

## TUTION TIP: INTERVAL MAGIC!

Welcome to the first in a new series of Tuition Tips brought to you by Guitar-X – part of Tech Music Schools in London. For the full Tuition Tip archive including sound files and videos, visit the website: <http://www.guitar-x.co.uk/TuitionTipsIndex1.html>

Each issue I will be focussing on a specific class taught at the school, giving you a bite-size chunk of bassiness, and an insight into what it's like to be on a full-time course.

First up is a lesson from our One-Year Diploma: **THE FRETBOARD**. Knowing your way around the bass is vital, and the study of this is an essential part of all our courses at Guitar-X. One of the first things we cover is learning how to play intervals on the bass.

An interval is simply the distance between two notes – how far apart or close together they are governs the quality of sound that is produced when the notes are played simultaneously – *harmony*, or consecutively – *melody*. Some intervals sound nice and others sound nasty, but really this is all dependant on the context in which they are played.

Each interval has a full name, a shortened name and on bass we can also associate it with a fingering/shape on the fretboard. Play **Exercise 1** on your bass, aiming for long notes and smooth string crossing – go as slow as you need to make it sound perfect.

**Exercise 2** is much harder – it contains all of the intervals within one octave – not just those in the major scale.

**Figure 1** is a table of all the intervals you just played, with the associated shape. NB – the shapes only cover a small section of the fretboard so you can play them anywhere on the neck. In each case the boxed note is C, or whatever note you want to create the interval from.

These aren't the only ways of playing intervals. Many intervals have two or more possible fingerings. Learn to play any interval up or down from any starting note using a variety of fingerings.

**Exercise 3** contains sequences of intervals that spell out a famous melody. You can play them starting from any note, and each of them should finish on the note you started on – if you don't then something has gone wrong! If you work out what the melody is send me an email and I'll let you know if you got it right or not – have fun!

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**Ex 1. MAJOR SCALE INTERVALS (in C)**

System 1:   
 Ascending: 3 5 3 2 3 3 3 5   
 Descending: 3 2 4 3 5 5

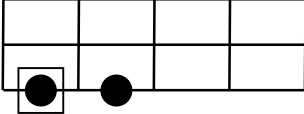
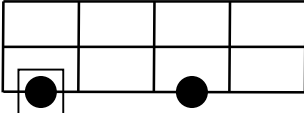
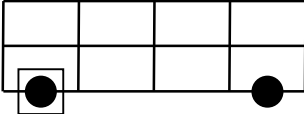
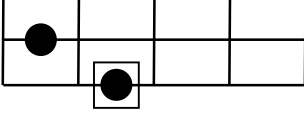
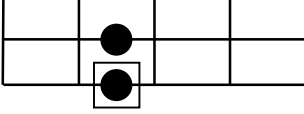
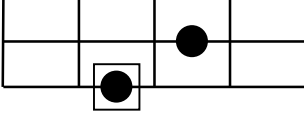
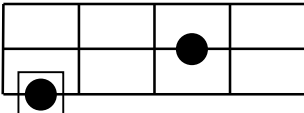
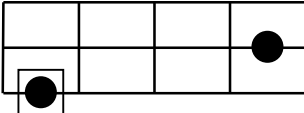
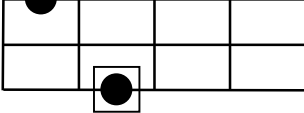
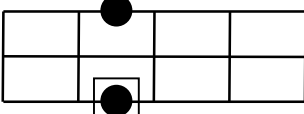
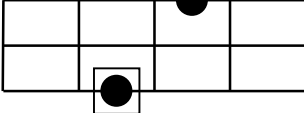
System 2:   
 Ascending: 3 5 4 2 3 5   
 Descending: 3 3 3 2 3 5 3

**Ex 2. ALL INTERVALS WITHIN ONE OCTAVE (from C)**

System 1:   
 Ascending: 3 4 3 5 3 6 3 2   
 Descending: 3 3 3 4 3 5 3 6

System 2:   
 Ascending: 3 4 3 5 3 6   
 Descending: 3 5 3 4 3 3 2 3 6 3 5 3 4 3

**Fig 1. INTERVAL TABLE**

FULL NAME	SHORT NAME	SHAPE
Minor 2 <sup>nd</sup>	flat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Major 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Minor 3 <sup>rd</sup>	flat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Major 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Perfect 4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	
Augmented 4 <sup>th</sup> or Diminished 5 <sup>th</sup>	sharp 4 <sup>th</sup> or flat 5 <sup>th</sup>	
Perfect 5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	
Minor 6 <sup>th</sup>	flat 6 <sup>th</sup>	
Major 6 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	
Minor 7 <sup>th</sup>	flat 7 <sup>th</sup>	
Major 7 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	



### Ex. 3 INTERVAL MELODIES

**3a.** Root, repeat, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 3<sup>rd</sup>, up flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, repeat, up flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, up flat 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**3b.** Root, up 5<sup>th</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, up flat 7<sup>th</sup>, down 4<sup>th</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, up flat 7<sup>th</sup>, down 4<sup>th</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, up flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 3<sup>rd</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**3c.** Root, up 8ve, down flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 3<sup>rd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, up flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 8ve, up 6<sup>th</sup>, down 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 7<sup>th</sup>, up flat 6<sup>th</sup>, down flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 3<sup>rd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, up flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, down flat 3<sup>rd</sup>, down flat 3<sup>rd</sup>, up flat 2<sup>nd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, up 2<sup>nd</sup>, down 3<sup>rd</sup>.