

LESSON 2

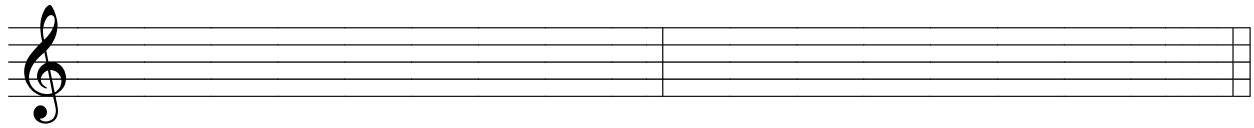
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CHROMATIC SCALES USING ACCIDENTALS

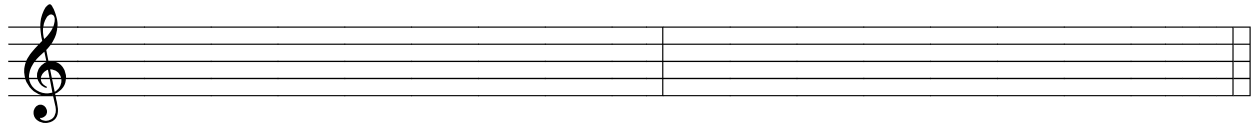
There are general guidelines when writing chromatic scales with accidentals. These scales can appear in music that is not based on a key and where there is no key signature present.

- never use the same letter name more than twice
- use sharps as soon as possible on the ascending scale
- use flats as soon as possible on the descending scale
- when writing technical exercises, use a bar line after the upper tonic (this bar line will cancel all previous ascending accidentals)
- keep all tonic notes the same (i.e. do not change the tonic enharmonically)

D \flat chromatic



F \sharp chromatic



CHROMATIC SCALES BASED ON A MAJOR KEY

A different set of criteria is used when writing chromatic scales that appear in music based on a major key. These scales can be written with or without the key signature. If they are written with a key signature, be sure not to confuse them with the format of chromatic scales written above.

- in the appropriate position, write all the tonic and dominant notes, ascending and descending, of the key
- to fill the remaining scale note positions write two notes each
- add the necessary accidentals to form the chromatic scale
- if the scale is being written with a key signature, avoid redundant accidentals

E chromatic (based on E+ – without a key signature)



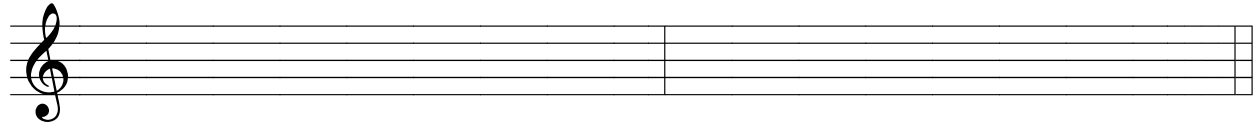
E chromatic (based on E+ – with a key signature)



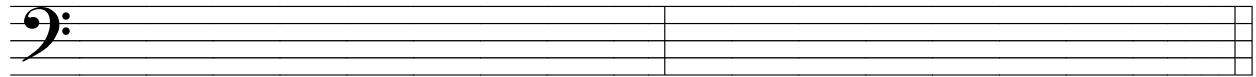
PRACTICE

Write the following scales, one octave ascending and descending, using whole notes.

1. G# chromatic, using accidentals (not based on a key)



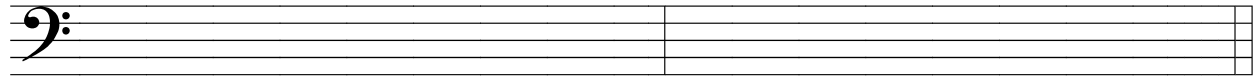
2. Ab chromatic, using accidentals (not based on a key)



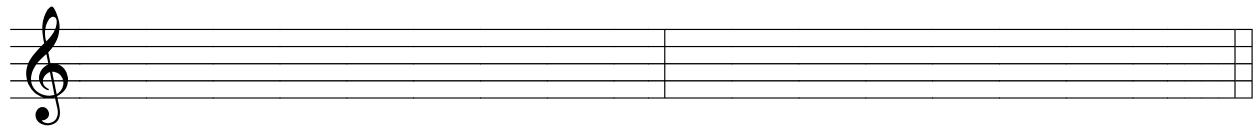
3. Ab chromatic, using accidentals (based on Ab +)



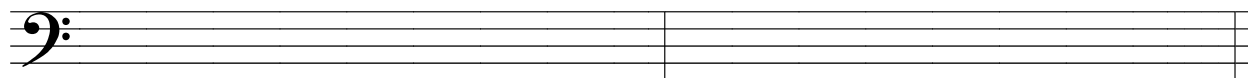
4. G chromatic, using accidentals (based on G+)



5. C# chromatic, using a key signature (based on C# +)



6. A \flat chromatic, using a key signature (based on A \flat +)

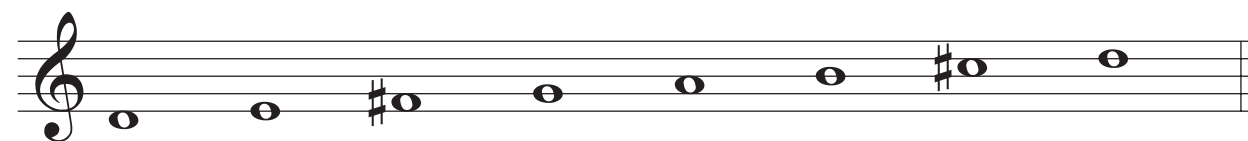


7. Identify the following scales as major, natural minor, harmonic minor, melodic minor, or chromatic. Include the tonic in the name of the scale.

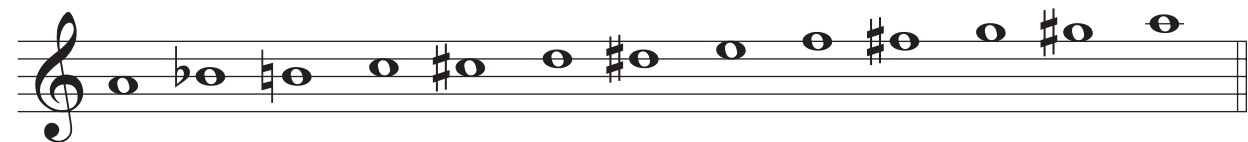
a) _____



b) _____



c) _____



d) _____



e) _____

