

Forming a Tonal Center

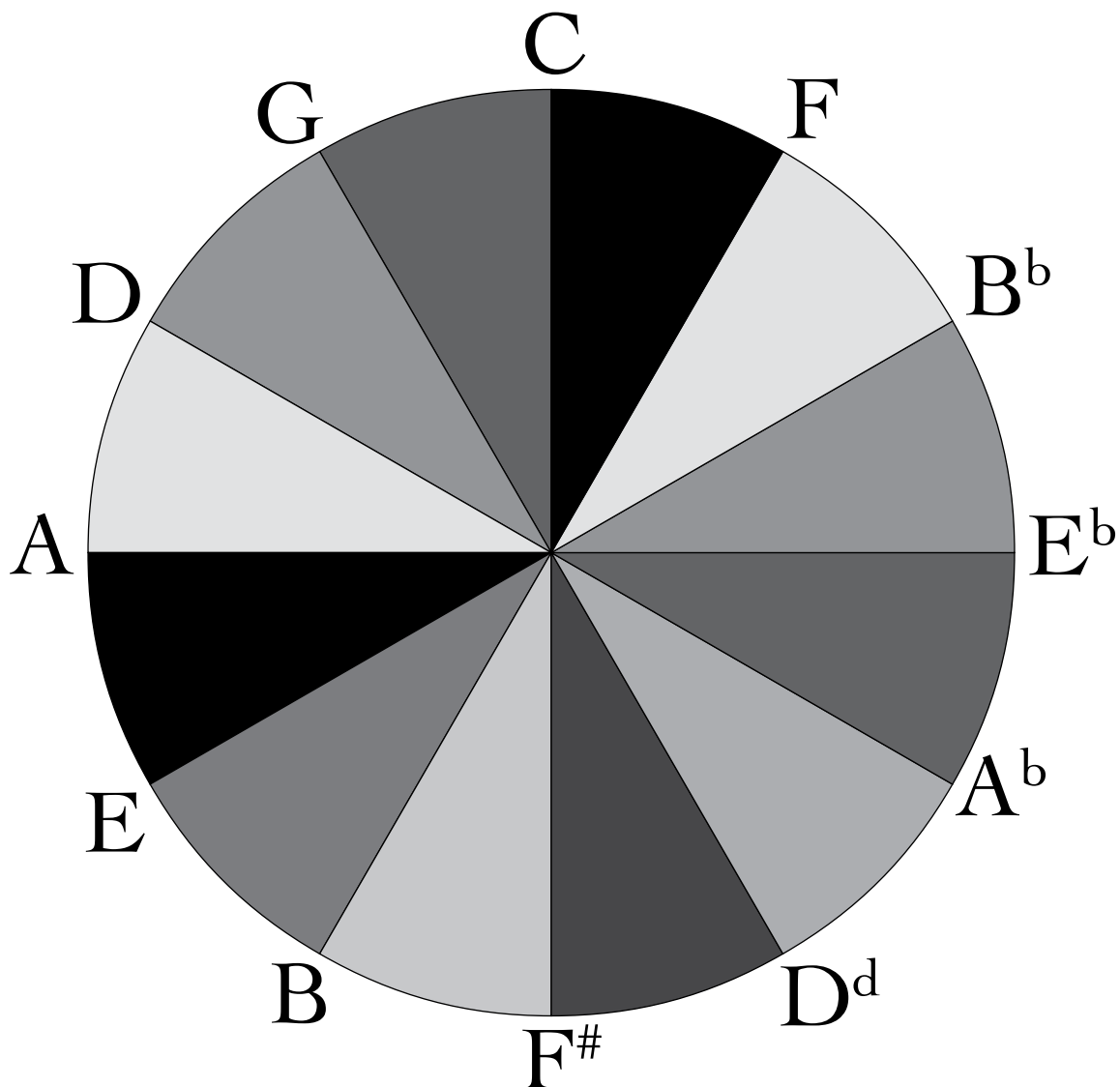
Tonality in Western Music

How do we establish 1 of the 12 notes in western music as the most important note or tonal center?

Here is the way it happens!

The 12 notes in music can be equally divided
When the pitch goes higher, the interval of a 4th is the result →
← When the pitch goes down, the interval of a 5th is the result

C F B^b E^b A^b D^b F[#] B E A D G



The Importance of Rhythm in Tonality

“Beats are sounds that occur in time and space.”

