

(Book 3) Lesson 32a.

Scale and Chord Relationships Expanded

The phenomenon of applying scales to chords may now be amplified. When learning the triads with bass notes on the "G" string, (Book2) we discussed the fact that each major chord produced three scales: one starting on the Root of the chord, one starting from the Third of the chord and one starting on the Fifth of the chord.

Each chord on each note of the major scale has the same possibility. The chords that follow will be treated as originating in the "Key of C Major. Their scales will be treated as "C" scales starting on appropriate notes according to the spelling of each triad. The same process applies to all major keys.

Also, an interchangeable scale concept is available. This concept is based on the following idea.

The first note, "C" is found in three chords: (a) as the Root in a "C" chord
(b) as the 3rd in an "Am" chord
(c) as the 5th in an "F" chord

The second note "D" is: (a) Root in Dm (b) 3rd in Bdim (c) 5th in G
The third note "E" is: (a) Root in Em (b) 3rd in C (c) 5th in Am
The fourth note "F" is: (a) Root in F (b) 3rd in Dm (c) 5th in Bdim
The fifth note "G" is: (a) Root in G (b) 3rd in Em (c) 5th in C
The sixth note "A" is: (a) Root in Am (b) 3rd in F (c) 5th in Dm
The seventh note "B" is: (a) Root in Bdim (b) 3rd in G (c) 5th in Em

The musical sense of a tone is highly influenced by its location. If placed on an accented beat, or if its time value is lengthened, its musical meaning is brought out with corresponding force. If placed on an unaccented beat or if its time value is shortened, this will diminish the effect of its musical meaning.

In general, the tonal meanings are: Root of a chord = powerful
Third of a chord = sweet, more flexible
Fifth of a chord = soft, tender

The following exercise should help you to hear and understand the musical effect that different chords have on the same tone.

The notes that follow, being the Root, Third or Fifth of a chord, may also be influenced by the meaning or aura of each chord. In each case, try to discern the different inflection each chord gives to the same note.

Hum the note "C": Play "C" chord --- then "Am" chord --- then "F" chord.

Hum the note "D": Play "Dm" chord --- then "Bdim" chord --- then "G" chord.

Hum the note "E": Play "Em" chord --- then "C" chord --- then "Am" chord.

Hum the note "F": Play "F" chord --- then "Dm" chord --- then "Bdim" chord.

Hum the note "G": Play "G" chord --- then "Em" chord --- then "C" chord.

Hum the note "A": Play "Am" chord --- then "F" chord --- then "Dm" chord.

Hum the note "B": Play "Bdim" chord --- then "G" chord --- then "Em" chord.

This is not an easy chore and will usually be heard differently by each student. It is only intended as another link in helping you find the "musical you."