

Jazz musicians often slide off of a black key to create a certain articulation, which also makes many phrases easier to play:

There are a number of different fingerings all of which enable the passage to be played comfortably and rhythmically correct. However, the articulation that results from sliding the second finger from a black key to a white key cannot be produced when different fingers are used for D# to E, and F# to G. When the the second finger slides from the D# and F#, the phrase is also easier to play.

In a commonly used fingering for the ascending scale of chromatic minor thirds, the second finger slides from black to white keys:

The thumb can also slide from black to white in the descending form of the scale:

3 4 3 5 4 3 4 3 4 3 5 4 3 4 3 5
 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 2 1 2 1 2 2 1 2 1



The exercise below can be practiced to get comfortable and familiar with sliding each finger from each black key to either the black key to the right or to the left of it:



Remember that sliding from a black key to a white key is best thought of as an alternative, and the use of the technique ultimately depends on the technical and musical considerations of the passage.