Jazz Arpeggios for Violin, Cello, and Viola

A Workbook For Internalizing 7^{th} Chords In All Keys On Jazz Violin, Cello, and Viola

By: Christian Howes

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Introduction

My classical violin training was invaluable. Nonetheless, there were gaps in the training, especially in regards to harmony, improvisation, and a broader exposure to different musical languages.

For the past 25 years, I have worked to expand my musicianship to include a greater understanding of harmony, improvisation, and other musical styles. This book covers a crucial aspect of internalizing harmony on bowed string instruments: internalizing common 7th chord qualities using arpeggios in all keys. I studied all this information the slow way, "in my head," and wish I would have had this resource when I was first starting. By referring to this, I hope you will save a lot of time and headaches!

To internalize harmony on any instrument, one must first be comfortable with commonly used chords, and ultimately be able to recognize all the voice-led relationships between common chord progressions. Bowed instruments can articulate some chords with double, triple, and quadruple stops, but the first step is to articulate the chords as arpeggios.

For a "chord glossary" as well as a systematic approach to internalizing triads and jazz chords using double, triple, and quadruple stops, please refer to my more comprehensive method, Jazz Violin Harmony Handbook (http://christianhowes.com/creative-strings-shop/literature/violin-harmony-handbook/). You can obtain a FREE download of the Jazz Violin Harmony Handbook by signing up for a free trial at the Creative Strings Academy. (http://creativestrings.christianhowes.com/)

Most classical bowed string players have not internalized triadic or 7th chord arpeggios sufficiently because they are only capable of quickly recalling the root position arpeggio. In "real" musical situations, such as when a player is improvising over a chord progression, one must be able to instantly recall chords from the root, 3rd, 5th or 7th, depending on the most musical (voice-led) option available. The lack of ability to recall chords from any inversion is one of the biggest handicaps for beginning and intermediate improvisers.

To overcome this handicap, I prescribe studying chords/arpeggios, their inversions, and accompanying scales in extended range. In other words, instead of learning chords and scales in root position, I suggest starting from the lowest note on your instrument in the scale/chord and end on the highest note in first position. Therefore, this workbook covers all commonly used 7th chord arpeggios in three forms:

- 1) Root position
- 2) Extended range
- 3) All inversions in extended range

Why is it necessary to study this information in order to be a capable improviser, you might ask? Why isn't it good enough to simply "use your ears"?

- -Musical Situation "A"- Easy harmonic information Improvisation is easier here because you're working with information you've already ingrained, such as a one chord vamp or simple progression over a few triads.
- -Musical Situation "B"- Unfamiliar harmonic information, extended jazz harmony, or modulating harmony Improvising over unfamiliar musical terrain (including chord progressions, meters, or stylistic frameworks) is nearly impossible just with the use of your ears, because they have not been trained to deal with this material!

Persisting to "use your ears" will lead quickly to diminishing returns, until you ingrain the information so that new harmonies are familiar and, at best, totally comprehended on your instrument in as many ways imaginable. These situations correspond with two states of mind:

- a) Creative mental state (while playing in familiar musical terrain): In this state of mind, you can train your attention and energy on your imagination, easily architecting melodic lines, rhythms, and gestures like a painter applies color and line to a canvas.
- b) "Learning/drilling" mental state (when playing over unfamiliar terrain): In this state, you are creatively paralyzed, until you internalize or memorize the material that was giving you a hard time. After that you can engage the imagination and focus on being creative, but first you need to internalize that unfamiliar material! Unfamiliar musical territory could include rhythmic and stylistic conventions, but it is often usually related to harmony, or the voice-led relationships between chords and scales.

In other words, our mind works in two ways. When confronted by things that are KNOWN to us, our mind "chunks" and moves very quickly, allowing us to react and be creative. When confronted by things that are as of yet UNKNOWN to us, we are required to THINK about the information, which slows us down, and is the enemy of an improviser! Not everything falls into this category, but for most classically trained musicians, we must DRILL fundamental harmonic information until it moves into the category of information that is KNOWN to us, so we can be creative with the material.

This workbook is designed to help you structure your "drilling" of commonly used "sophisticated/jazz" harmony, so that over time, it will become ingrained, and you will be able to recall the information, and recognize by ear, all of these harmonies as easily as you recognize a simple progression now.

This book will help a LOT if you work through it systematically. However it is not intended as a comprehensive resource of jazz harmony and improvisation. Accomplished jazz musicians often have a nearly encyclopedic knowledge, like a mental map, of chordal and scalar relationships. To learn all this, you should work from a larger method of some kind, for example:

My method and curriculum can be found in a host of instructional videos, media, and publications easily accessed either via my shop or through my comprehensive online school: the Creative Strings Academy. The Creative Strings Academy offers a FREE one-month trial, during which you can download a wide range of free materials and access over 150 instructional videos. By signing up, you'll also have direct access to private Skype lessons with me if you choose.

The "Jazz Arpeggios for Violin, Cello, and Viola" book contains information which can all be learned and practiced WITHOUT the aid of visual music notation. That's how I, and many others, have done it. However, I created these worksheets to save you time and effort. By reading these exercises, you'll have a chance to get them under your fingers quickly, and over time you can move away from the page. I recommend you BOTH read from the page and work without the notation.

Remember when you were five years old and you were just learning how to read? When shown a word, you'd look at the first letter and think about what that letter was and what that letter sounded like. Then you'd go to the next letter and think about what that letter was and what it sounded like. Then you'd put the two letters together and think about how they sounded together. Remember how long it took to read one word? That's similar to what classical musicians experience when they begin improvising over chord progressions. Now, when you look at a phrase written in front of you it probably takes you a fraction of a second to comprehend a series of words, let alone one letter. This is the kind of fluency you want to develop with harmonic language.

Once you learn the ABCs of harmony, your mind can operate on a high level in a creative way. But first you've got to learn harmony!

For a more comprehensive view of my approach to harmony on violin, cello, and viola, consider the Jazz Violin Harmony Handbook.

(http://christianhowes.com/creative-strings-shop/literature/violin-harmony-handbook/)

For an intensive study during one fun and music filled week every summer, check out my annual Creative Strings Workshop, where an intimate international gathering of creative string players converge, along with some of my favorite teachers and players, to jam, study, and perform all week long. (http://christianhowes.com/education/creative-strings-workshop/)

To receive updates from me, including free MP3s and instructional materials, you can opt-in to my newsletter here:

http://creativestrings.christianhowes.com/icontact-form/

By far, the BEST value I can recommend is for you to sign up for the one-month free trial of the Creative Strings Academy here: http://creativestrings.christianhowes.com

Please feel free to contact me via email if you have any questions about this book at chris@christianhowes.com

If you find the book helpful, I'd greatly appreciate your reviewing it on Amazon (<u>click here</u>) and/or sharing it through social media sites.

If you have trouble reading some of the charts, please try entering full screen mode on your device (if applicable).

