

# Jazz Articulation

<http://www.jazzadvice.com/scales-are-not-the-secret-short-cut-to-jazz-improvisation/>

When you are practicing scales for technique, to get the most benefit from your time in the practice room, you want to focus on other aspects of the scale besides the notes themselves. Start to think about the musical aspects of a line that will aid in expression. Explore different types of articulation, accents, time signatures, and note groupings.

Remember, these exercises aren't just mindless activities to be drudged through in the practice room. If practiced correctly, they are a vital part of your practice routine that will greatly enhance your improvisation and musicality when you perform.

## Articulation

Say you're practicing an F Major scale ascending in thirds:

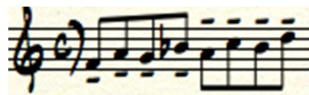


Once you have the notes and fingerings down, try using different articulations.

Slur the entire line:



Legato tongue every note:



Staccato tongue every note:



Use jazz articulation:



Get comfortable playing with any of these articulation styles or even a combination of them. When you're in the middle of a solo, you want to be able to articulate and express yourself in a number of different ways.

## Odd note groupings and playing over the bar line

Besides working on different ways of articulating the scales that you're practicing, experiment with grouping and accenting the notes in new ways. Instead of playing every scale in eighth notes or emphasizing the downbeat of every measure, try using odd note groupings and accenting different parts of the measure to imply different meters.

