

31 Starting Scales

What are tetrachords? (as related to major scales)

Four note chunks of scales - whole step / whole step / half step

Ex. Concert Ab scale / Clarinet Bb scale - Bb, C, D, Eb & F, G, A, Bb are the two tetrachords that make up the Bb scale when played together.

Why tetrachords?

Four note sections are easy to learn

When you learn one tetrachord You've learned half the scale

Kids get used to the whole, whole, half steps & hear wrong notes

You can easily isolate the trickier half of the scale (or newer half)

Drawbacks of tetrachords

They take lots of time (consider this when planning pacing / start time)

They don't cover the middle interval (between 4th & 5th degrees)

Band directors must be committed to tetrachords for it to work

Favorite parts of scales (1st octave)

Concert Eb - super easy (too easy to really know if they get it)

Concert G - middle B natural (and the top F#)

Concert Ab - have to understand key (Bb / Eb)

Concert Bb - crossing the break, like the warmup line

Concert C - teach coolio C# and trading pinkies

Concert G - easy but have to understand key

Concert Db - crossing the break, understanding key, Eb top top

Key Signature

You must really teach key signature for students to get the point of scales.

- Purpose of scales - play in different keys and learn those finger patterns.

- Scales are all the same except for the starting note and key signature

Be sure you are working on the chromatic daily as well!