Let me know if I can help with anything. Happy Practicing! -Chris

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614.332.8689

Violin

7th Chord Worksheet

Dominant 7

Christian Howes



7th Chord Worksheet Dominant 7

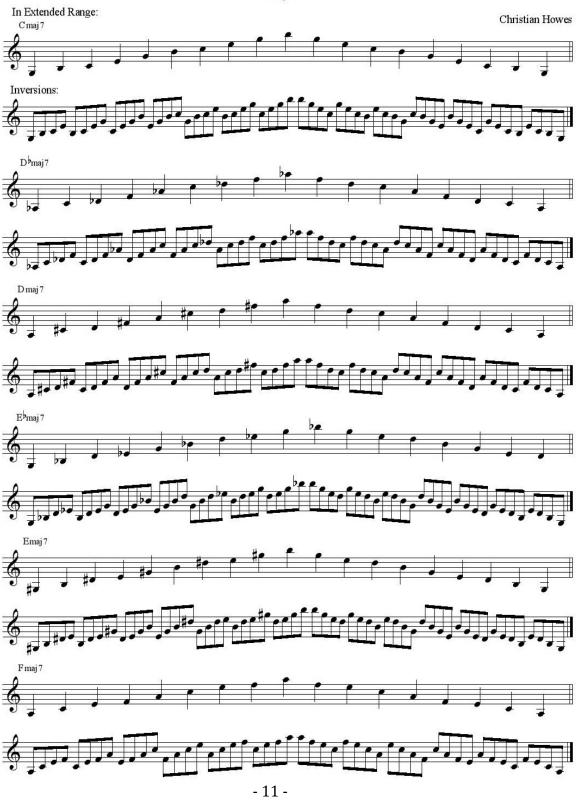


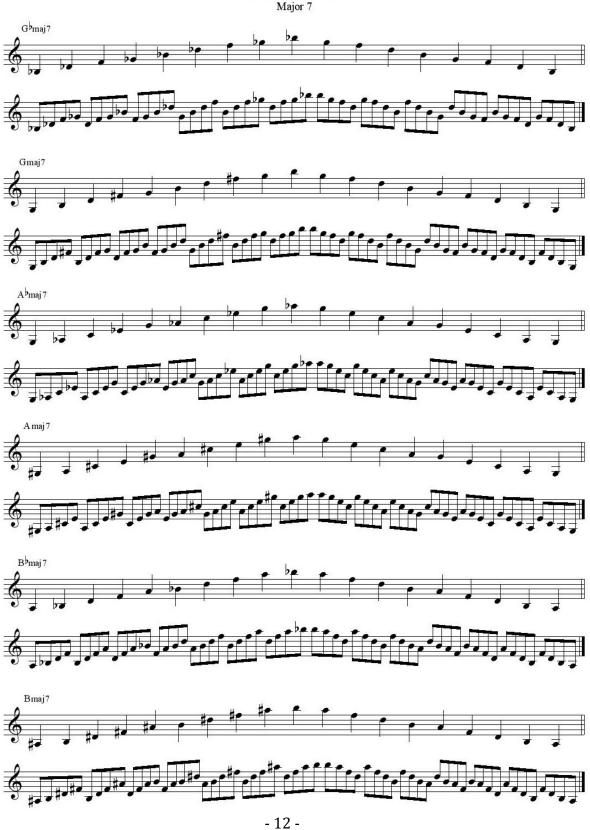
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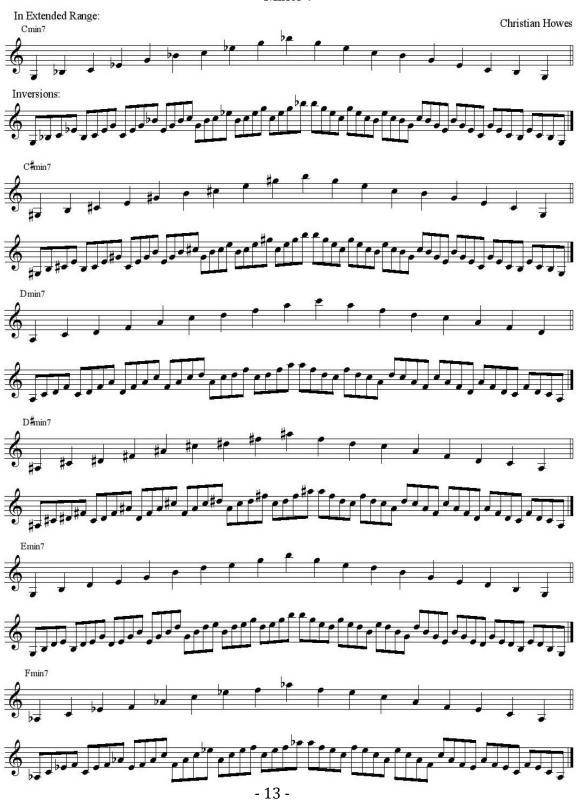
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Major 7

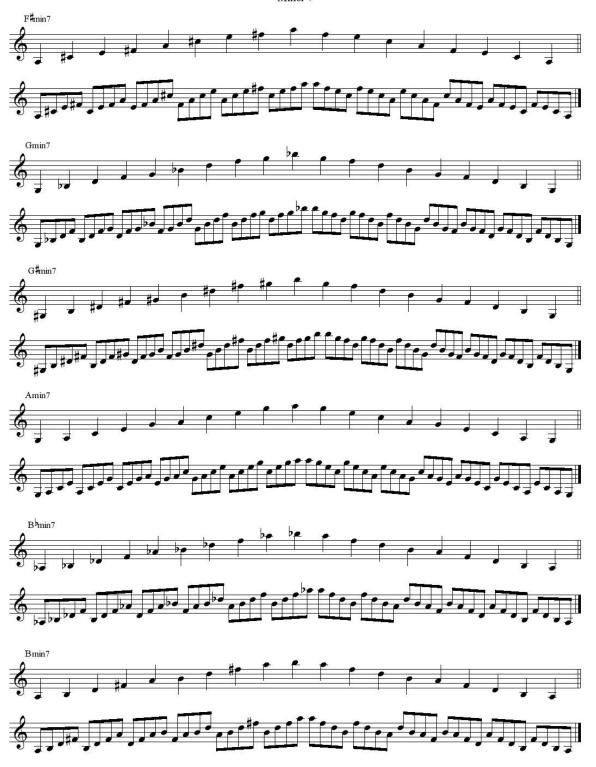




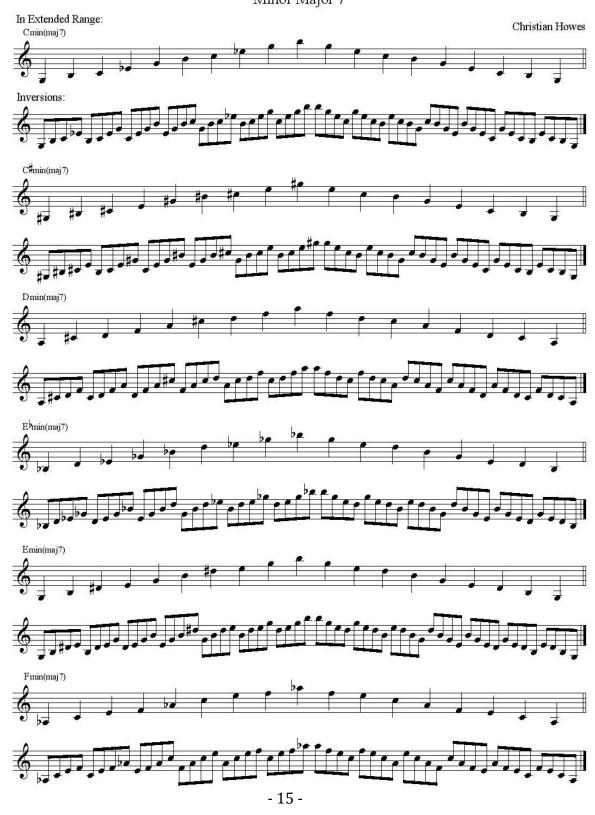
Minor 7



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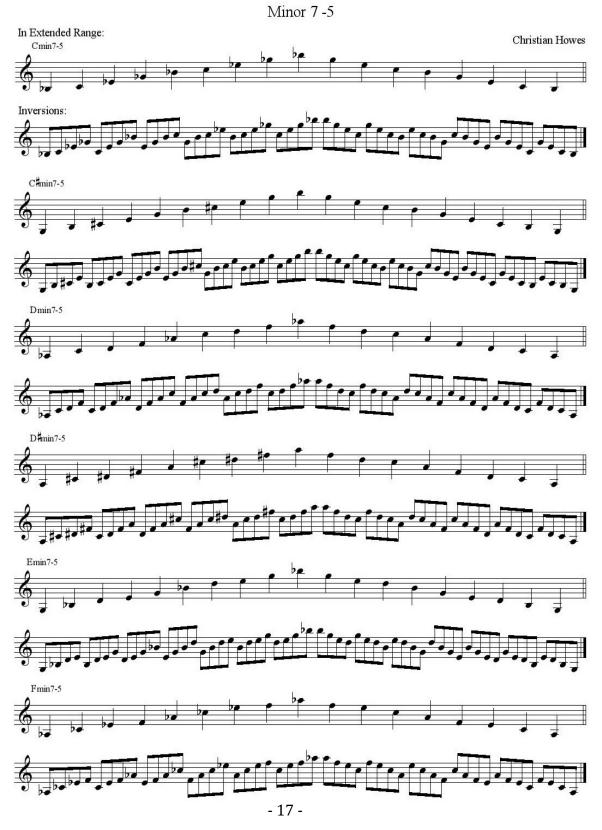


