

Forming a Tonal Center

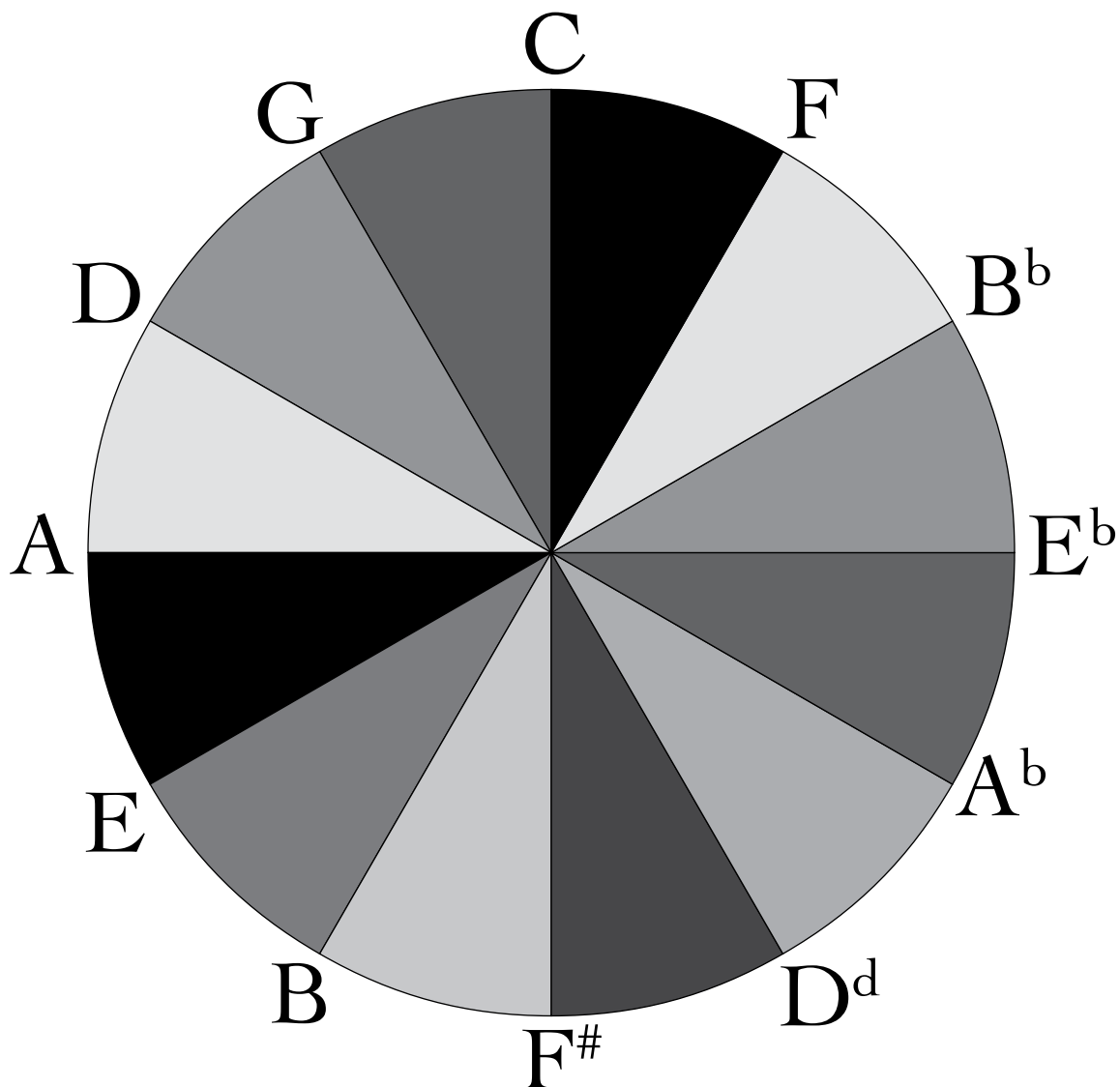
Tonality in Western Music

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.”

