Jazz Etude #2

By
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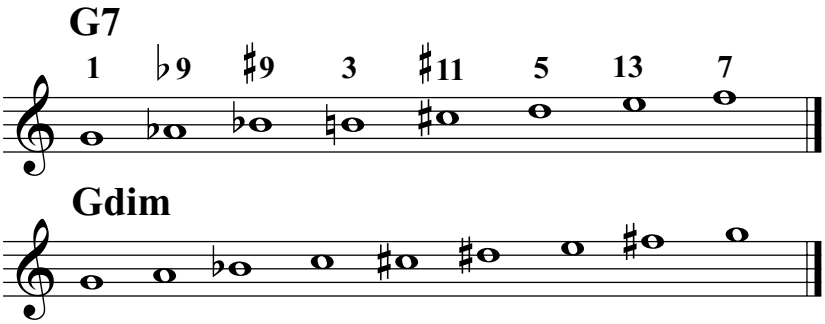
Diminished Scale

The Diminished scale is what we call a Symmetrical scale and it exists in two versions, Half/Whole and Whole/Half. The **W/H** works over f**ully diminished 7th** chords and the **H/W** works over **dominant 7th** chords that include ♭9, #9, 13 and #11. Both these scales are symmetrical because they are constructed by alternating half steps and whole steps. The diminshed scale is unique in that it never resolves, which most other scales do.

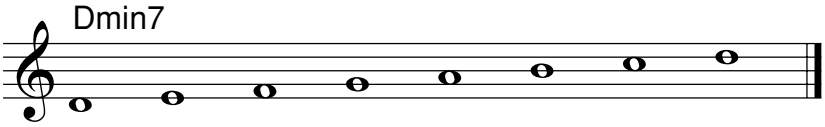


Since there are only three different diminished chords, there are only three different diminished scales. Of all the different scales, the diminished is perhaps the most fun, gratifying and easy scale to learn.This etude is constructed in a symmetrical fashion. It will help you to play the diminished scales ascending and descending. It will also give you practice in minor 7th chord arpeggios.

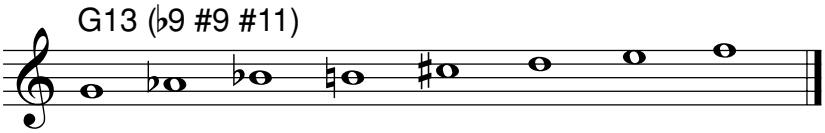
Practice Hints

1. Work out a fingering that works well for you.
2. Practice the etude in different tempos. Start slow and don't speed up the tempo until you are sure about all the notes. Use a metronome.
3. When you are comfortable with the voicings, try to be more rhythmic with your left hand.
4. Make it musical. Try to play with a nice relaxed swing feel.
5. Analyze the etude and locate the 13th ♭9, #9 and #11 scale degrees.