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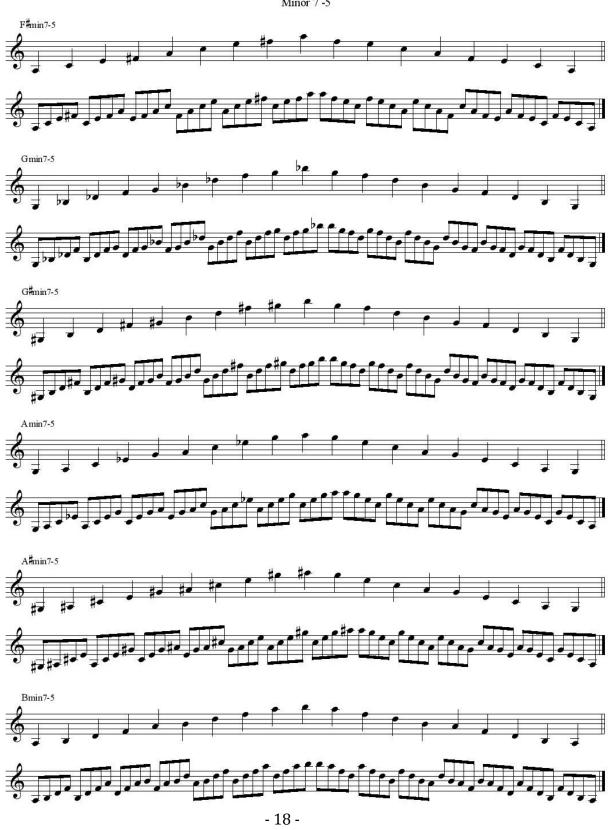


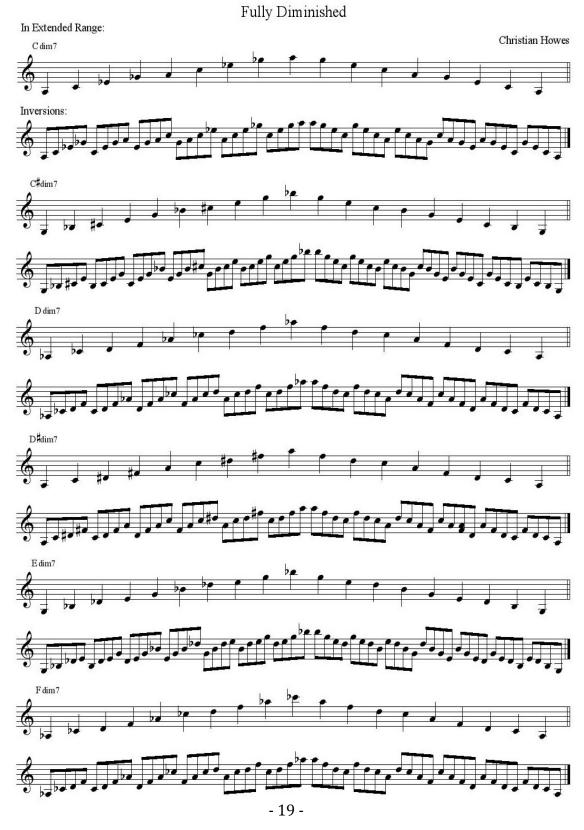
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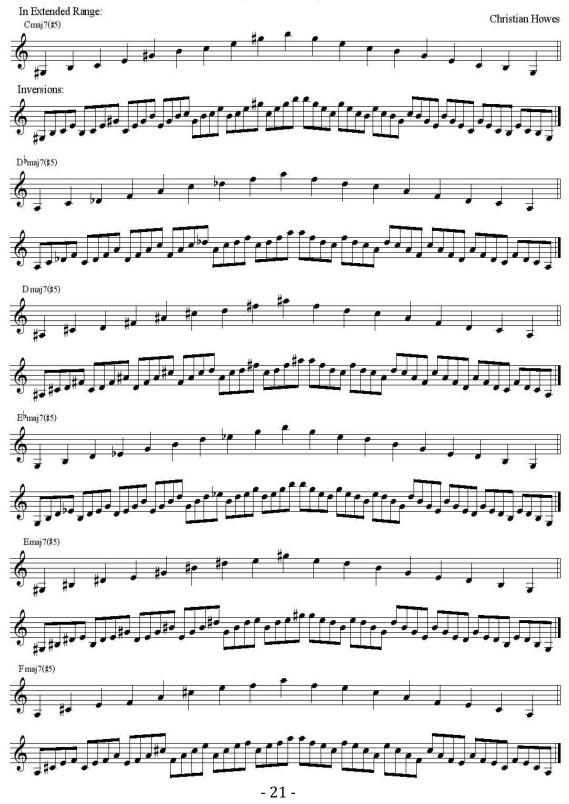


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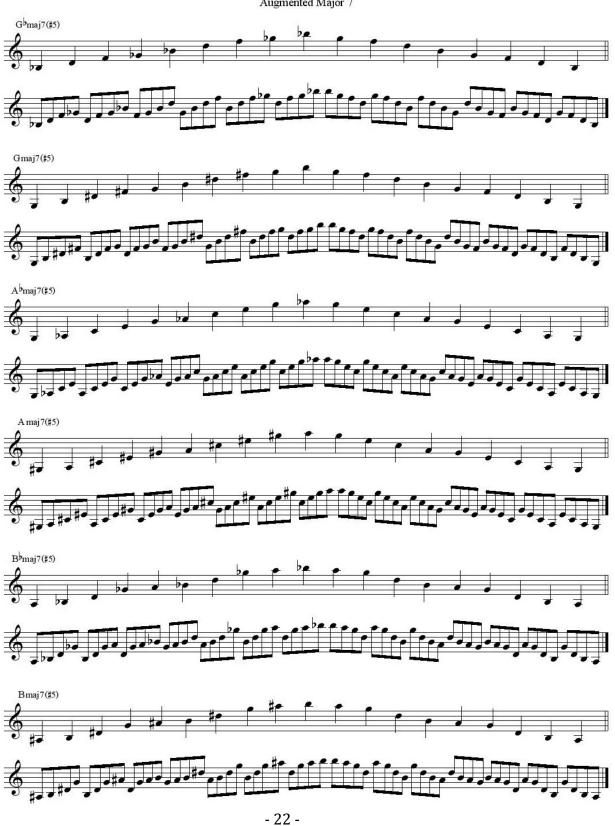


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Augmented Major 7



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Arguably one of Christian Howes' most popular resources, the 70-page **Violin Harmony Handbook** is packed with practical theory, practice exercises, conceptual, intuitive, and analytical tools as well as chord glossaries, and even solo violin transcriptions and charts. There is no guide more useful for anyone playing the jazz violin, and compliments these worksheets very well.

You'll develop:

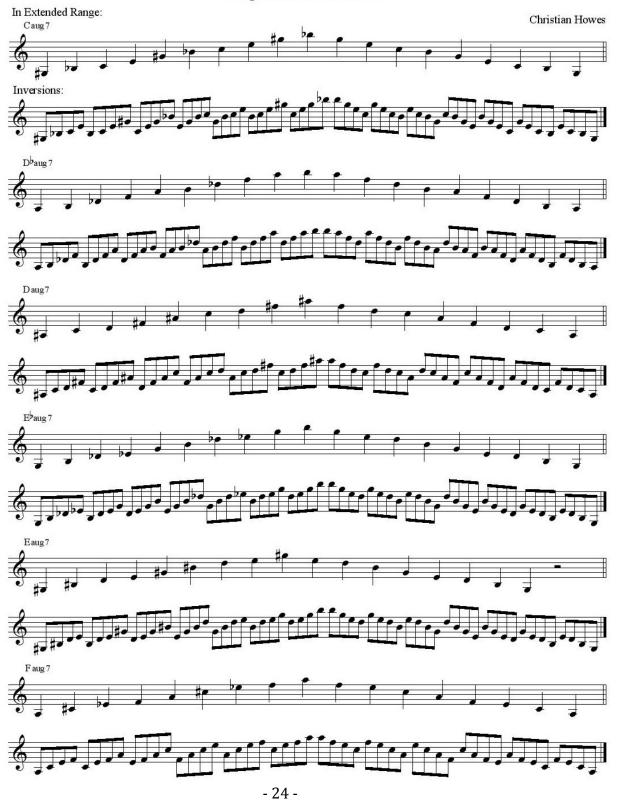
- Ear training skills to begin hearing the notes you want to play
- Techniques to make the most out of your practice sessions
- Harmonic proficiency to play in all keys