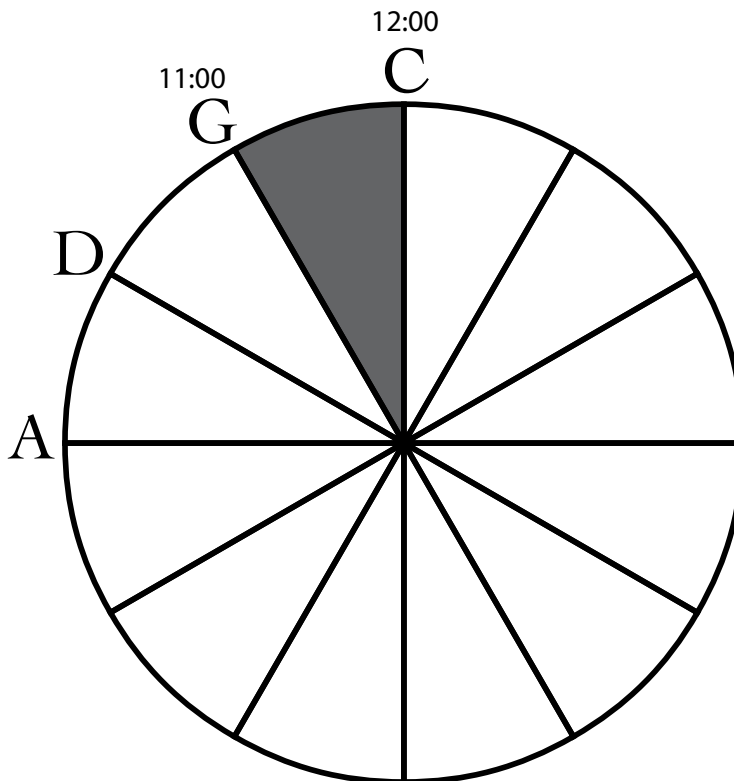
If they occur in regular intervals they create a pulse. This pulse is called a BEAT... it can be slow or fast. A steady beat creates natural accents that result in the formation of rhythm patterns, measures and all types of basic song forms.

“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

CONCERT 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.

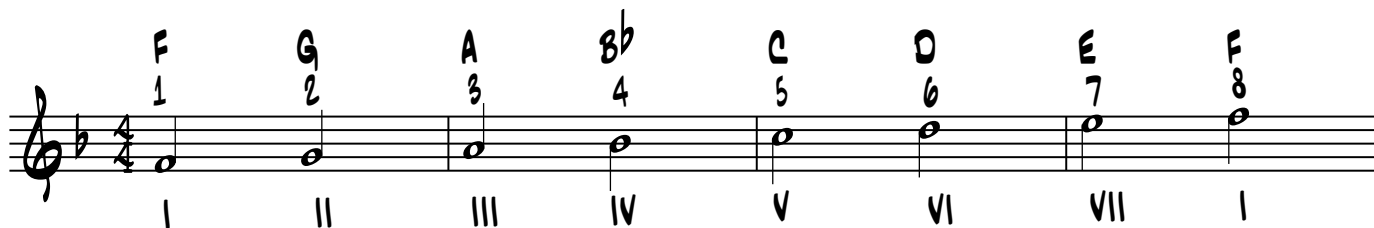
...how to form and number a Dominant 7th scale.

