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Developing Two Hand Coordination



Two Hand Coordination

Keyboard players often play using both hands at the same time. Sometimes the left and right hands need to play different things. For example, the left hand might be required to play a triad (to establish the sound of the chord) whilst the right hand plays the scale (to create a **melody** or **improvisation**).

Triad and Scale

The best way to develop two hand coordination is, as indicated above, by playing left hand triads underneath right hand scales.

In our first exercise we are going to develop the ability to play an A triad in our left hand, whilst we are playing an A major scale in our right.

You are already familiar with both the left hand A triad and playing an A major scale with your right hand.

Accordingly, I would just run through both hands separately first, then use the multimedia files to play along with.

Exercise 1

lesson004.iksdthc.01

You should keep practising this exercise until you have become reasonably comfortable. I would then be tempted to move on, and return to practise more when you are able to play other combinations of triads and scales.

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce two hand coordination, using the left hand to play triads and the right hand to play scales.
- Develop the use of the bass clef.
- Further develop transferability.
- Increase our control and understanding of rhythm by introducing **eighth notes**.
- Develop greater fluency of playing by changing chords.

Understanding Eighth Notes

Earlier in the course we divided the bar into 4 notes giving us quarter notes. Now we are going to divide each of those quarter notes in half, producing ***eighth notes***. They are called eighth notes because they divide a bar of common time into 8 notes.

You will recall that a quarter note is worth 1 beat. Now that we have cut the quarter note in half we have two notes per beat and therefore each eighth note is worth half of a beat.

We are going to play eighth notes now using the A major scale with our right hand. Effectively, you are playing two notes on each note. Look at *Exercise 2* below.

Count out loud as shown in the exercise and read the + sign as 'and', so you will say '1-and-2-and-3-and-4-and'. As always use the multimedia files to help you along.

Exercise 2

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The exercise consists of four measures of music, each with a measure number above it. The first two measures are grouped by a brace on the left, and the last two are grouped by a brace on the right. Each measure contains a right-hand staff with eighth notes and a left-hand staff with a whole rest. The notes in the right hand are: Measure 1: A4, B4, C5, D5; Measure 2: E5, F#5, G#5, A5; Measure 3: B5, C6, B5, A5; Measure 4: G5, F#5, E5, D5. Below each measure, the counting sequence '1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +' is written.

Developing Scales and Triads using Eighth Notes

To develop our understanding of eighth notes and our ability to play scales and triads, let us now play the scale of A major using eighth notes and play the triad with the left hand underneath.

Look at your *Exercise 3* and use your multimedia files to play along with.

Remember to use the correct fingering in the scale and play around and around until comfortable.

Exercise 3

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The musical notation for Exercise 3 is presented in two systems. The first system contains measures 1 and 2. Measure 1 features a treble clef with a scale of eighth notes: A4, B4, C#5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5. The bass clef contains an A major triad (A2, C#3, E3). Measure 2 continues the scale: B4, C#5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5. The bass clef contains an A major triad (A2, C#3, E3). The second system contains measures 3 and 4. Measure 3 continues the scale: B4, C#5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5. The bass clef contains an A major triad (A2, C#3, E3). Measure 4 continues the scale: B4, C#5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5. The bass clef contains an A major triad (A2, C#3, E3). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Transferability of Scales and Triads

It is important as a keyboard player, to be able to play triads and scales between your right and left hands with all notes. So far we have looked at A, but we need to be able to play G, C, D as well.

Here are a series of exercises simply transferring the skills you have learned so far in this lesson. They will help you become comfortable playing with both hands using the chords and scales learned so far. Remember to use the correct fingering. Also read both the treble and bass clefs at the same time!

Exercise 4: G major two hand coordination

lesson004.iksdthc.04

1 2

3 4

Exercise 5: C major two hand coordination

lesson004.iksdthc.05

1 2

3 4

Exercise 6: D major two hand coordination

lesson004.iksdthc.06

1 2

3 4

Changing Chords

When you are completely comfortable with each of these triad and scale combinations you should then look at being able to change between chords.

We are going to change between all four chords in a short study. Make sure that you are using the correct fingering and use the multimedia files to help you through the exercise.

Changing Chords Study

I would work through this study methodically, practising the chord changes. It may be worthwhile just running through two changes, by looping say the first 8 bars and then the second 8 bars, before taking the whole study in one go. However, the key is to keep going even if the change isn't smooth at first.

Exercise 7: Changing chords study

lesson004.iksdthc.07

exercise continues on next page >

1 2 3

Measures 1-3 of the piece. Measure 1: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 2: Treble clef has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 3: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3.

4 5 6

Measures 4-6 of the piece. Measure 4: Treble clef has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 5: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 6: Treble clef has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3.

7 8 9

Measures 7-9 of the piece. Measure 7: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 8: Treble clef has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 9: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3.

10 11 12

Measures 10-12 of the piece. Measure 10: Treble clef has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 11: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 12: Treble clef has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3.

13 14

Measures 13-14 of the piece. Measure 13: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 14: Treble clef has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3.

15 16

Measures 15-16 of the piece. Measure 15: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. Measure 16: Treble clef has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4. Bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, D3. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.