



Lesson Twenty Two

Developing Intervals

Gigajam Keyboard School Lesson 022 IKS DI

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce *harmonic intervals*
- Develop the ability to play thirds.

Harmonic intervals

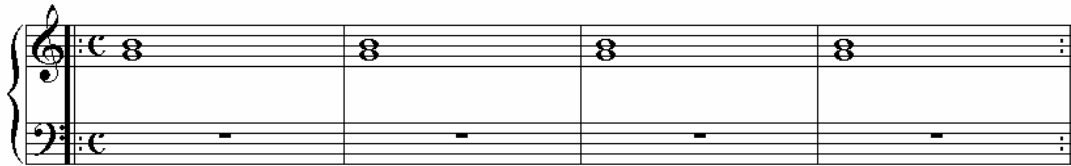
The last lesson introduced playing the major scale in a new way – in thirds played as melodic intervals – play one, miss one, play one.

This lesson will further develop your understanding of intervals, by using the same information in a different way. Instead of playing 'leapfrog' with the notes, you will play both notes of the interval at the same time.

Playing the root (G) and the third (B) together at exactly the same time is an harmonic interval – a major third. This sounds like a chord but obviously isn't a triad because, as you already know, you need all three notes present to create a triad. Playing two notes together like this is known as an harmonic interval – two notes played together at exactly the same time sound like a chord, like *harmony*.

Exercise 1

lesson022.iksdi.01



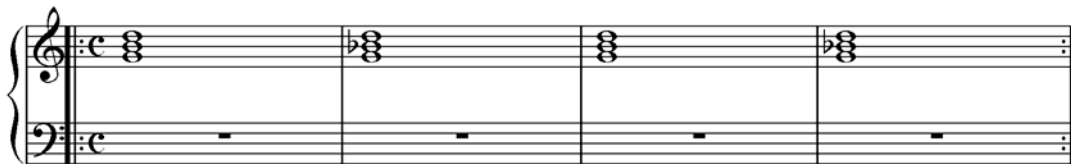
Major and minor

Listen closely to the sound of the major third interval as you play it. It sounds pleasant to the ear. It almost sounds like a chord. That's because it nearly is. G and B are of course the first two notes of the G major triad – G, B and D. Playing the first two notes of the chord together like this as a major third interval deceives the ear. It tricks the ear into hearing the whole triad. This happens because the root and third carry all of the important information necessary to create the sound of a triad. The G is the root note of the scale and triad, and the name of both – G major. The B is the third of the scale and the triad, and it tells us that the sound we're hearing is a major sound (not a minor one – that would be a Bb).

Compare the sound of G and B played together (major) with G and Bb (minor).

Exercise 2

lesson022.iksdi.02



Major/minor

Mostly we recognise major as sounding bright, happy and up, whereas minor sounds more moody, perhaps slightly darker or duller.

Both sounds are useful to us as a musician. Often, it's the combination of these sounds which creates interest in a song – some major chords and some minor.

Both can sound complete even without the fifth note being played – you're not really aware that there's a note missing (except that you know you're not playing it!).

Scale exercise

The next exercise goes up the whole scale using the play one, miss one, play one routine. Remember, it's just the notes of the G major scale played in a new way – as harmonic intervals. G and B together as one sound, A and C together as one, and so on.

Practise playing this new exercise until you are comfortable with it. Remember to use the correct fingering.

Exercise 3 lesson022.iksdi.03



Now play that exercise again, this time coming back down the scale as well.

Exercise 4 lesson022.iksdi.04



So far in this lesson you've only been using your right hand to play the harmonic intervals. The next exercise adds the left hand playing a G root bass note on the first beat of each bar.

Exercise 5
lesson022.iksdi.05



Left hand

Now that your left hand is in action use it to play a G major scale as half notes.

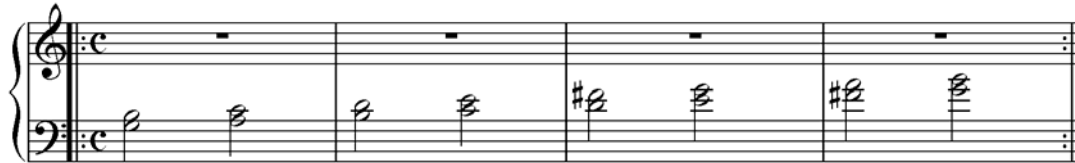
Exercise 6
lesson022.iksdi.06



Octave lower

Now try some of the right hand exercises you've been playing using the left hand. You will be playing an octave lower down in the bass clef. The next exercise goes up the whole scale using the play one, miss one, play one routine. Remember, it's just the notes of the G major scale played in a new way – play G and B together as one sound. Then, play A and C together – and so on.

Exercise 7 lesson022.iksdi.07



Practise playing this exercise until you are comfortable with it. Remember to use the correct fingering.

Now play that exercise again, this time coming back down the scale as well.

Exercise 8 lesson022.iksdi.08



Both hands

The next exercise puts both hands together. The right hand plays thirds as harmonic intervals in half notes – you played this in exercise 3 above. The left hand plays each note of the scale as half notes.

Exercise 9 lesson022.iksdi.09



Finally, put everything together in one exercise, with your right hand playing thirds and your left hand playing the scale.

Exercise 10 lesson022.iksdi.10



Other keys

The exercises in this lesson (thirds played as harmonic intervals) are all based on the G major scale. It is of course necessary to be able to apply what you have learned to other keys. The remaining exercises will help you to develop this ability. There is no new material. You have already played all of these exercises in this lesson on G – it's just the same thing on a different note.

Exercise 11
lesson022.iksd1.11



Musical notation for Exercise 11, first system. Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time. Four measures of music.

5

Musical notation for Exercise 11, second system. Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time. Four measures of music.

Exercise 12
lesson022.iksd1.12



Musical notation for Exercise 12, first system. Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time. Four measures of music.

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Musical notation for Exercise 12, second system. Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time. Four measures of music.

Exercise 13
lesson022.iksd1.13



Musical notation for Exercise 13, first system. Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time. Four measures of music.

5

Musical notation for Exercise 13, second system. Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time. Four measures of music.

Exercise 14
lesson022.iksdi.14



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