

Diminished Chords & Scales

between each chord tone is a min 3rd (3 semitones).

Therefore, to account for all 12 semitones within 1 octave there are 3 sets of (4) notes. $Bb\circ = Db\circ = E\circ = G\circ$.

Set ①

$Bb\circ$ $Db\circ$ $E\circ$ $G\circ$




Set ②

$B\circ$ $D\circ$ $F\circ$ $Ab\circ$



Set ③

$C\circ$ $Eb\circ$ $Gb\circ$ $A\circ$



Warm Up Exercises

Do for all three sets.

Exercise. ①



Con't...



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Exercise. ②



Musical notation for Exercise 2, consisting of two staves. The first staff contains a melodic line starting on G4 and moving chromatically down to G3. The second staff contains a melodic line starting on G3 and moving chromatically up to G4. Both lines are in treble clef and contain a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

Exercise. ③



Musical notation for Exercise 3, consisting of two staves. The first staff contains a melodic line starting on G4 and moving chromatically down to G3. The second staff contains a melodic line starting on G3 and moving chromatically up to G4. Both lines are in treble clef and contain a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

After you can comfortably play the warm up exercises for all three Diminished sets proceed to exercises 1. 2. 3. 4. As you move up and down chromatically, visualize each Diminished chord as being part of a set.

Keep in mind that the top note of the chord is a Diminished 7th (not a root).



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For each exercise continue the pattern to the top of your range and then back down to the bottom.

Exercise. ①



Exercise. ②



Exercise. ③

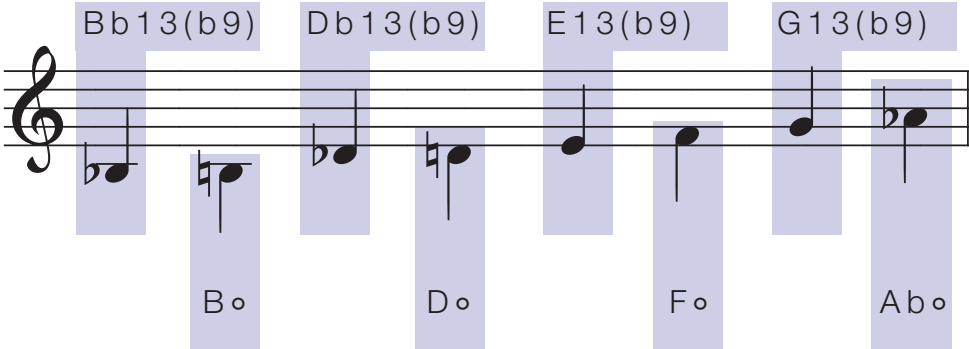


Exercise. ④



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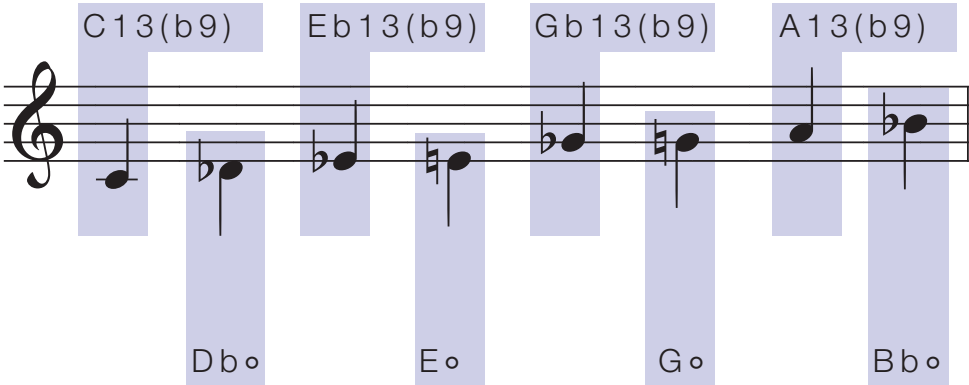
Set ①
②



Bb13(b9) Db13(b9) E13(b9) G13(b9)

B° D° F° Ab°

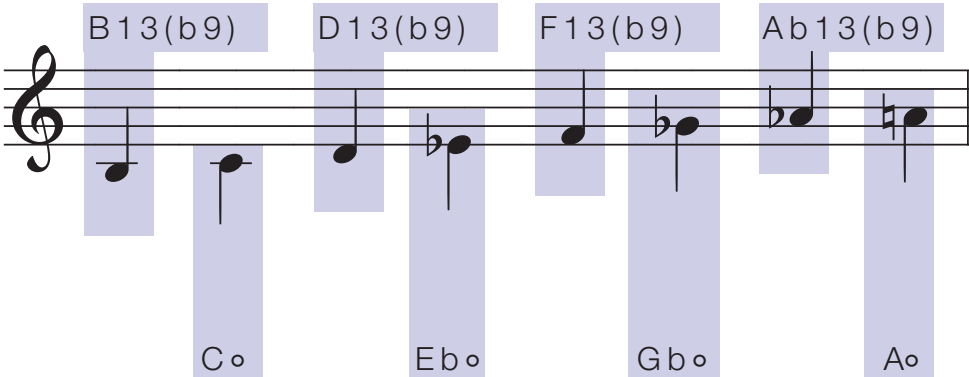
Set ①
③



C13(b9) Eb13(b9) Gb13(b9) A13(b9)

Db° E° G° Bb°

Set ②
③



B13(b9) D13(b9) F13(b9) Ab13(b9)

C° Eb° Gb° A°

Diminished Scales

A Diminished Scale is created by combining two Diminished Chords together. There are three possible combinations...set 1 & set 2, set 1 & set 3, Set 2 & set 3.



Observe that when you start the (above) scale from any note in set 1 that the construction of the scale is a semi tone followed by a tone. This is referred to as a Half-Whole Diminished Scale. This scale can be played over Bb13(b9), Db13(b9), E13(b9), G13(b9). To better see how this scale works over the Dominant13(b9) scale first identify the chord tones of the Dominant7 chord.

The chord tones for Bb7 are Bb, D, F, Ab. This leave B (flat 9), Db (sharp 9), E (sharp 11), and G (13th)

Observe that when you start the (above) scale from any note in set 2 that the construction of the scale is a whole tone followed by a semi tone. This is referred to as a Whole-Half Diminished Scale. It works over B \circ , D \circ , F \circ , Ab \circ .