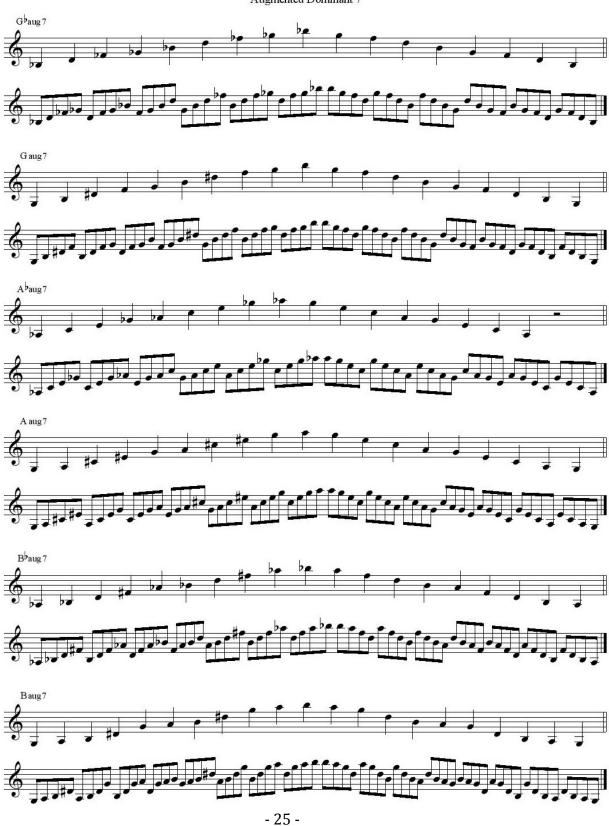
The Violin Harmony Handbook contains:

- 70 pages full of information and exercises that benefit anyone from beginners to the most advanced violin players
- Charts to make you comfortable to play in all twelve keys
- · Secrets of voice leading between chord changes

The Violin Harmony Handbook is the perfect addition to this worksheet and will expand your jazz vocabulary and proficiency. Get your copy at: http://christianhowes.com/creative-strings-shop/literature/violin-harmony-handbook/

Augmented Dominant 7



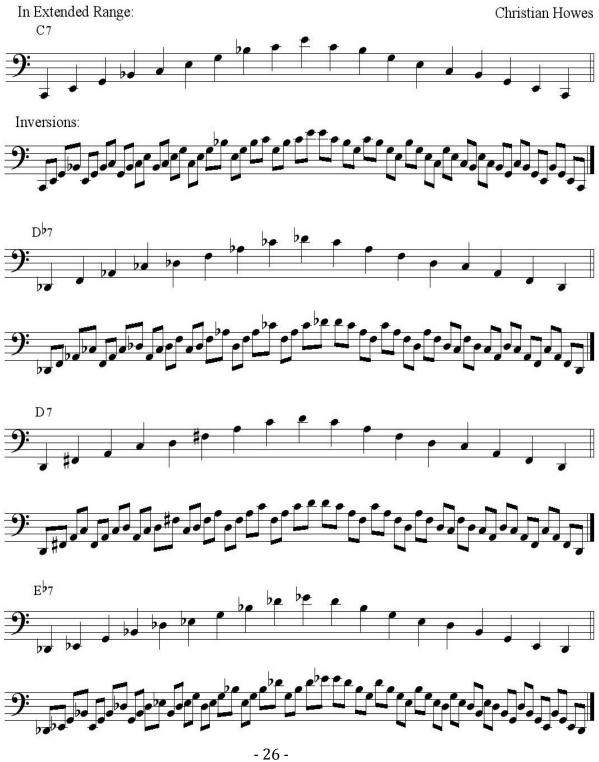


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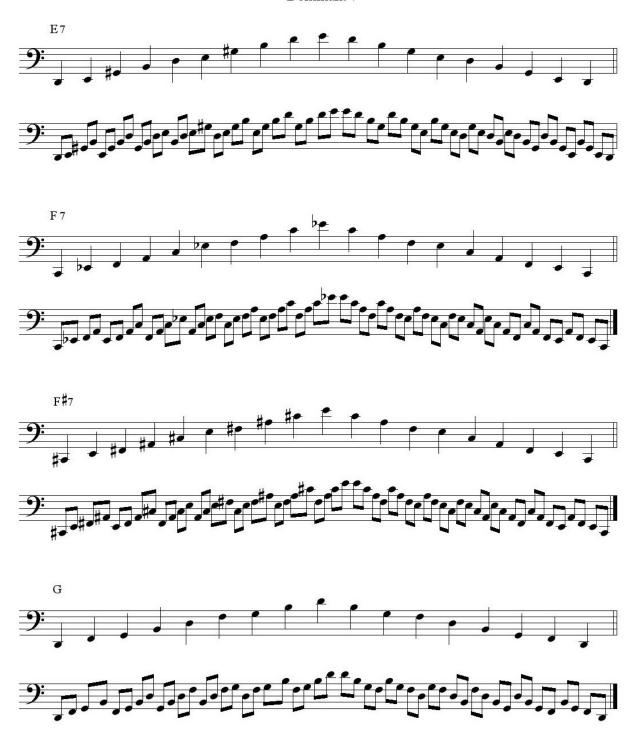
Cello

7th Chord Worksheet

Dominant 7



7th Chord Worksheet Dominant 7

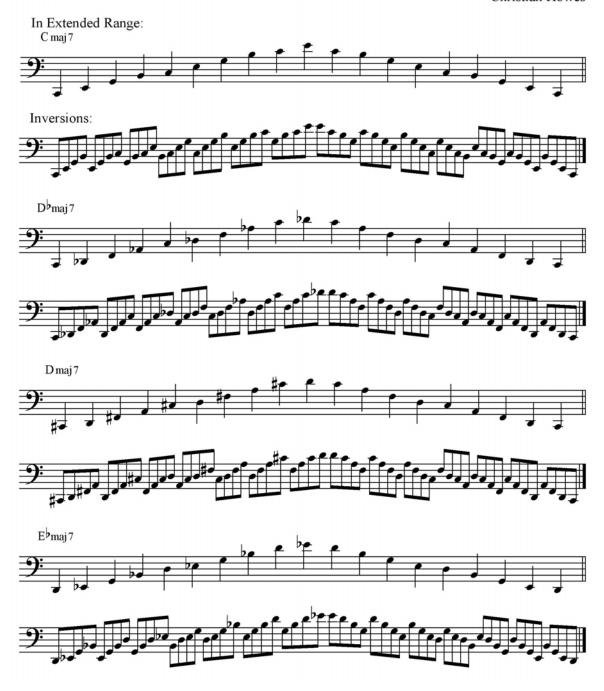


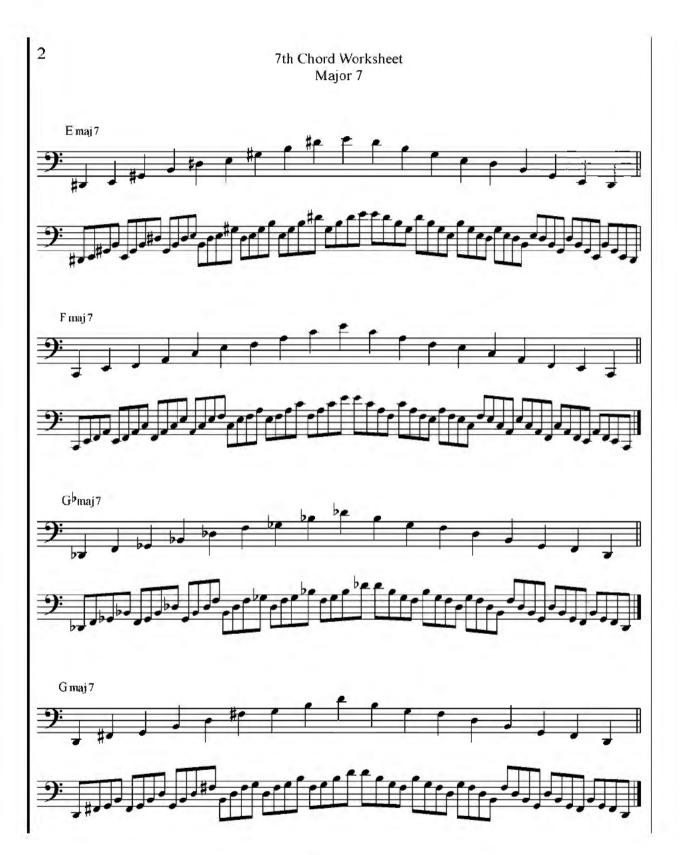
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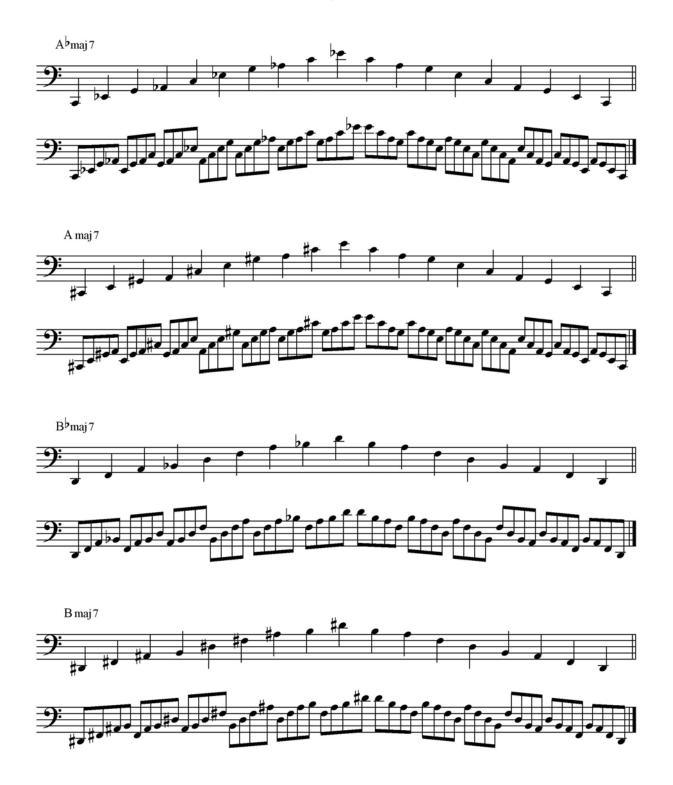