F MAJOR SCALE

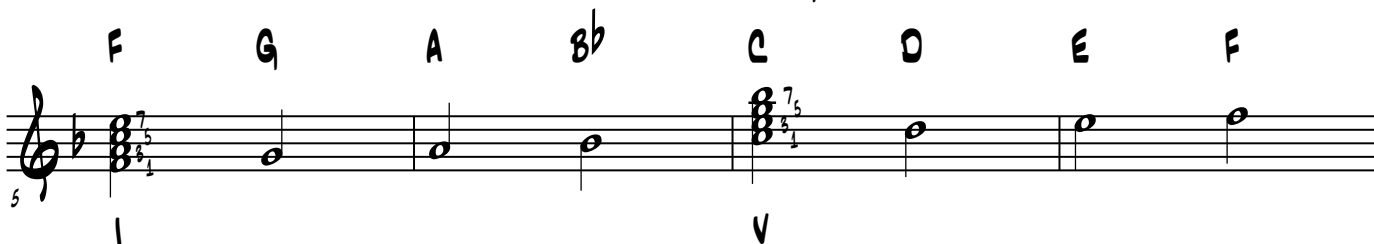
CONCERT INSTRUMENTS

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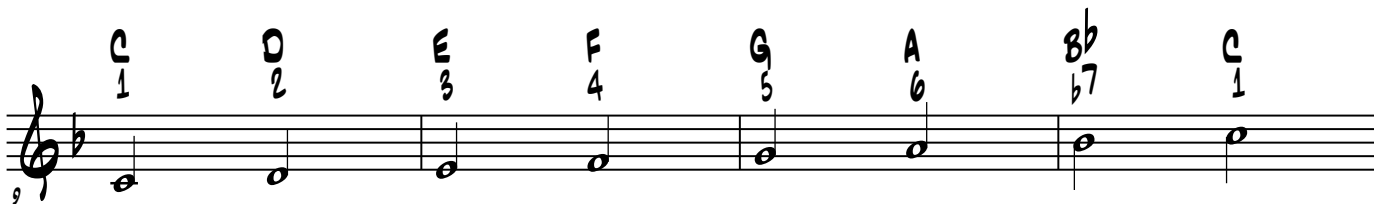
1. LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET, ARABIC NUMBERS AND ROMAN NUMERALS ARE USED TO NAME NOTES



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] /// | [I7] /// | [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

C INSTRUMENTS - TREBLE CLEF

The musical notation is written on three staves in treble clef, key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb), and 4/4 time signature. The first staff begins with a repeat sign in the first measure. The notes and chords are as follows:

Staff	Measure	Notes	Chord
Staff 1	1	Bb, Eb	Bb7
	2	Bb, Eb	Bb7
	3	Bb, Eb	Bb7
	4	Bb, Eb	Bb7
Staff 2	1	Bb, Eb	Eb7
	2	Bb, Eb	Eb7
	3	Bb, Eb	Bb7
	4	Bb, Eb	Bb7
Staff 3	1	Bb, Eb	F7
	2	Bb, Eb	Eb7
	3	Bb, Eb	Bb7
	4	Bb, Eb	F7

Formation of the minor scale and the blues pentatonic

MINOR SCALE ... BLUES PENTATONIC

WILLIE THOMAS

CONCERT INSTRUMENTS

D FLAT MAJOR SCALE

The diagram shows the D Flat Major Scale on a treble clef staff in C major mode. The notes are: Bb, C, Db, Eb, F, Gb, Ab, Bb. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 1. Below the staff, the notes are labeled with their scale degrees: 1, b3, 4, 5, b7, 1. A bracket below the first six notes (Bb to Ab) is labeled **MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE**. Another bracket below the first five notes (Bb to F) is labeled **PENTATONIC BLUES SCALE**.

MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE

PENTATONIC BLUES SCALE

BASIC BLUES SCALE IN CONCERT B FLAT

C INSTRUMENTS

Free Lesson - Track 2

The diagram shows the Basic Blues Scale in Concert B Flat on a treble clef staff. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The scale is written in 4/4 time. The notes are: Bb, Eb, F, Gb, Ab, Bb. The scale is played in a bluesy style with bends and vibrato.

YO DUDE BLUES

Free Lesson - Track 2

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C VERSION - TREBLE CLEF

Chords: $E\flat 7$, $E\flat 7$, $B\flat 7$, $B\flat 7$, $F 7$, $E\flat 7$, $B\flat$, $B\flat 7/F$, $B\flat 7/F$, $B\flat 7/F$, $B\flat 7/F$, $B\flat 7/F$

BLUES PATTERNS FORMED ON TONAL CENTERS

Patterns:

- Staff 1: $I 7$, $B\flat 7$, F , $A\flat$, $B\flat$
- Staff 2: $IV 7$, $E\flat 7$, $B\flat$, $D\flat$, $E\flat$
- Staff 3: $V 7$, $F 7$, C , $E\flat$, F