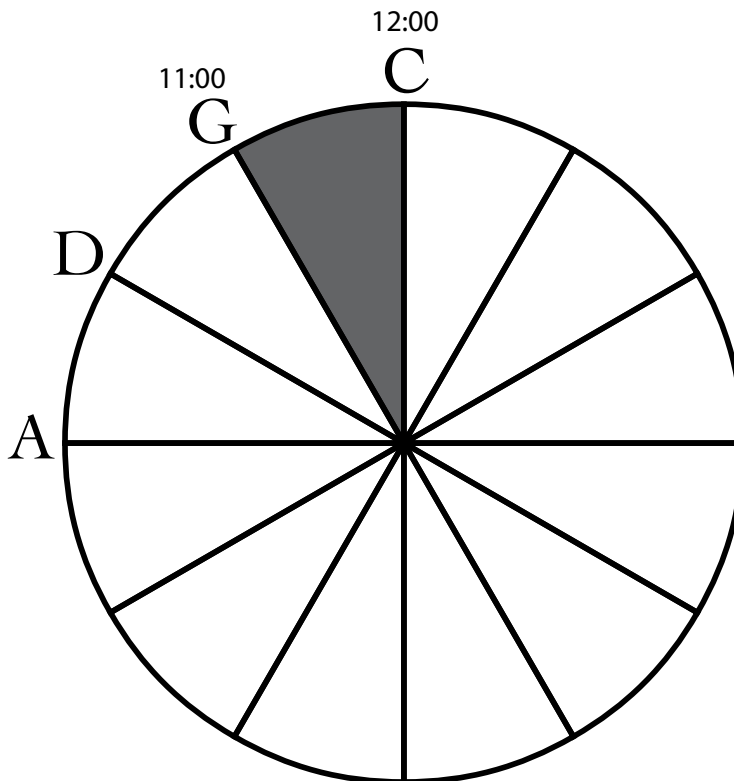
If they occur in regular intervals they create a pulse. This pulse is called a BEAT... it can be slow or fast. A steady beat creates natural accents that result in the formation of rhythm patterns, measures and all types of basic song forms.

“There are 2 kinds of beats”

UP BEATS DOWN BEATS



If the note at 11:00 on the circle is played on the up beat, followed by a note at 12:00 on the down beat, the note at 12:00 sounds like the most important note or a TONAL CENTER when it is repeated.



This page shows you how to...

...play the roots and 5ths of Tonal Center around the Circle of 4ths/5ths without mistakes.

...improvise creatively around the Dominant 7th circle using a variety of rhythms with roots and 5ths.

ESTABLISHING TONAL CENTERS AROUND CIRCLE OF FOURTHS

8 FLAT INSTRUMENTS

Free Lesson - Track 1

WILLIE THOMAS

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

33

37

41

45

This page will show you...

...how to form a major scale.

...how Roman numerals are used to identify chords and their function in a scale.

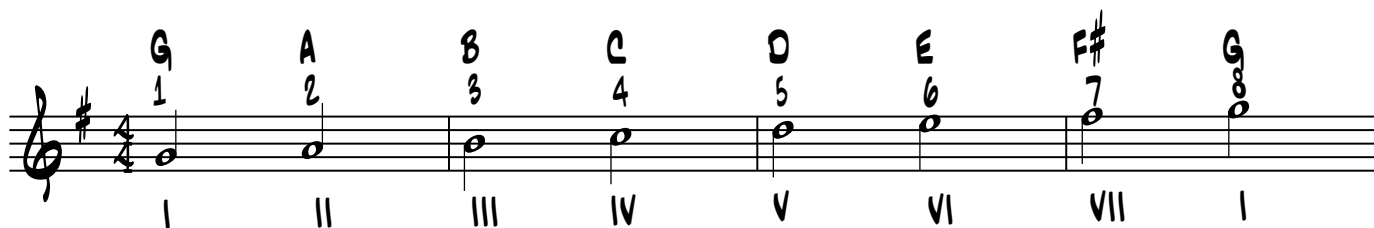
...how to form and number a Dominant 7th scale.

