



Lesson Sixteen

Gigajam Keyboard School Lesson 016 IKS DTA

Developing Triad Arpeggios

Lesson Objectives

- Develop the ability to perform Triad Arpeggios by adding Eighth Notes.
- Develop overall performance further through use of two handed coordination, focus on timekeeping and accuracy of playing.
- Continue the use of Key Signatures.

Developing Triad Arpeggios

The ability to be able to play Triads as Arpeggios is both a Useful and also essential tool for a keyboard player to have.

The last lesson provided the opportunity to practise this skill using Quarter Note Arpeggios for both Major and Minor Triads.

This lesson will develop this skill by concentrating on playing Triad Arpeggios using Eighth Notes.

Eighth Note Pairs

Eighth Notes were studied in lesson 4. Revise this lesson if necessary. It is possible to play a Triad as a right hand Arpeggio using Eighth Notes. We will develop this skill in our first exercise of this lesson. The Triad used is Eb Major. The notes involved are Eb, G and Bb. Each note of the Triad is repeated to create a pair.

Note that we have written the first few exercises using the scale of Eb Major so the Key Signature denotes the 3 Flats in the scale of Eb. Loop and practise this exercise until you are completely comfortable with it and remember to focus on your fingering.

Exercise 1
lesson016.iksdt.a.01



Musical notation for Exercise 1. The right hand plays eighth notes in Eb Major. The left hand is silent. Fingering: T T 2 2 4 4 2 2 T T 2 2 4 4 2 2.

Add Left Hand

Now play this again, this time adding an Eb Triad played in the Bass Clef with the left hand. Make sure that you play in time with the media files.

Exercise 2
lesson016.iksdt.a.02



Musical notation for Exercise 2. The right hand plays eighth notes in Eb Major. The left hand plays Eb Major triads (Eb, G, Bb) in the bass clef. Fingering: 8 8.

Eighth Note Singles

The following exercises are based on playing each note of the Triad once only, instead of in Eighth Note pairs. This means that the Right Hand fingers are playing faster than before. The Eb Major Triad Arpeggio is now completed in two beats. It is then repeated to complete the bar. Slow down the Tempo a little to allow yourself time to fit everything in.

Loop and repeat this exercise until you are completely comfortable with it. Remember to use the correct fingering. Put the Tempo back up when you feel ready.

Exercise 3 lesson016.iksdt.03



Introduce the Left Hand

Now play this again, this time adding an Eb Major Triad played in the Bass Clef with the left hand. Make sure that you play in time with the media files.

Exercise 4 lesson016.iksdt.04



Swap Hands

As a keyboard player, you should be able to play Arpeggios and chords either hand. Firstly, practise playing the Triad Arpeggio in the Bass Clef with the left hand. This time it's a Bb Major Triad, with the notes played in pairs. Note that the remaining exercises use the scale of Bb Major so the Key Signature denotes the 2 flats in the scale of Bb.

As always cycle the exercise until you are comfortable.

Exercise 5 lesson016.iksdt.05



Adding a Right Hand Triad

Now play this again, adding a B \flat Major Triad played in the Treble Clef with the right hand. Make sure that you play in time with the media files.

Exercise 6 lesson016.iksdta.06



4 4 2 2 T T 2 2 4 4 2 2 T T 2 2

Left Hand Singles

The next exercise involves playing each note of the Triad once only, instead of in Eighth Note pairs. This means that the left hand fingers are playing faster than before. The B \flat Major Triad Arpeggio is now completed in two beats. It is then repeated to complete the bar. Slow down the Tempo a little to allow yourself time to fit everything in.

Loop and repeat this exercise until you are completely comfortable with it. Remember to use the correct fingering. Put the Tempo back up when you feel ready.

Use the multimedia files appropriately as usual to help you gain proficiency.

Exercise 7 lesson016.iksdta.07



4 2 T 2 4 2 T 2 4 2 T 2 4 2 T 2

Adding a Right Hand Triad

Now play this again, this time adding a B \flat Major Triad played in the Treble Clef with the Right Hand. Make sure that you play in time with the media files.

Exercise 8 lesson016.iksdta.08



4 2 T 2 4 2 T 2 4 2 T 2 4 2 T 2

Minor Triad Arpeggios

It is necessary for a keyboard player to be able to play Minor Triads as Arpeggios in either hand - songs often contain Minor and Major chords. The following exercises will help you to practise this, by adopting exactly the same approach as in the first part of this lesson.

Loop these exercises and practise playing round and round until you are completely comfortable with each one. Make sure you understand exactly what is involved, including all note names, and remember to use the correct fingering for each hand.

Exercise 9
lesson016.iksdta.09



Exercise 10
lesson016.iksdta.10



Exercise 11
lesson016.iksdta.11



Exercise 12
lesson016.iksdta.12



Practise

Now that you have completed lessons 15 and 16 you are well versed and prepared to use Arpeggios in your playing. Make sure that you can play all the examples in these lessons and then move on to learn about Dotted notes in the coming lessons so that you can increase your ability to read, play and perform more sophisticated rhythms in your playing of the keyboard.