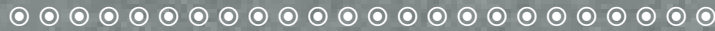


Tutorial 3A: More Melodic Color



Welcome! In this tutorial you'll learn how to:

1. Use non-harmonic tones in major keys
2. Use non-harmonic tones in dominant & minor
3. Play natural & harmonic minor scales in solos

Enjoy the learning, and see you at the coast ...

Other Level 3 Tutorials

3B: Melodic Connections

3E: Melodic Patterns

3F: More About Patterns

3H: Rhythmic Development

3K: Dominant Alterations

3L: Learning Standard Tunes

-
- ▶ The next step in melodic color is to go beyond the bounds of the traditional scales by using non-harmonic tones. These tones are the “wrong” notes that can sound very right if you know how to handle them.

Part 1 – Non-Harmonic Tones, Major

A) What is a non-harmonic tone?



* It's a tone that doesn't fit in the basic scale (not color tones or resting tones). Non-harmonic tones are fine to play; when resolved properly, they add a lot of interest to your solo. The non-harmonic tones for a major scale are the b2, b3, b6, and b7 (in C Major they are Db, Eb, Ab, and Bb).

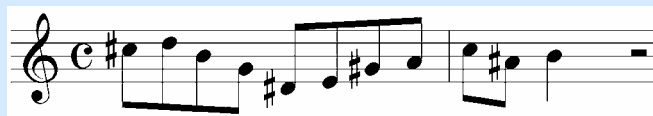
B) How do I resolve non-harmonic tones in major?

*A non-harmonic tone is very high in energy. It should resolve to the nearest *color* tone, which has less (but still considerable) energy. If you resolve a non-harmonic tone to a resting tone, the energy decreases too fast, so the non-harmonic tone sounds like a mistake. Here's how to resolve non-harmonic tones in major:

- b2 (or sharp 1) resolves up to 2 (not down to 1).
- b3 (or sharp 2) resolves down to 2 or up to 3. The 3 is a resting tone, but it's the most colorful one.

- b6 (or sharp 5) resolves to up to 6 (not down to 5).
- b7 (or sharp 6) resolves down to 6 or up to 7.

b2- 2 b3- 3 b6- 6 b7 - 7

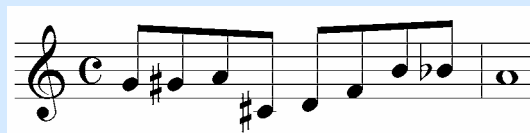


- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Write non-harmonic tones (b2, b3, b6, b7) for each chord around the circle of 4ths. **Medium:** play a melody that uses and resolves any two non-harmonic tones in C Major. **Challenge:** Use all four non-harmonic tones, in another key.

C) How do offbeats/downbeats affect non-harmonic tones?

*Non-harmonic tones are often played off the beat, resolving to downbeats.

b6 - 6 b2 - 2 b7 - 6

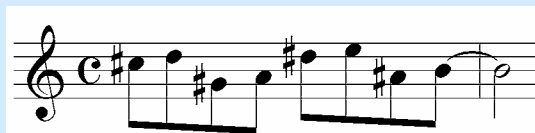


*For more tension, play downbeat non-harmonic tones and resolve them off the beat.

2

(Part 1 – Non-Harmonic Tones, Major)


b2 - 2 b6 - 6 b3 - 3 b7 7



*Or, you can play consecutive non-harmonic tones to delay the resolution. This sounds more “outside” (see Tutorials 5A and 5B).

- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Play a flexible major scale; insert some offbeat non-harmonic tones that resolve on downbeats. Medium: Use downbeat non-harmonic tones that resolve off the beat. Challenge: Mix downbeat & offbeat non-harmonic tones. Practice Pages

C) How do I use the chromatic scale for melodic color?

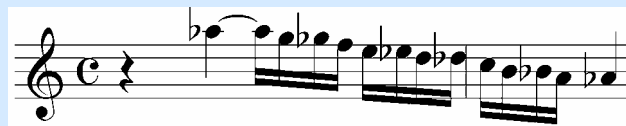
*The chromatic scale is all half-steps; you can use it to emphasize non-harmonic tones in major, minor, or dominant. 

*It's most effective played with mixed contours and not overused. A chromatic run should usually end on a scale tone, not a non-harmonic tone.

*You can also use a chromatic scale in a narrow range, repeating chromatic non-harmonic tones.



*And you can occasionally use chromatic notes in fast passages, ascending or descending. To do this, start on a low or high note, pick a target *beat* to end on, and fill in the chromatic notes in between. For example:



- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Play a flexible major scale and mix parts of the chromatic scale. Medium: Use chromatic contour groups of 3 and 6 eighth-notes. Practice Pages

Part 2 – Non-Harmonic Tones, Other


- A) How do I use non-harmonic tones with minor chords?

