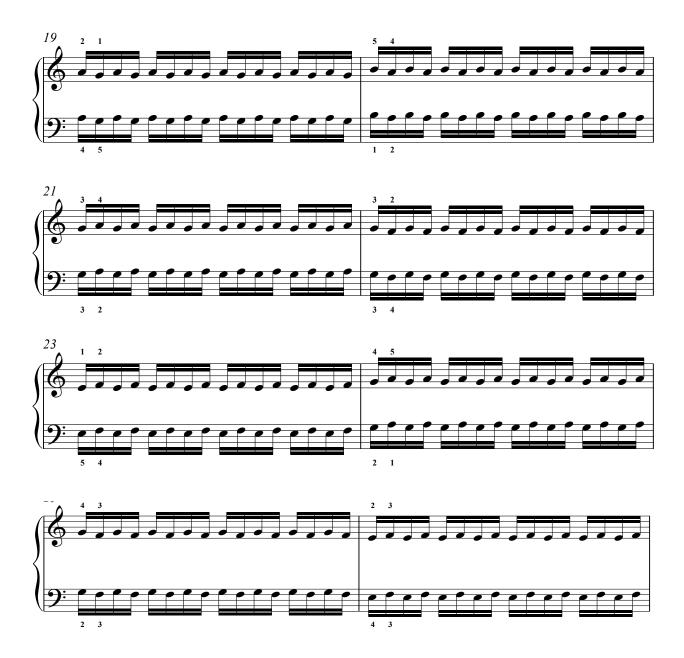
A trill is when two notes next to each other are played in rapid succession. They are either a tone or a semitone apart. A trill is played very fast so its important to get the fingers used to this kind of quick playing between one finger and the finger next to it. This exercise will help your fingers get used to playing the trill.



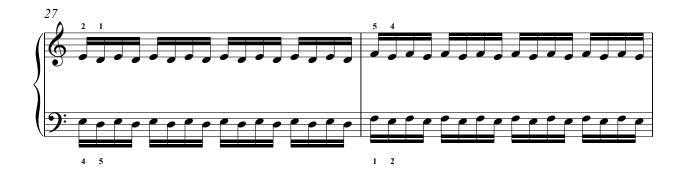
Exercise eleven continued



Exercise eleven continued



Exercise eleven continued







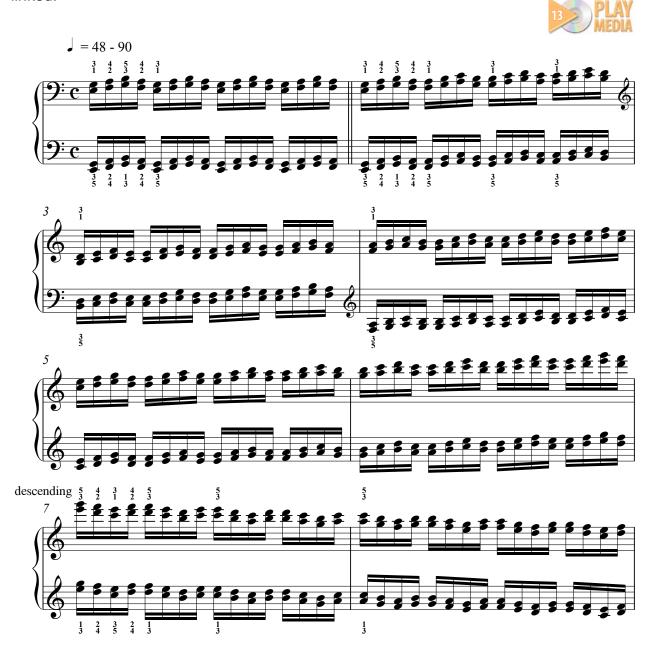
Exercise twelve

This exercise is in common time. That means its in 4. It's quite a stretch so take your time. Also note that the piece goes quite high. Remember that 8va means you play the notes one octave higher than what is written.

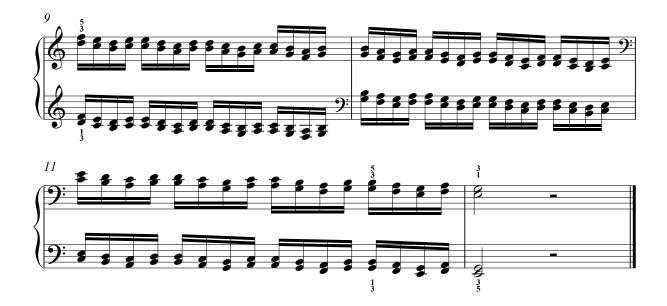


Exercise thirteen

Note the change in the metronome speed. This is because this exercise should be played slightly slower. Take your time and be patient. This exercise is important because as you can see it is a study of playing 3rds. Thirds are used commonly throughout all kinds of music and this exercise is arranged to practice playing them smoothly so that they are linked.



Exercise thirteen continued



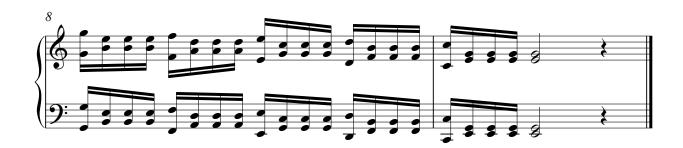
Exercise fourteen

This is the last exercise for this book. This exercise works the 2nd and 4th fingers on both hands. Try and hold the octave down and play the notes using the 2nd and 4th fingers.



Exercise fourteen continued





You're doing really well! These exercises are very hard, especially to play fast! But after you have practised them several times your hands will get noticeably quicker! Your fingers will be whizzing up and down the piano!

Conclusion

You've done it! You have completed the Jamorama Piano finger techniques and exercises. Just think how fast your fingers can go now! You're on your way to becoming a great musician ... all you need is more practice!

If you haven't already, go on to the Jamorama Introduction to Gospel Piano book and learn about Gospel, Spirituals and Hymns!

Ruth