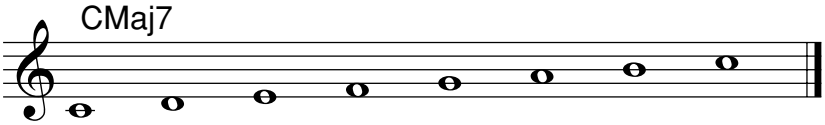
Dorian

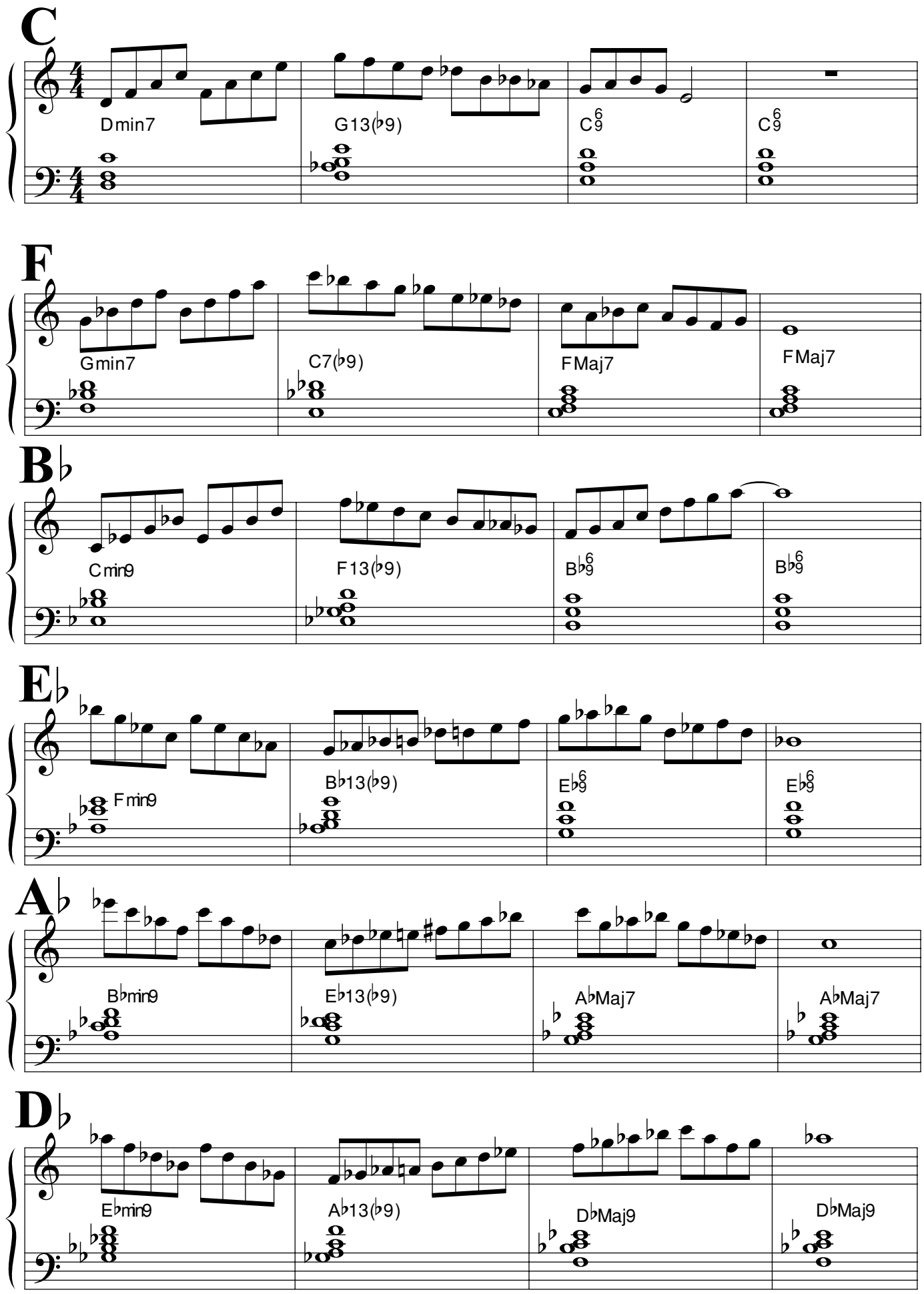


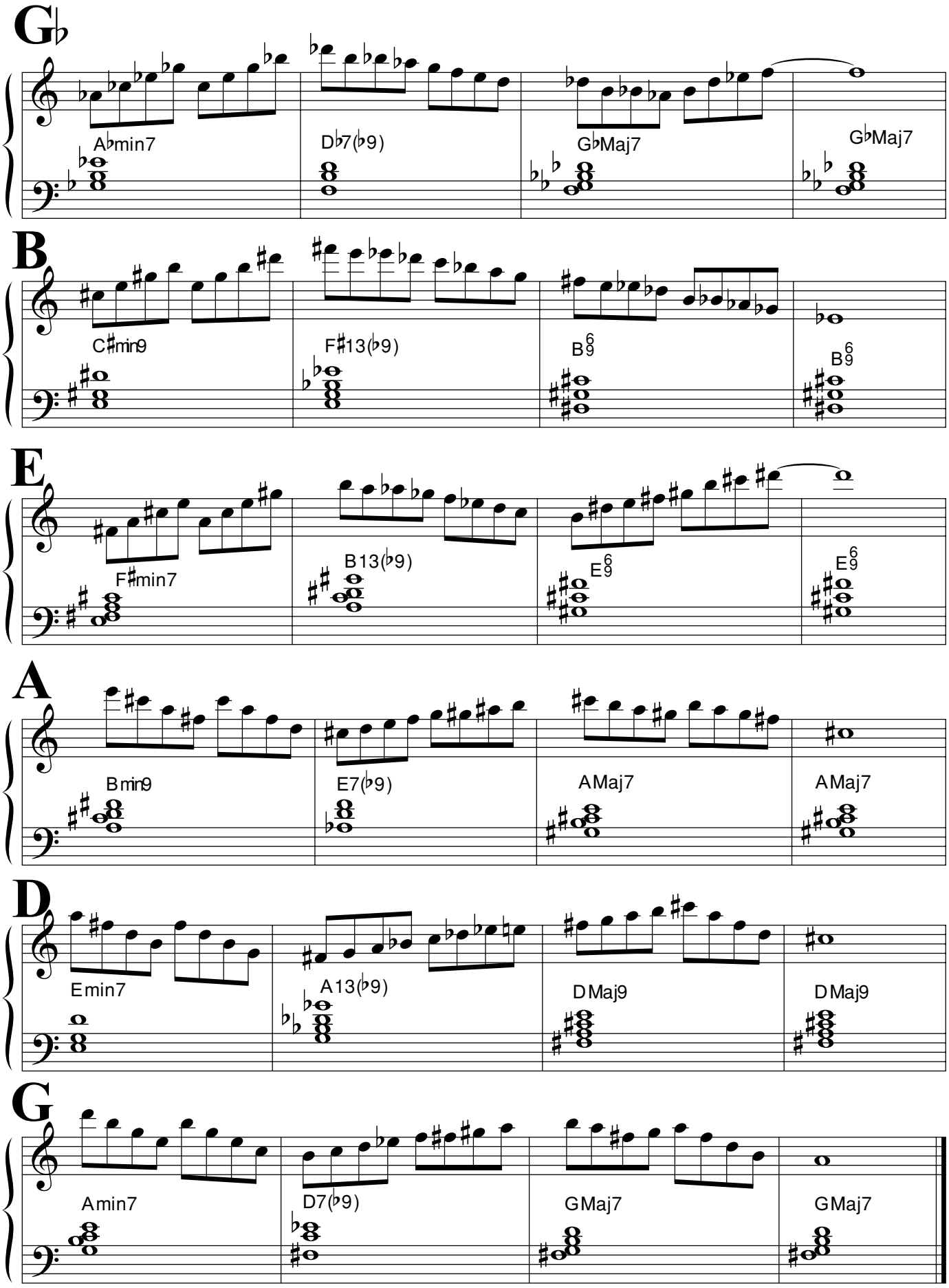
Half/Whole Diminished Scale



Major Scale (Ionian)




C
Dmin7
G13(♭9)
C6/9
C6/9
F
Gmin7
C7(♭9)
FMaj7
FMaj7
B♭
Cmin9
F13(♭9)
B♭6/9
B♭6/9
E♭
Fmin9
B♭13(♭9)
E♭6/9
E♭6/9
A♭
B♭min9
E♭13(♭9)
A♭Maj7
A♭Maj7
D♭
E♭min9
A♭13(♭9)
D♭Maj9
D♭Maj9


G♭
A♭min7
D♭7(♭9)
G♭Maj7
G♭Maj7
B
C♯min9
F♯13(♭9)
B 6/9
B 6/9
E
F♯min7
B13(♭9)
E 6/9
E 6/9
A
Bmin9
E7(♭9)
AMaj7
AMaj7
D
Emin7
A13(♭9)
DMaj9
DMaj9
G
Amin7
D7(♭9)
GMaj7
GMaj7