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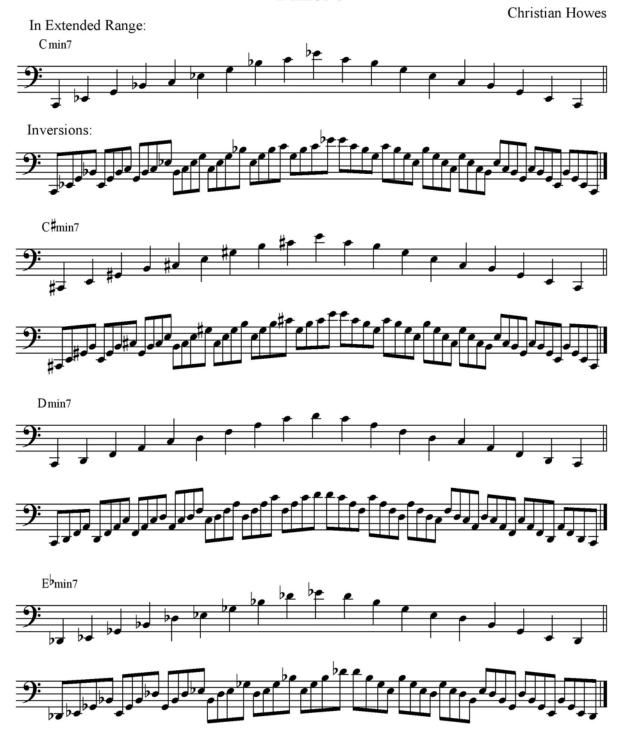
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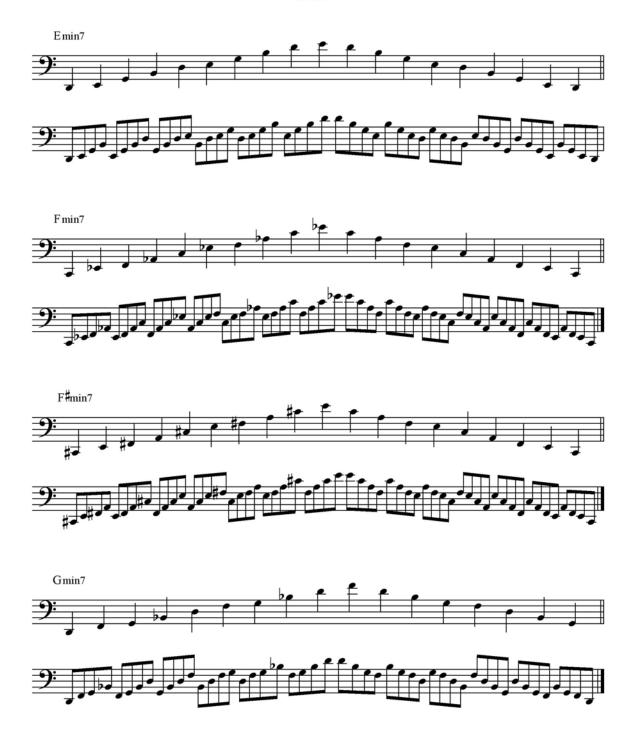


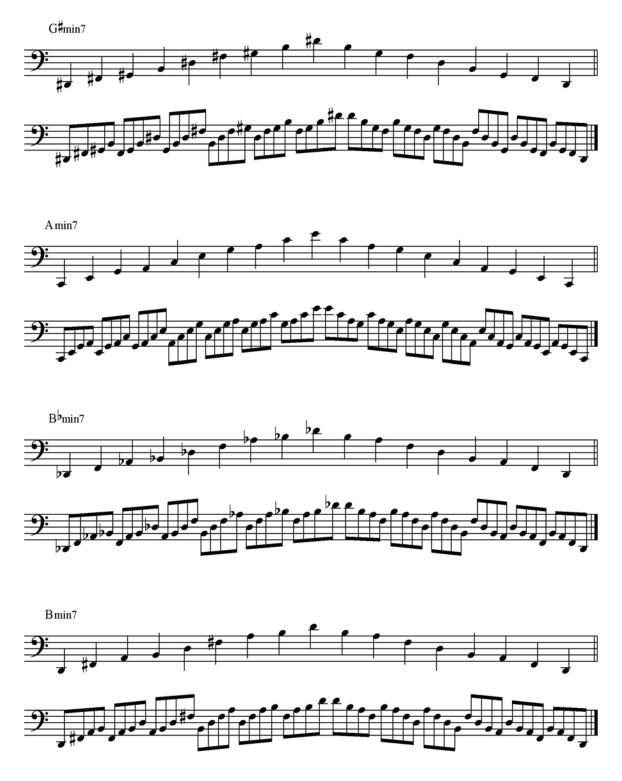




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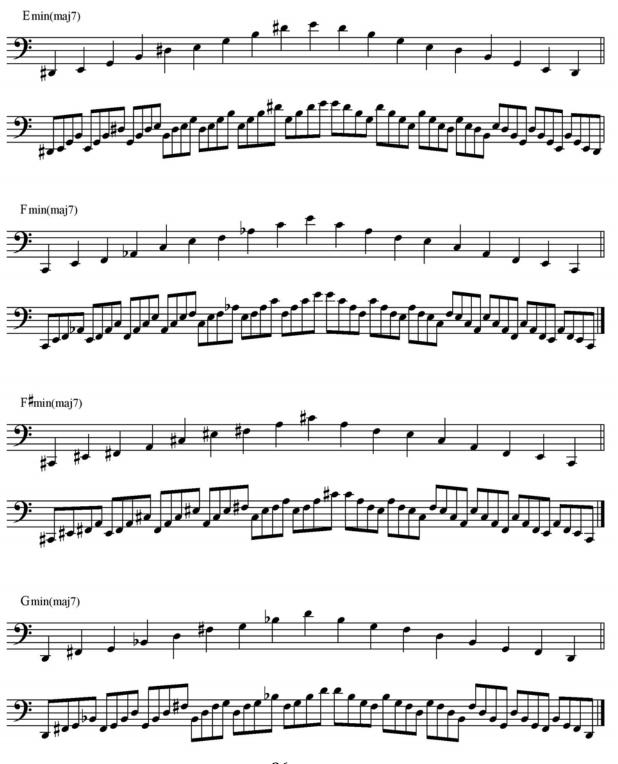