G MAJOR SCALE

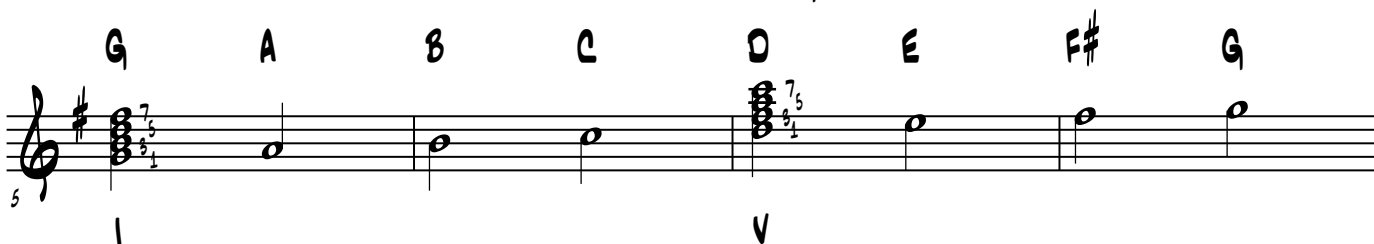
8 FLAT INSTRUMENTS

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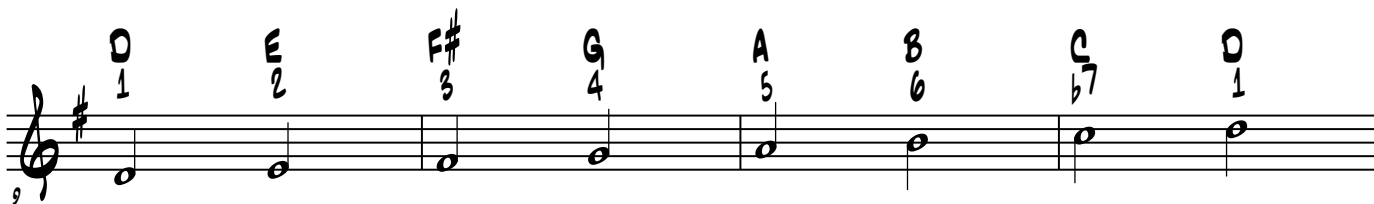
1. LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET, ARABIC NUMBERS AND ROMAN NUMERALS ARE USED TO NAME NOTES



2. CHORDS MAY BE FORMED ON ANY NOTE OF A SCALE BY PLAYING EVERY OTHER NOTE AT THE SAME TIME



3. THE C DOMINANT SEVENTH SCALE IS RENUMBERED



Some Facts About the Blues Form

- The Blues is 12 bars long
- The Blues is a 3 part song A-B-C
- The I7-IV7-V7 are basic blues chords
- The Blues Pentatonic scale is basic traditional blues vocabulary
- When repeating the blues form, the V7 is usually used in the final measure
- Slashes show the number of beats a chord is played in a measure.

A 1 2 3 4
4 [I7] /// | [IV7] /// | [I]7 /// | [I7] /// |
4

B 5 6 7 8
4 [IV7] /// | [IV7] /// | [I7] /// | [I7] /// |
4

C 9 10 11 v7 12
4 [V7] /// | [IV7] /// | [I7] /// | [/I7] /// :||
4

Playing the Blues with roots and 5ths of the I7, IV7 and V7

BASIC B FLAT BLUES

Free Lesson - Track 2

THOMAS

B FLAT INSTRUMENTS - TREBLE CLEF

The musical notation is written on three staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. Above the first staff, the chords C7, F7, C7, and C7 are indicated for measures 1 through 4. The second staff continues the melody with chords F7, F7, C7, and C7 above measures 5 through 8. The third staff concludes the piece with chords G7, F7, C7, and G7 above measures 9 through 12. The notation includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the first staff and a double bar line at the end of the third staff.

Formation of the minor scale and the blues pentatonic

MINOR SCALE ... BLUES PENTATONIC

WILLIE THOMAS

B FLAT INSTRUMENTS

E FLAT MAJOR SCALE

The diagram shows the formation of the minor and blues pentatonic scales from the E Flat Major scale. The E Flat Major scale is shown in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The notes are: C (1), Eb (2), F (3), G (4), Ab (5), Bb (6), C (7), and Eb (8). Below the notes are fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 1. A bracket under the first six notes (C to Bb) is labeled "MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE". The notes are: C (1), Eb (b3), F (4), G (5), Bb (b7), and C (1). A bracket under the first five notes (C to Bb) is labeled "PENTATONIC BLUES SCALE". The notes are: C (1), Eb (b3), F (4), G (5), Bb (b7), and C (1).

MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE

PENTATONIC BLUES SCALE

BASIC BLUES SCALE IN CONCERT B FLAT

B FLAT INSTRUMENTS

Free Lesson - Track 2

The diagram shows the Basic Blues Scale in Concert B Flat, which is the same as the E Flat Major scale. The notes are: C (1), Eb (b3), F (4), G (5), Bb (b7), and C (1). The scale is written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb).

