Arpeggios: One Hand

a chord, played like a harp — one note at a time, up and back down

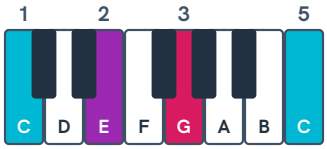
Take a chord you know and break it open. *Arpeggio* comes from the Italian *arpeggiare* — "to play like a harp." Instead of sounding C–E–G together, you let the notes ripple one at a time: **root, third, fifth** — and then the root again, one octave up. The colors are the same ones you know from the triads sheet: **root cyan, third purple, fifth magenta**. Same chord, new sparkle.

The chord, blocked
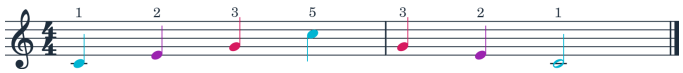


all at once — a block

R.H. — fingers above the keys
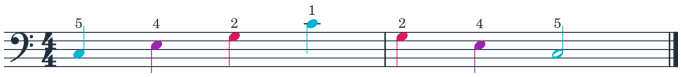


RIGHT HAND — 1 · 2 · 3 · 5



Thumb on the root, then 2 – 3, and let **finger 5 reach the top C**. Coming down, the same fingers in reverse. Keep the wrist soft and let it **follow the fingers like a rainbow** — one smooth arch up and back.

LEFT HAND — 5 · 4 · 2 · 1



Pinky on the low root, then 4 – 2, and the **thumb takes the top**. The left hand's numbers mirror the right's, exactly like your 5-finger scales. Practice hands separately until each arch feels like one gesture, not four notes.

Try it Play the right-hand arpeggio, then **move the whole shape**: G–B–D–G for a G major arpeggio, F–A–C–F for F major — **same fingering, any root**. Then try it **legato** like water, then **staccato** like raindrops. An arpeggio is just a triad out for a run: if you can spell the chord, you can play its arpeggio.

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