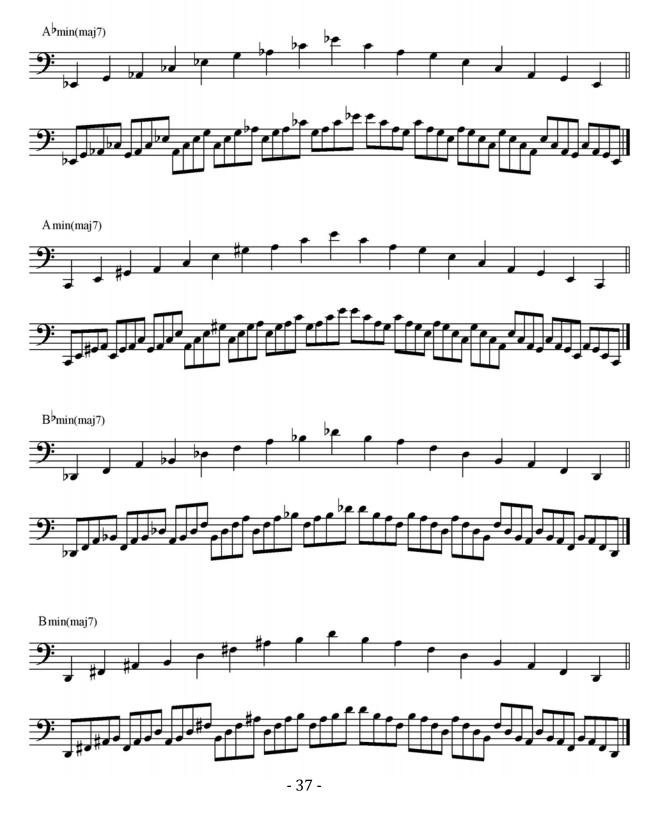
7th Chord Worksheet Minor Major 7

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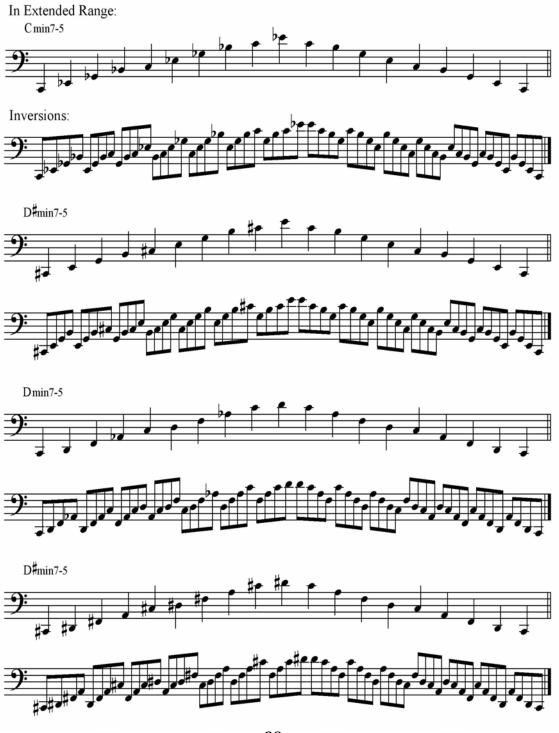
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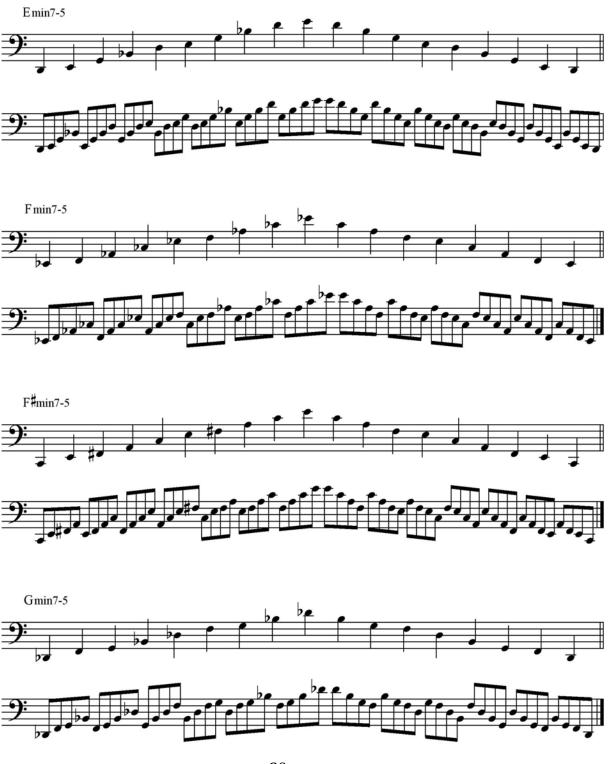


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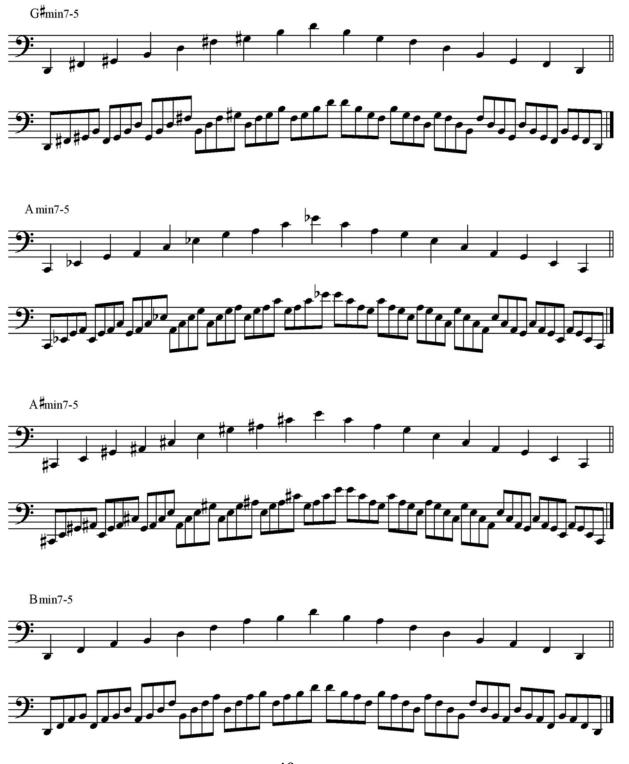
Cello