YO DUDE BLUES

Free Lesson - Track 2

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B FLAT VERSION - TREBLE CLEF C7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

BLUES PATTERNS FORMED ON TONAL CENTERS

10 11 12

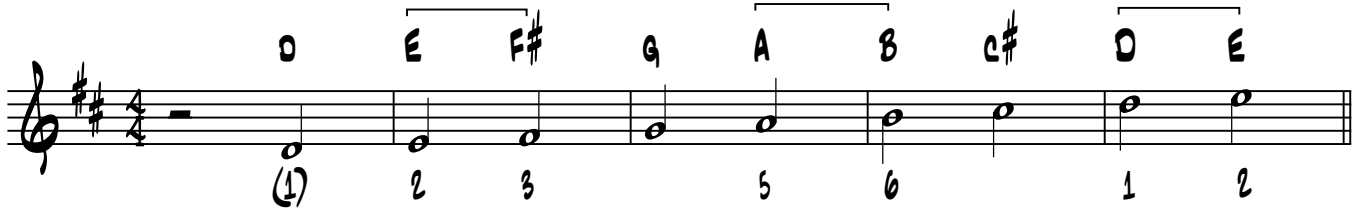
FORMING PENTATONIC PAIRS

B FLAT INSTRUMENTS

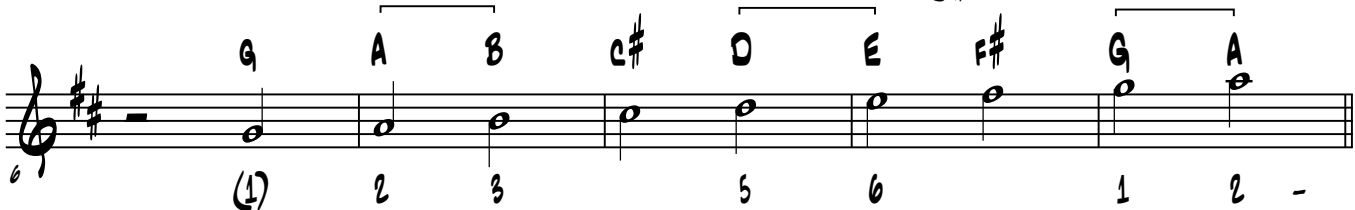
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THREE MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALES CAN BE FORMED IN EVERY MAJOR SCALE.

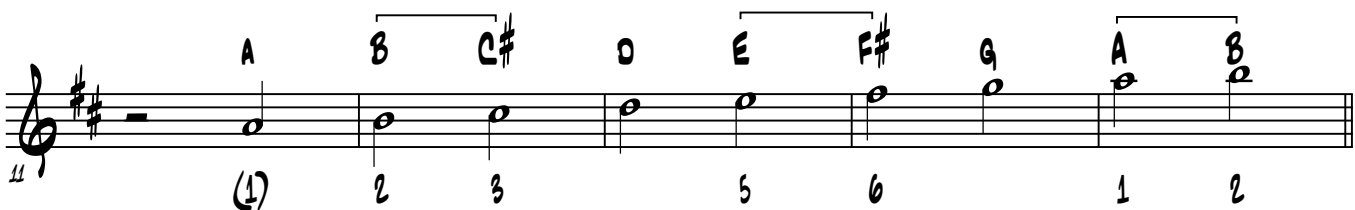
- MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE FORMED ON THE TONIC MAJOR SCALE (D)



- MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE FORMED ON THE LYDIAN OR 4TH SCALE STEP (G)



- MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE FORMED ON THE MIXOLYDIAN OR 5TH (DOMINANT) SCALE STEP (A)



MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALES STARTED ON THE 2ND SCALE STEP CREATE PENTATONIC PAIRS THAT CAN BE CONNECTED AROUND THE CIRCLE OF 4THS

