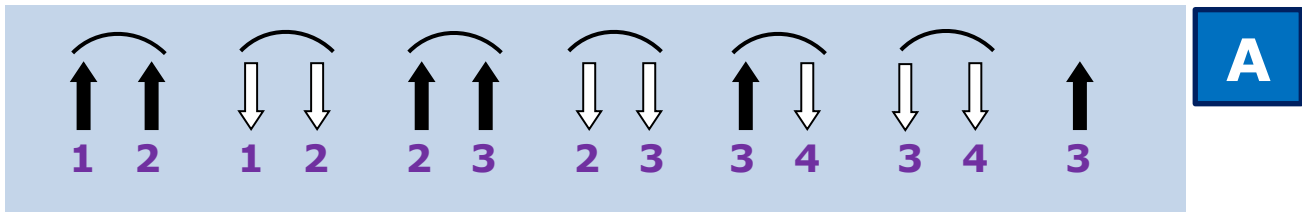


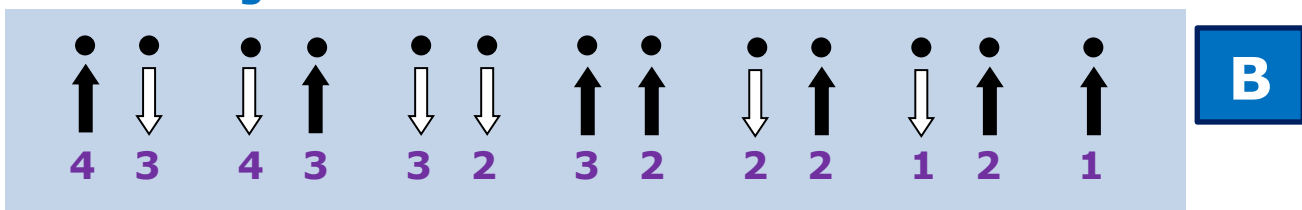
Major Scale In Couplets

4h

Ascending



Descending



Notes

Using notes of the major scale, we're connecting pairs, or couplets. This is a great way of developing breath control, slide technique and controlled movement across the harmonica. It's also closely linked to playing trills. And when the exercise is played right through, it becomes a fun melody.

Legato and Staccato

Using slide technique as much as possible, play *legato* (connected notes) right through lines **A** and **B**. Try not to split the couplets into single notes. We have added *slur* symbols to the first line to help you. Notice how your diaphragm provides the support needed. Ensure you also adopt the right hand position when you play. Now try playing through *staccato* (short and detached notes) using short bursts of air. We have added dots to the line to help you. Keep your lips on the harmonica at all times.

Phrasing and Jigging

Now play the couplets naturally, but emphasise the first note by adding weight each time. The result should be a Tum-ti, Tum-ti, Tum-ti effect. Now *jig* each couplet by lengthening the first note, and shortening the second note. This should introduce a *skip* to the exercise. Try to keep your head still and use the weight of the harmonica to move through the pattern. The action of twitching the harp from the wrists will help.

Trills

Pick pairs of neighbouring notes and use them to play trills. Start and end on the lower of the two notes and try not to catch other holes. Keep the delivery even in both holes and feel the divider as your breath crosses it. See if you can speed up and down, while keeping control in the two holes.