7th Chord Worksheet Minor 7 -5



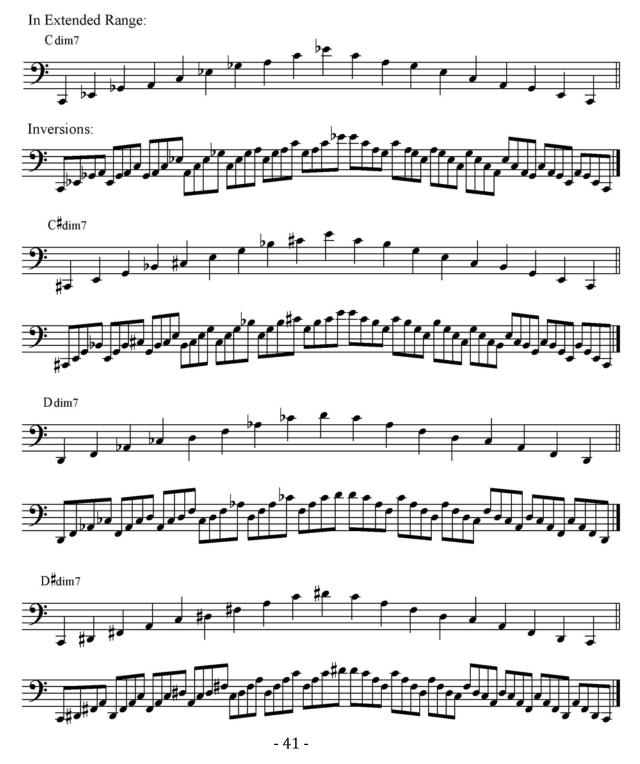


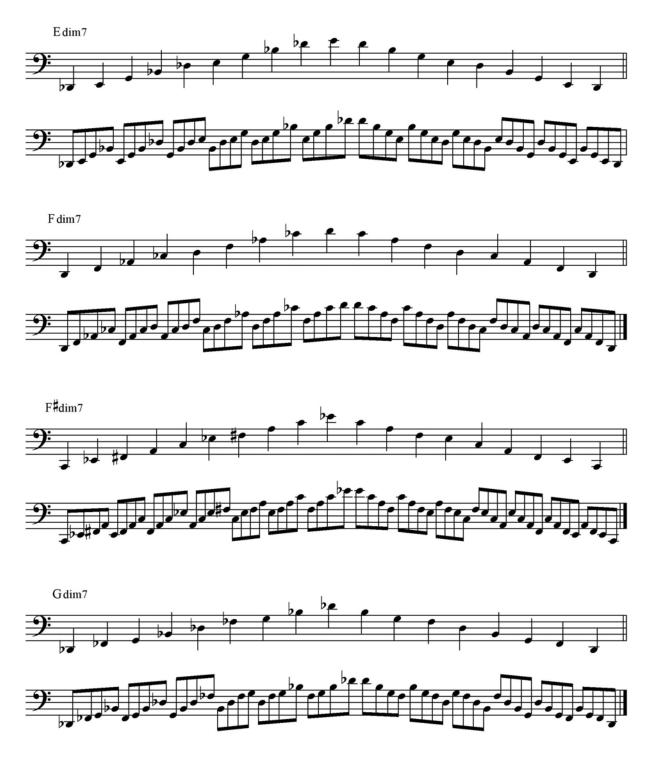
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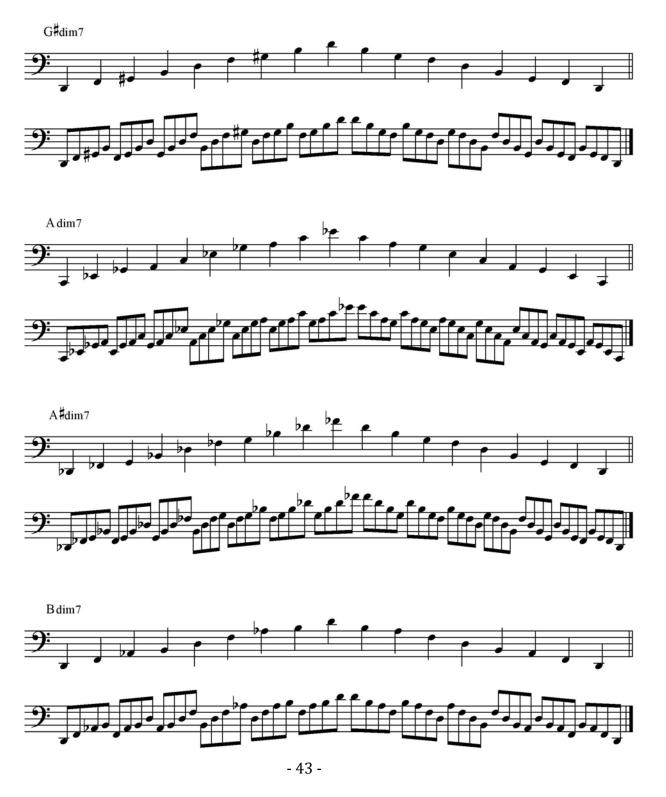
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7th Chord Worksheet Fully Diminished



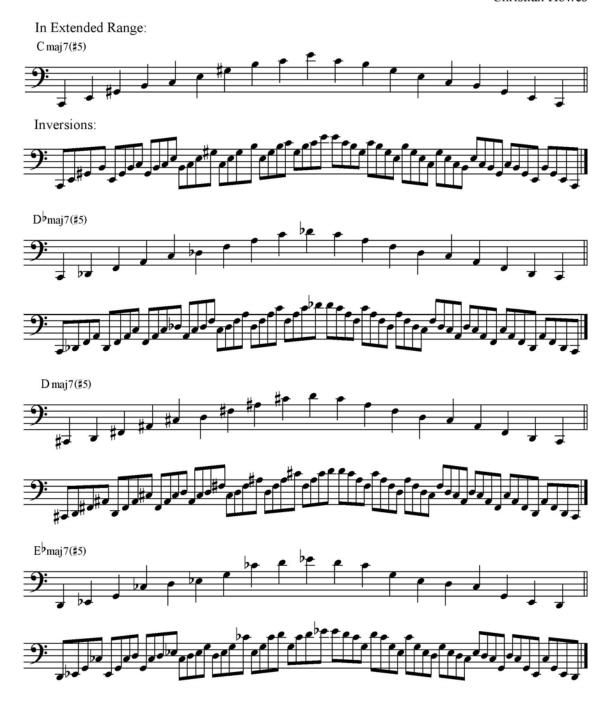


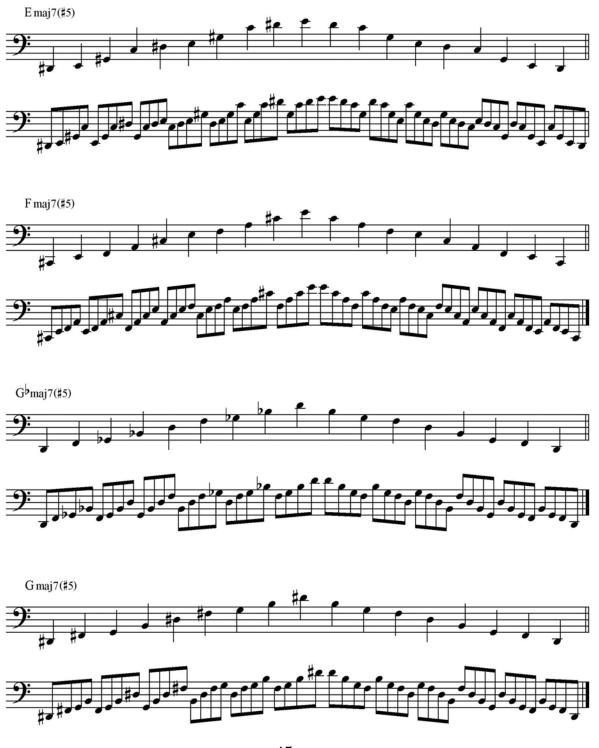
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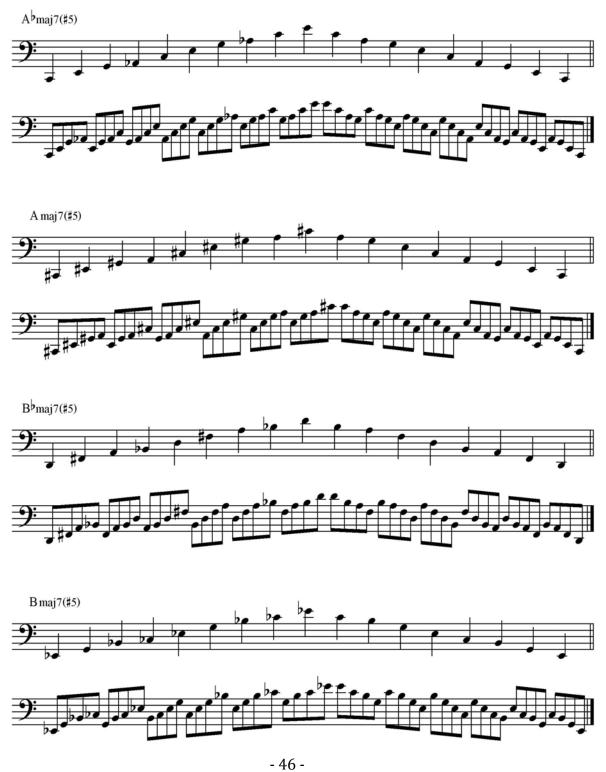
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7th Chord Worksheet Augmented Major 7



