

Diatonic Patterns Based On Major Scales

The utilization of major scales to build melodies and related chords constitutes the most essential concept of western harmony and theory. Most students practice the major and relative minor scales at an early point in their musical careers, but fail to realize the true significance of these studies. In fact, a thorough grasp of the inherent intervallic potentialities serves as a basis for the understanding of all chord-scale relationships.

The first section of this book deals specifically with gaining an understanding of the diatonic relationships found in major scales, which should then be applied to all other types of scales. The term *diatonic* simply means "the notes contained within the scale." Thus, all of the diatonic exercises are based on the notes of the scale of the moment. All initial patterns are based on a C major scale. Later in the text, this concept is applied in a like manner to pentatonic, diminished and whole tone scales.

Notice the progression of the diatonic thirds variations in Exercises 2 through 5. This type of expansion and development of a single idea is continued throughout this text with the various other exercises.

1. Major Scale



Diatonic Thirds

2. Diatonic Thirds



3. Diatonic Thirds - Variation 1



4. Diatonic Thirds - Variation 2

Musical notation for Variation 2, consisting of two staves of music. The first staff is in bass clef and the second is in treble clef. Both are in 12/8 time. The music consists of eighth-note patterns moving up and down the scale.

5. Diatonic Thirds - Variation 3

Musical notation for Variation 3, consisting of two staves of music. The first staff is in bass clef and the second is in treble clef. Both are in 12/8 time. The music consists of eighth-note patterns moving up and down the scale.

Diatonic Triads

Diatonic triads are formed by stacking diatonic thirds. While practicing these exercises, it is important to remain aware of the quality of each triad (see the chord spellings over the staff); remember that the connections found here are consistent in every key.

6. Diatonic Triads

Musical notation for Diatonic Triads exercise, consisting of three staves of music. The first staff is in treble clef and 12/8 time. Above the staff, the following chord spellings are written: C, DMI, EMI, F, G, AMI, B^o, C. The music consists of eighth-note patterns moving up and down the scale.

7. Diatonic Triads - Variation 1

Musical notation for Variation 1, consisting of one staff of music. The staff is in treble clef and 12/8 time. Above the staff, the following chord spellings are written: C, DMI, EMI, F, G, AMI, B^o, C. The music consists of eighth-note patterns moving up and down the scale.