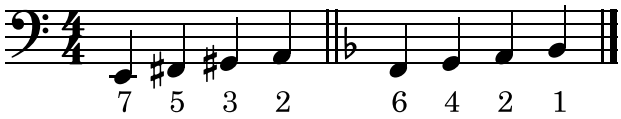
Tetra-chord Worksheet

Nathan Vetter

Straight Tenor Trombone Version

Shape 1/5



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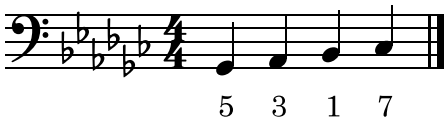

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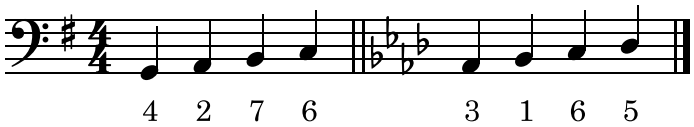

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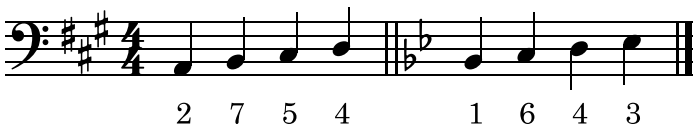
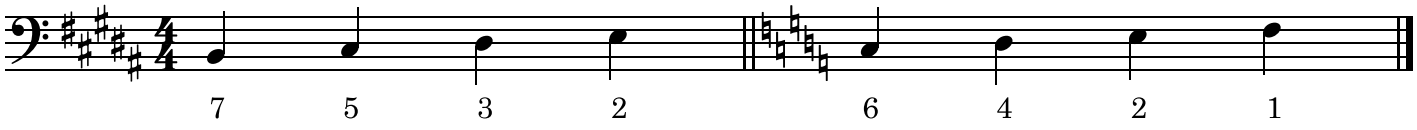


Shape 5/1



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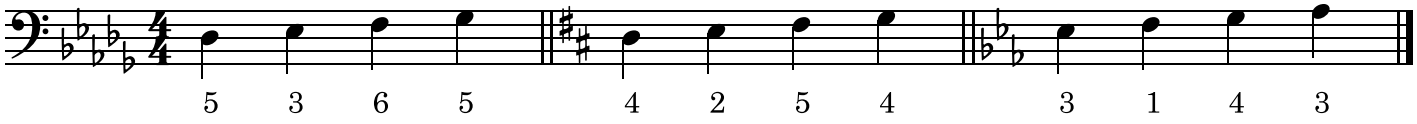

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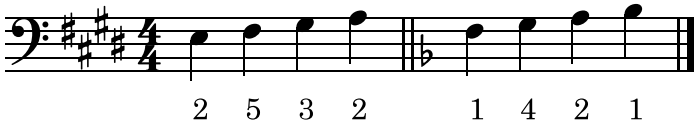

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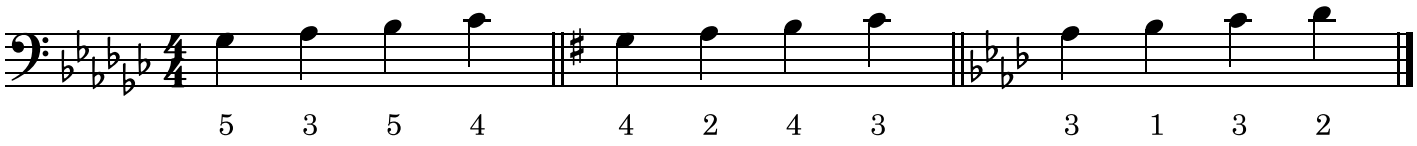
Shape 8



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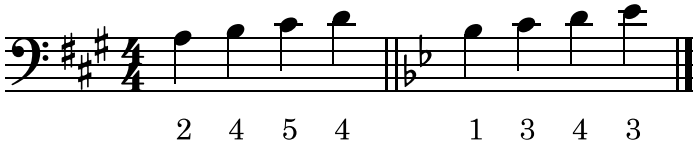
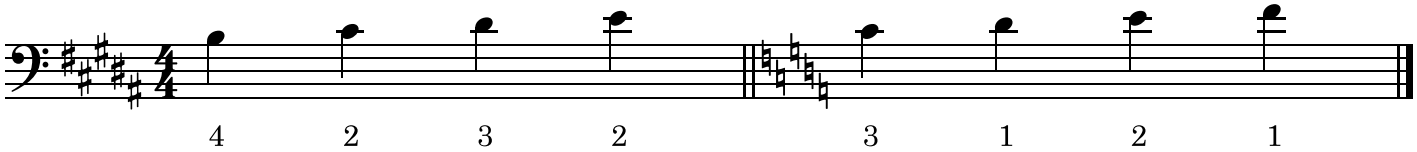


Shape 10



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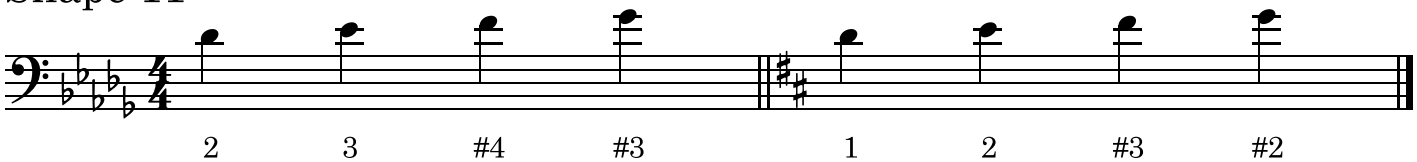
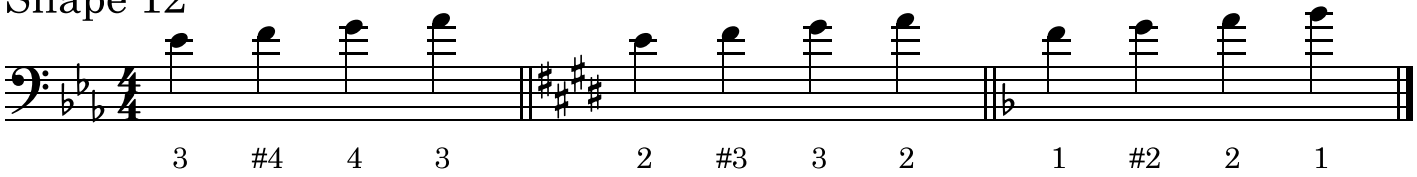


Shape 12



Start by reading the slide position patterns and the notes. Transition to using it as a reference only and then from memory as soon as possible. The goal is to be able to play all of the tetra-chords correctly using only muscle memory and your ear. These are the building blocks of scales and melody.

Be aware of the interval content of a major tetra-chord (whole-step, whole-step, half-step if you are ascending). The half step is always only one slide position away (with the exception of shape #2).

Regarding the 'A' major tetra-chord 2-4-2-1 does follow half step rule, and is an acceptable shape, but it will be a unique like the low 'G-flat'. You should be able to play the A Major tetra-chord using both shapes (2-4-5-4 and 2-4-2-1).

Nathan Vetter 2020