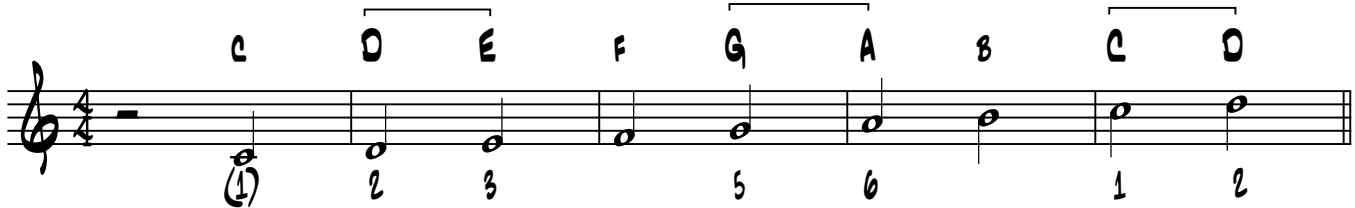
FORMING PENTATONIC PAIRS

CONCERT INSTRUMENTS

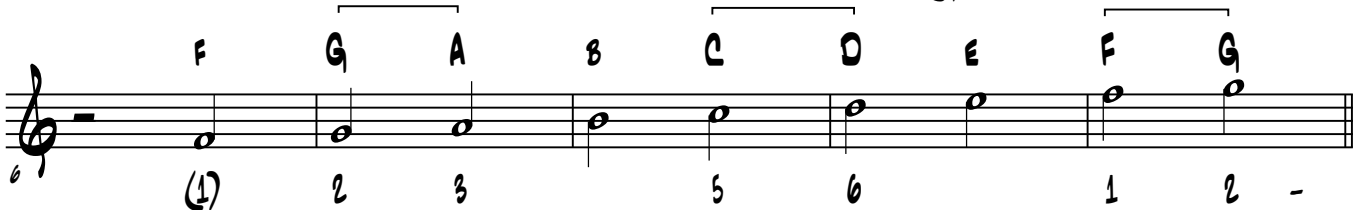
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THREE MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALES CAN BE FORMED IN EVERY MAJOR SCALE.

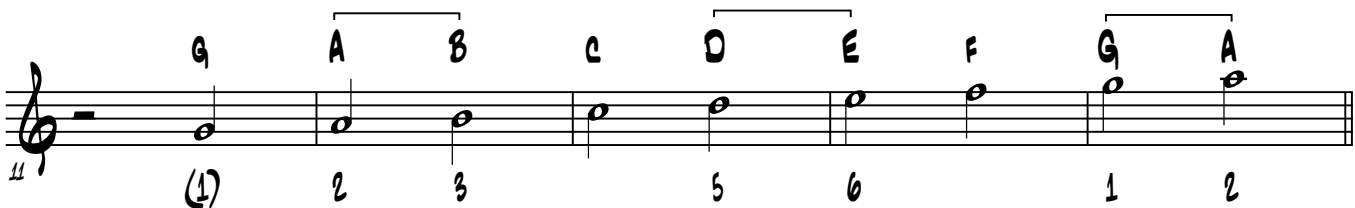
- MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE FORMED ON THE TONIC MAJOR SCALE (C)



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



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



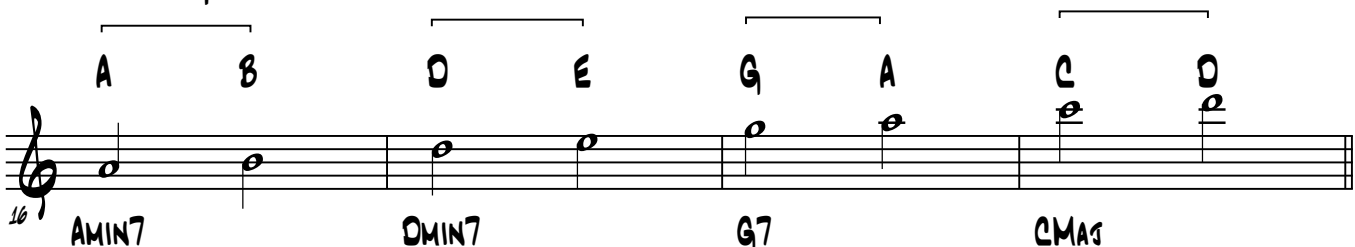
MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALES STARTED ON THE 2ND SCALE STEP CREATE PENTATONIC PAIRS THAT CAN BE CONNECTED AROUND THE CIRCLE OF 4THS

