

CHORD SCALES

Scales are the building blocks of music and the core of jazz improvisation. While there is no one scale that MUST be used with a given chord, some of the most commonly used scales simply consist of the four chord tones (root, 3rd, 5th, and 7th) plus the notes found a WHOLE STEP above the root, 3rd, and 5th.

MAJOR CHORDS: C, C^{major}, C⁶, C^{6/9}

Lydian



1 2 3 #4 5 6 7

DOMINANT 7th CHORDS: C7, C7(#11)

Lydian Dominant



1 2 3 #4 5 6 b7

MINOR CHORDS: Cm, Cm7, Cm⁶


Dorian



1 2 b3 4 5 6 b7

MINOR KEY i CHORD: Cm(maj7)

Melodic Minor (Ascending)



1 2 b3 4 5 6 7

DIMINISHED CHORDS: C^{dim}, C^{dim7}

Diminished



1 2 b3 4 b5 b6 b(b7) 7

MINOR 7^{b5} or HALF-DIMINISHED CHORDS: Cm7(b5), C^ø

Locrian #2



1 2 b3 4 b5 b6 b7

These scales are not constructed using the same criteria as the ones shown above but are still the most used with the chords they are listed with.

ALTERED CHORDS: C7^{alt}, C7(b9), C7(#9)


Altered Dominant



1 b2 #2 3 #4 b6 b7

AUGMENTED CHORDS: C7^{aug}, C7(#5)

Whole-Tone



1 2 3 #4 #5 b7