3

(Part 2 – Non-Harmonic Tones, Other)

*The non-harmonic tones in minor are the b2 and the natural 3. In minor the b2 resolves to the 2, and the 3 resolves to the b3 or 4. An example in C Minor:

b2- 2 n3--b3



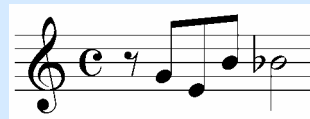
*Although the #4th in minor may seem like a non-harmonic tone, it's actually part of the blues scale, which works well in minor. The b6 and natural 7 in minor aren't non-harmonic tones, because they're part of the natural minor and harmonic minor scales (see *Harmonic Minor and Natural Minor Scales* below).

- ▶ **TRY IT** – Basic: Write the non-harmonic tones (b2, n3) for each Dorian scale, around the circle of fourths. Medium: Play a flexible Dorian scale with some downbeat non-harmonic tones. Challenge: Mix downbeat and offbeat non-harmonic tones

B) How do I use the dominant non-harmonic tone?

*The only non-harmonic tone in dominant is the natural 7. In C7, the natural 7 resolves to the b7 (Bb):

n7- b7



*The natural 7 in dominant can be played on the beat for more emphasis, or off the beat for less emphasis.

- ▶ **TRY IT** – Play a flexible Mixolydian scale; play the non-harmonic tone (natural 7) on or off the beat.

Part 3 – Harmonic and Natural Minor

A) What is a harmonic minor scale?

The harmonic minor scale is used more often in jazz than the natural minor. Compared to major, the harmonic minor scale has a b3 and a b6. Harmonic minor also has an augmented 2nd (the flat 6th to the natural 7th) for a more “exotic” sound.

4

(Part 3 – Harmonic and Natural Minor)

1 2 b3 4 5 b6 7 8



C Harmonic Minor scale

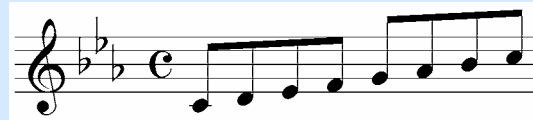
1 2 b3 4 5 b6 7 8



D Harmonic Minor scale

- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Spell the pitches for the C harmonic minor scale, then all others around the circle of 4ths. **Medium:** Hum/finger 8th-notes for harmonic minor scales around the circle of 4ths, MM = 120. [Practice Pages](#)
- B) What is a natural minor scale?**
- *The natural minor scale is the traditional minor scale used in classical music but is used less often in jazz.
- *Compared to a major scale, it has a flat 3, flat 6, and flat 7; the flat 6th lends a darker quality to the scale.

1 2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 8



C Natural Minor scale

1 2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 8



F Natural Minor scale

- ▶ **TRY IT – Basic:** Spell the pitches for the C natural minor scale, then all other natural minor scales. **Medium:** hum/finger 8th-notes for natural minor scales around the circle of 4ths, at quarter-note = 120. [Practice Pages](#)
- C) How do I handle the b6 in minor?**
- *The natural 6th degree, used in the Dorian and melodic minor ascending scales, is fine to emphasize. The flat 6th degree, used in natural minor and harmonic minor scales, is usually resolved to the natural 6.

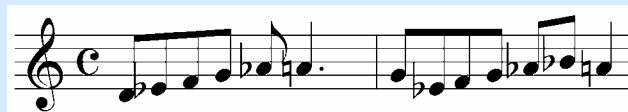
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(Part 3 – Harmonic and Natural Minor)

*You can also delay resolving the b6 (b6 to b7 to 6).

b6---n6

b6-b7- n6




*You can mix the b6, n6, b7, and n7 in minor for some interesting and colorful combinations. Work with them in all keys until they become second nature to you. Try to spot these tones in the jazz melodies and solos you hear.

- ▶ **TRY IT** – Basic: Play a flexible harmonic scale; resolve each b6 to a natural 6. Med: Use delayed resolutions.

That's all for Tutorial 3A!

Next is the Quiz –to get started, go to the next page.

QUIZ - 3A: More Melodic Color

Click on the letter for the best answer for each question. You'll hear a C Maj6 arpeggio if you're right. If you miss 2 or less, you pass the Tutorial!
Or, click **Back**  to review the Tutorial before taking the Quiz.

1) The non-harmonic tones in major are

A) b2 b3 b7 b9 B) b2 b3 b6 b7 C) 2 b3 b6 b7 D) 2 #4 6 7

2) The non-harmonic tone in dominant is

A) #4 B) b7 C) 7 D) b2

3) Playing consecutive non-harmonic tones

A) is not recommended B) sounds more outside C) is best on downbeats D) is better in minor keys

4) The non-harmonic tones in minor are

A) b2 3 B) b2 3 7 C) b2 b3 b6 b7 D) b2 b3

5) The #4 is not a non-harmonic tone in minor because it

A) doesn't work well in minor B) is part of the blues scale C) is a non-harmonic tone in major D) none of these

6) What note is part of a G Harmonic Minor scale?

A) B B) E C) Eb D) F

7) What note is part of a C# Natural Minor scale?

A) F B) A C) G D) A#

8) In minor, the b6 can

A) resolve to the 6 B) use a delayed resolution C) be mixed with the n6, b7, and n7 D) all of these



Carmel Beach, CA

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