

Chromatic Scale and Alternating Bass

Below is a very useful exercise using the *chromatic scale*.

The *chromatic scale* is simply every note in the *musical alphabet* played in *half steps*. *Enharmonic* notes are included in the scale below:

A A#/Bb B C C#/Db E F F#/Gb G G#/Ab

Since every note is played from the G on the third string to the G#/Ab on the first string, there is no difference between *major*, *minor* or *dominant chords*. Therefore, only a single exercise for each chord position, plus F, is needed.

The only difference will be how the notes are fingered for each chord. The bass notes on strings 6/5/4 must be held down at all times when playing the scale. Only the basic *alternating bass* is written in the notation and tablature but the student is encouraged to try the more the advanced *alternating bass* when applicable.

Both parts are to be played together. Play ascending and descending.

C

T	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
A	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
B	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2

A

0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
0	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2

G

0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

E

0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

D/F#

0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

F

0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4

0 3 3 3 0 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1