

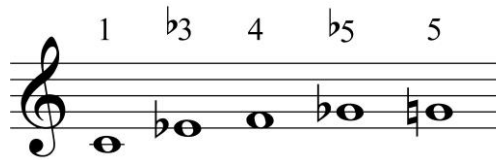


Aural Playback: Blues Pentascales

Here are some helpful tips for practicing this aural playback assignment:

The first goal of any aural activity is to reproduce the pattern of pitches by singing. This is essential to being able to find those pitches on the piano.

1. **Begin by just listening.** Listen to each pattern until you think that you can accurately sing it. This may require repeated hearings.
2. Now, **sing each pattern**, paying attention to the direction and the size of the intervals. Be sure that you sing with attention to pitch accuracy. Be aware of the scale degrees that you are singing. This will help you orient to the key.



3. You will need to **identify the starting note for each pattern**. Does the pattern start on the 1st scale degree, or on another pitch? If it begins on another pitch, sing this starting note, then sing “do” and try to identify the scale degree of the starting note.

If this proves very difficult, you will wish to practice the [aural drills](#) for this purpose provided by musictheory.net.

4. **Playing the patterns:** Before beginning, practice playing the blues pentascale that is being used. This will allow your ear to acclimate to the key. You are now ready to playback the patterns. Be sure that you maintain your awareness of the melodic direction, and especially of the starting note for each pattern.
5. Don't be discouraged if it requires many attempts before you get it. Regular practicing of these skills will sharpen your aural abilities and improve your performance skills.