G MAJ PENTATONIC.....A B D E G A

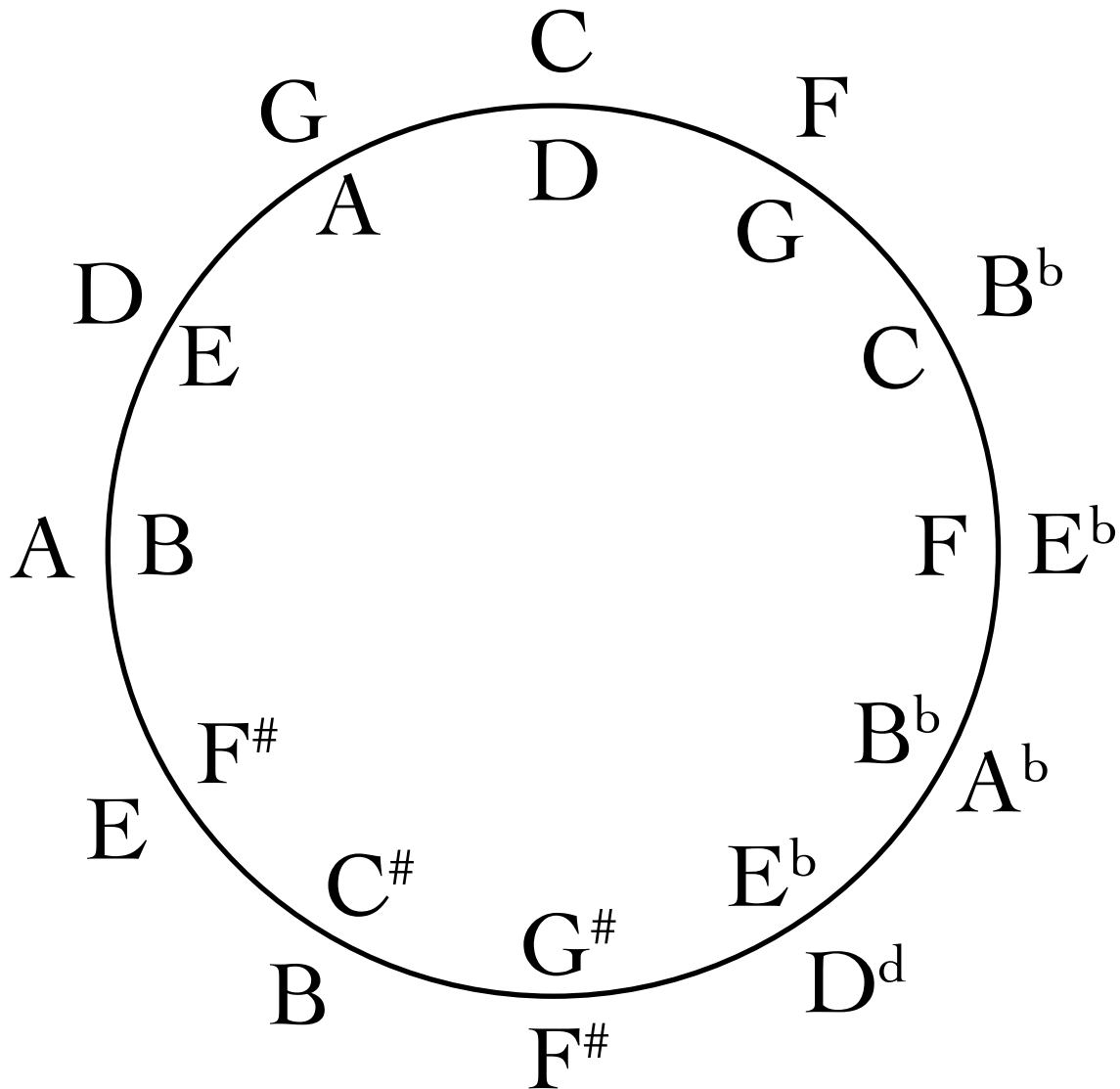
D MAJ PENTATONIC.....E F# A B D E

A MAJ PENTATONIC.....B C# E F# A B

PENTATONIC PAIRS CREATE MELODY CHAINS THAT CONNECT SERIES OF DIATONIC CHORD CHANGES



Use the circle to help you visualize the formation of a MELODY CHAIN as the pentatonic pairs move around the circle of 4ths.



Pentatonic Pairs Around the Circle of Fourths

PENTATONIC PAIRS AROUND CIRCLE OF DOMINANT 7THS

8 FLAT INSTRUMENTS - TREBLE

Free Lesson - Track 1

THOMAS

The musical score consists of ten staves of music in 4/4 time, written for 8 flat instruments in treble clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The score is divided into measures by double bar lines. Above the staves, the following dominant 7th chords are indicated: D7, G7, C7, F7, Bb7, Eb7, Ab7, Db7, F#7, B7, E7, and A7. The notes are primarily half notes and quarter notes, with some eighth notes. The sequence of chords follows the circle of dominant 7ths: D7, G7, C7, F7, Bb7, Eb7, Ab7, Db7, F#7, B7, E7, and A7. The measure numbers 5, 6, 1, 2, 1, 5, 6, 1, 2, 1, 6, 1 are written below the first staff. Measure numbers 7, 13, 19, 25, 31, 37, and 43 are written at the beginning of their respective staves.

Use your *FREE LESSON* vocabulary now to develop jazz patterns in the blues and around the dominant circle with fixed rhythms.

RHYTHM DRILL

Free Lesson - Track 2

WILLIE THOMAS

