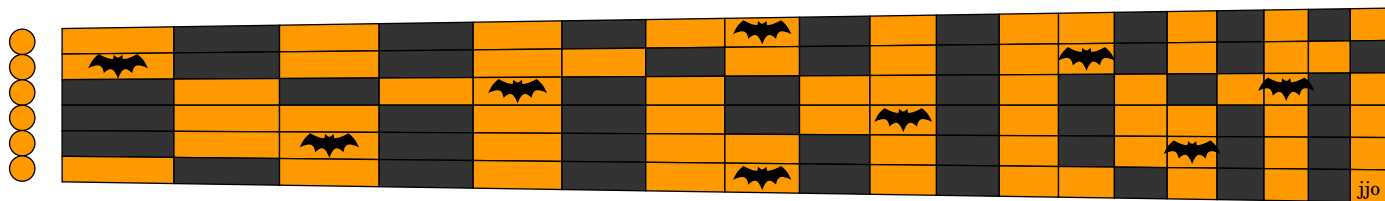


# October Fretboard Exercises

## Treats for Sightreading

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### Exercise 1: I 2 II 5 III 5 IV 5 V 3

♩ = 72

*l.v.*

### Exercise 2: I 2 II 5 III 8 IV 7 V 4

♩ = 60

3

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Sergei Rachmaninoff wrote his Prelude in C# minor for piano solo in 1892 at the age of 19. In the original score, the main theme is soft and slow, but its reprise at the end is loud ( *sfiff* ) and ominous, with thundering chords so broad in each hand that the piano score had to use four staves to hold all the notes (right hand reading two treble staves and left reading two basses).

This Exercise 1 is in the key of A minor and should be played in first position where the open A string can remain vibrating (the *l.v.* below what looks like an unterminated tie is a *laissez vibrer* tie, meaning “let it ring”). The tempo can vary for dramatic effect..

Exercise 2, also from the same piece, came from the section marked *Agitato* (agitated) that was typically played two or three times as fast as indicated here. At this slower tempo it is a much more relaxing *Adagio* and allows appreciation of the chord progressions. And it makes sight reading possible.

- Watch the youtube of how Rachmaninoff played it, with the score, at
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOx710drHnw>
  - The main theme's loud reprise with four staves begins at 2:21
  - The agitato in the middle is at 1:41
- Read more at
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prelude\\_in\\_C-sharp\\_minor\\_\(Rachmaninoff\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prelude_in_C-sharp_minor_(Rachmaninoff))
- Get a free pdf of the piano score from IMSLP at
  - [https://imslp.org/wiki/Rachmaninoff\\_Album\\_\(Rachmaninoff,\\_Sergei\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Rachmaninoff_Album_(Rachmaninoff,_Sergei))

*These exercises are from the yet to be released book “Chromatic Fretboard Exercises”, which contains over a thousand such exercises and will be made available for free on IMSLP. The contents may be freely copied and modified, but with the condition that they be attributed to J. J. Olson (CC-BY license).*

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