F MAJ PENTATONIC.....G A C D F G

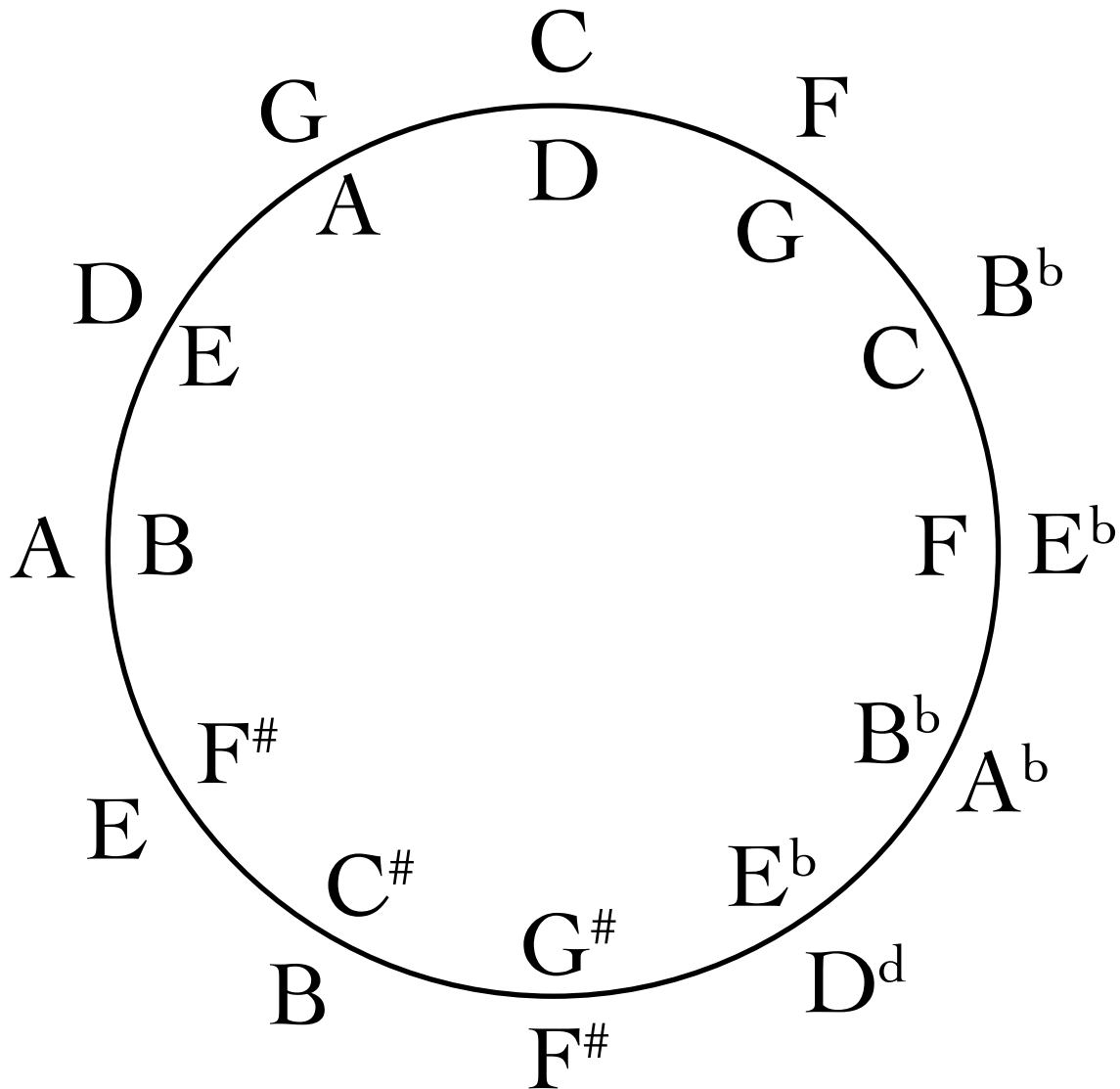
C MAJ PENTATONIC.....D E G A C D

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

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

THOMAS

C INSTRUMENTS

Free Lesson - Track 1

The musical score is written for C instruments in 4/4 time. It consists of 8 staves of music, each featuring a pentatonic pair of notes. The chords indicated above the staves are: C7, F7, Bb7, Ab7, Db7, F#7, B7, E7, A7, D7, and G7. The key signature changes from C major to Bb major, then to B major, and finally to A major. The score includes measure numbers 5, 7, 13, 19, 25, 31, 37, and 43.

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

