

Diminished Pattern

Goal: To develop technique and ear training while learning basic patterns for improvisation

Timeline: Practice daily, working towards memorization in 3 keys.(there are only 3 symmetric patterns useable in all 12 keys) Use the [MIDI file](#) to help train your ear.

Options: Begin practicing after your daily warm up on [5ths](#), [Longtones](#), [Overtones](#). Begin memorizing one key, one pattern at a time. The Half/Whole Diminished Scale(C Db Eb E F# G A Bb) should be memorized before attempting memorization of the patterns below. Otherwise, this may be practiced by younger players as simply a written exercise for technique.

IMPORTANT NOTE! Patterns in improvisation are the "catch phrases" we all use, some more than others. Just as a writer must have a good vocabulary before writing a great novel, a good improviser should know the "language" before he or she can become more spontaneous and creative while soloing.

1. The patterns below sound best when played at faster tempos or in double time.
2. Learn the patterns below in the first key (C Half/Whole Diminished-C Db Eb E F# G A Bb)
3. Pick the pattern that your ear seems to "hear" the best and work on that pattern first.
4. Memorize the pattern and work up the tempo as fast as possible.
5. I have found it helpful to learn these patterns in straight eighths, rather than a hard swing. This will help you when playing them at faster tempos.
6. Playing these patterns at a fast tempo can create the effect of weaving in and out of the chord change(s).

Good luck!

*As always, there is no substitute for a qualified private teacher. When learning to improvise, listening to cds and live jazz is critical.

DIMINISHED PATTERNS

A DIMINISHED SCALE CAN BE USED
ON THE FOLLOWING CHORDS:

(HALF-WHOLE)

C7 D7b9 Eb7 E7b9 F#7 G7b9 A7 Bb7

1

4

6

8

10

12

14

17 E7b9.

18 G-7 C7 Bb-7 Eb7 C#-7 F#7

21 E-7 A7 bG-7 C7

25 E7b9.

'C#' DIMINISHED PATTERNS

C# DIMINISHED SCALE CAN BE USED

(HALF-WHOLE)

ON THE FOLLOWING CHORDS: C#7 D6 E7 F6 G7 G#6 Bb7 B6

The musical score consists of ten staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a C#7 chord and a half-note scale starting on C#. The subsequent staves show various patterns of half and whole notes, often with accidentals. The score includes several measures with chord changes: measure 17 (E7), measure 18 (G#7, C#7, B-7, E7, D-7, G7), measure 21 (F-7, Bb7, G#7, C#7), and measure 25 (E7). The piece concludes with a double bar line and the text 'E.T.O.'.

'O' DIMINISHED PATTERNS

♭ DIMINISHED SCALE CAN BE USED
ON THE FOLLOWING CHORDS:

(HALF-WHOLE)

D7 D7♭9 F7 F7♭9 A7 A♭ B7 C♭

The musical score is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in 2/4 time. It consists of 36 measures, with measure numbers 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 21, and 25 marked. The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-16) features a melodic line with various diminished scale patterns and a bass line with chords. The second system (measures 17-25) continues the patterns, including a section with a 'E.T.O.' (End of Example) marking. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D7, D7♭9, F7, F7♭9, A7, A♭, B7, C♭, A-7, D7, C-7, F7, E♭-7, A7, F♯-7, B7, A-7, and D7.