

(Book 4) Lesson 7b.

Octave Scales Combining the "A" and "D" Strings  
Demonstration of Retrograde in the Key of "E"

Shifting on "D" string: (the shift is marked with the dashed line)

④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————  
 4 3 1---2 1 4 2 0 0 2 4 1 2---1 3 4

Shift on "A" str. ④ ③ 1 ④ ③ 1---2 0 0 2---1 3 4 ① ③ 4  
 ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————

The first scale is a bit of a "bee in the ointment" because it descends into the open position.

Notice that each scale begins on the "D" string and changes position one time.

Shift on "D" str. ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————  
 4 2 1---4 2 1 4 2 2 4 1 2 4---1 2 4

Shift on "A" str. ④ ② 1 ④ ② 1---4 2 2 4---1 2 4 ① 2 4  
 ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————

The basic rule for determining the starting finger is: If a 1/2 tone occurs in the first three notes, begin with the fourth finger. If no 1/2 tone occurs within the first three notes, begin with the third finger.

Shift on "D" str. ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————  
 3 1---4 3 1 4 3 1 1 3 4 1 3 4---1 3

Shift on "A" str. ③ ① ④ ③ 1---4 ③ ① ① ③ 4---1 ③ 4 ① ③  
 ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————

There is also the possibility of doing the descending shift on the "D" string and the ascending shift on the "A" string, or, descending on "A" and ascending on "D".

Notice that the fingering has not been marked with combination style, however, that is still the preferred method.

Shift on "D". ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————  
 3 1---4 2 1 4 2 1 1 2 4 1 2 4---1 3

Shift on "A". ③ ① ④ ② 1---4 ② ① ① ② 4---1 ② 4 ① ③  
 ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————

This demonstration is to show how the fingering system works, despite the key and the direction of the scale passage.

It is always recommended that you incorporate a variety of different keys into your reviewing schedule and also practice the two string scales in retrograde as shown here.

Shift on "D". ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————  
 4 3 1---4 2 1 4 2 2 4 1 2 4---1 3 4

Shift on "A". ④ ③ ① ④ ② 1---4 ② ② 4---1 ② 4 ① ③ 4  
 ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————

A half hour of total practice in one day would seem likely to produce very little improvement at this stage of the game.

Remember that practicing involves, first learning the lesson, and then rehearsal of what you have learned.

Shift on "D". ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————  
 4 2 1---3 1 4 3 1 1 3 4 1 3---1 2 4

Shift on "A". ④ ② ① ④ ②---4 ③ ① ① ③ 4---2 ④ ① ② 4  
 ④ ————— ⑤ ————— ④ —————