

Arpeggio Archipelago

Introduction

An arpeggio is a group or sequence of notes played on an instrument. The groups of notes that form the arpeggio are usually part of a musical chord or scale. An archipelago is a group or cluster of islands that were formed tectonically; but that my friend is another story... You have to admit it made for a snappy name.

In this workshop we will discuss some basic arpeggio forms on the hammered dulcimer. We will see how the notes in the arpeggios are related to the scales and chords where the notes came from. We will learn some fun exercises based on arpeggios.

Why Arpeggios?

Lets face it practicing scales is not always that fun. Arpeggio exercises however can be very fun! The exercises presented here are designed to help students learn the “map” of the hammered dulcimer and to help them learn chording patterns. It is important understand the crossover points for your hammering patterns. We cover crossovers in this workshop. An alternating right-left-right pattern (or left-right-left) is suggested for most of these exercises.

The “numbering” notation used in this document requires an explanation. For instance the “2-2” notation is a pattern sequence where two notes are on one side of bridge and two on the other side. This handout is mostly a device to remember the concepts presented in the workshop.

Basic Arpeggio:

on the treble bridge:	on bass bridge:	on the treble bridge:	on bass bridge:																																																						
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Basic Arpeggio around a G-major chord - Start with the LEFT Hand

Basic Arpeggio around a G-major chord - Start with the RIGHT Hand

Exercises:

Single Octave arpeggio form (Play in key of G-major or D, C, A...) Start on Marked Note

- Start L (treble bridge) 2-2
- Start R (treble ridge) 3-1
- Start L (bass bridge) 2-2
- Start R (bass bridge) 3-1

Double Octave arpeggio form (Play in keyG-major or D, C, A...) Start on Marked Note

- Start - L (bass bridge) 2-2 → 3-1
- Start - R (bass bridge) 3-1 → 2-2

I-IV-V Exercise single Low Octave - In key of G: use the chords C to G to D (In key of C use the chords F to C to G)

- Start -L (bass bridge)
- Start - R (bass bridge)

I-IV-V Exercise Double Octave - In key of G: use the chords C to G to D (In key of C use the chords F to C to G)

- Start - L (bass bridge)
- Start - R (bass bridge)

Other Arpeggios: Minor key; 4th instead of third; whatever you can come up with...

Advanced Arpeggio's

More Advanced Exercises:

Minor key Arpeggios

- Same patterns as major arpeggios but start on note one above a marked note
- You will be playing minor chords instead of major

Compact Double Octave Arpeggio:

- Instead of 2-2 → 3-1 pattern, use 2-2 → 1-3
- Go back and forth between: 2-2 → 1-3 and 2-2 → 3-1

Triple Octave arpeggio (from D-major, that is if you have low D)

- Start - L (base bridge) 2-2 → 3-1 → 4
- Start - R (bass bridge) 3-1 → 2-2 → 4

Compact I-IV-V:

Preliminary: Understand I-IV-V means

- Play chords starting on white notes: G, C, D
- The method requires a total of seven courses

Compact I-IV-V

- The compact version only requires five courses (this requires a demonstration)
- The advantage is you can play all three chords staying in a tighter place
- This can be helpful for jamming

Pachelbel's Canon in D:

Chord Progression is all arpeggiated chords:

D-A-Bm-F#m-G-D-G-A

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pachelbel's_Canon

About The Author

Cliff Cole purchased his first hammered dulcimer in 1985, from Sam Rizzetta. At the time he was playing drums in a blues band. Prior to taking up the dulcimer, he studied drums and percussion for ten years. Since the age of fifteen Cliff has played in numerous rock, blues, jazz, zydeco and folk ensembles. Folk instruments are where the heart is.

Cliff plays the hammered dulcimer in the family folk group "DayBreak," which has been together since 1989. They have made several recordings, including "Lost Cave" which was recorded live inside of Lost River Caverns in Hellertown, PA, "Little Steps", and "Autumn Calling," which features many of Cliff's original tunes. They also have produced two Christmas CD's one named "Unity; Unique Music for Christmas" and a live Holiday concert recorded in December of 2002. Cliff also helped produced a wonderful CD with his daughter, the Poet Emily Rose Cole, called "I Wanna Know" That was released in 2012.

DayBreak's music is available on CD-Baby, iTunes and many other digital download stores found on the web.

Cliff is very active in the folk scene. He is on the board of Perkasio Patchwork Coffeehouse, where he often works the soundboard. He sometimes does sound at Godfrey Daniel's a folk club in Bethlehem, PA. Cliff is also a founding member of the Quakertown Area Dulcimer and Autoharp Society ([QUADAS](#).) He has been a workshop leader at many dulcimer festivals through the years.

James Jones made Cliff's hammered dulcimer. The full sized 2/16/18/7 instrument covers four octaves and has dampening pedal. For more information about James Jones instruments go to his web site: <http://www.jamesjonesinstruments.com>

Cliff lives with his lovely wife, Pamela, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. He works as a computer hardware test engineer for the Intel Corporation, in an office located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

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