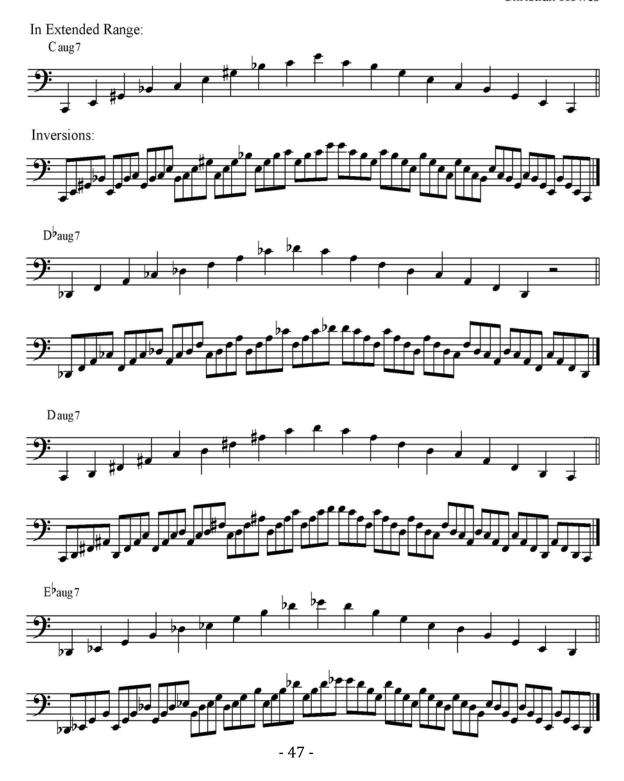


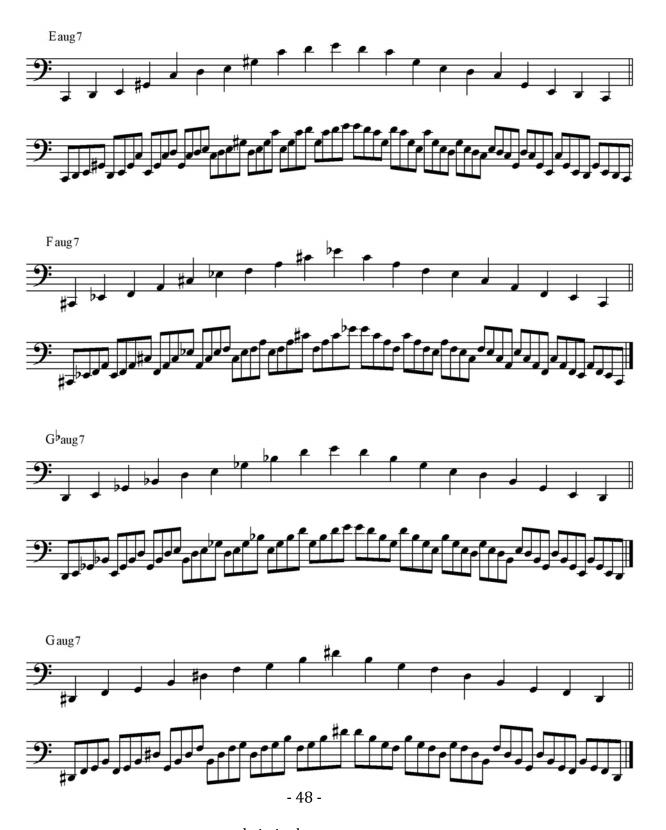
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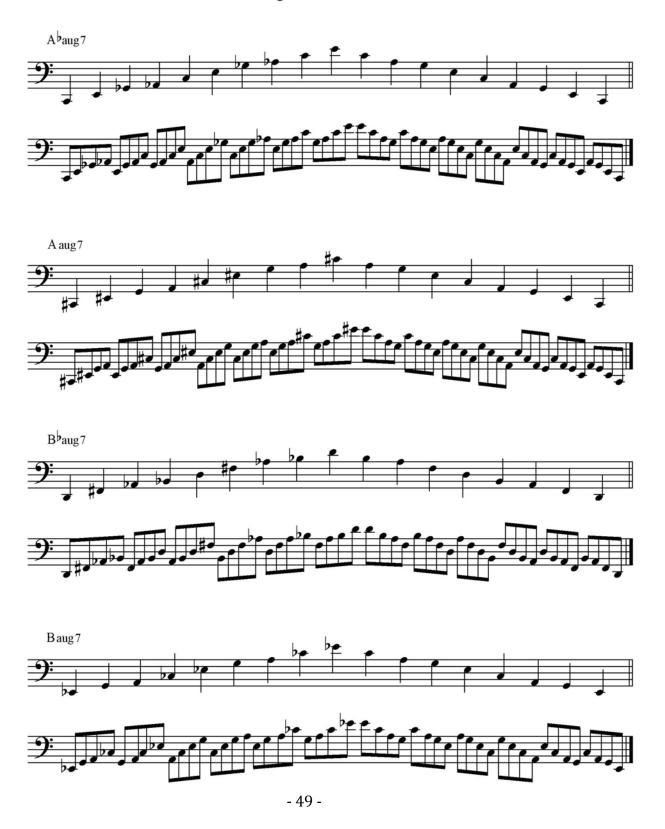
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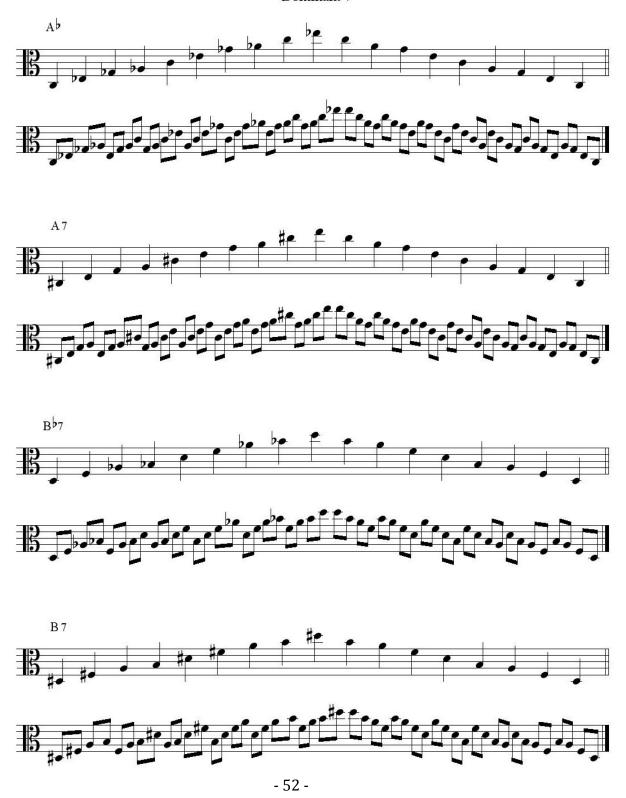
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7th Chord Worksheet Dominant 7



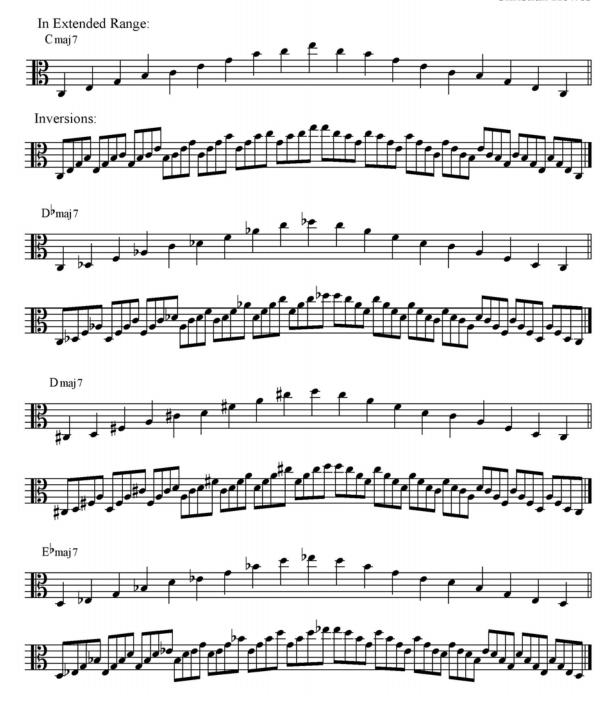
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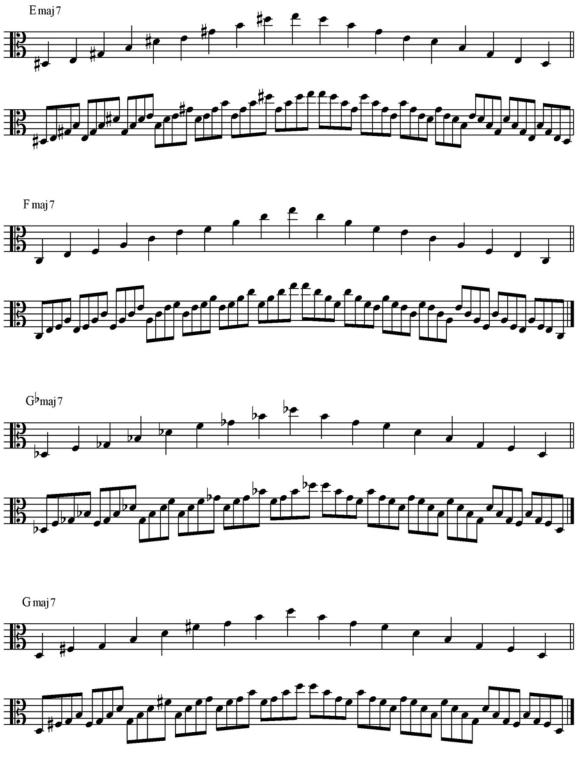


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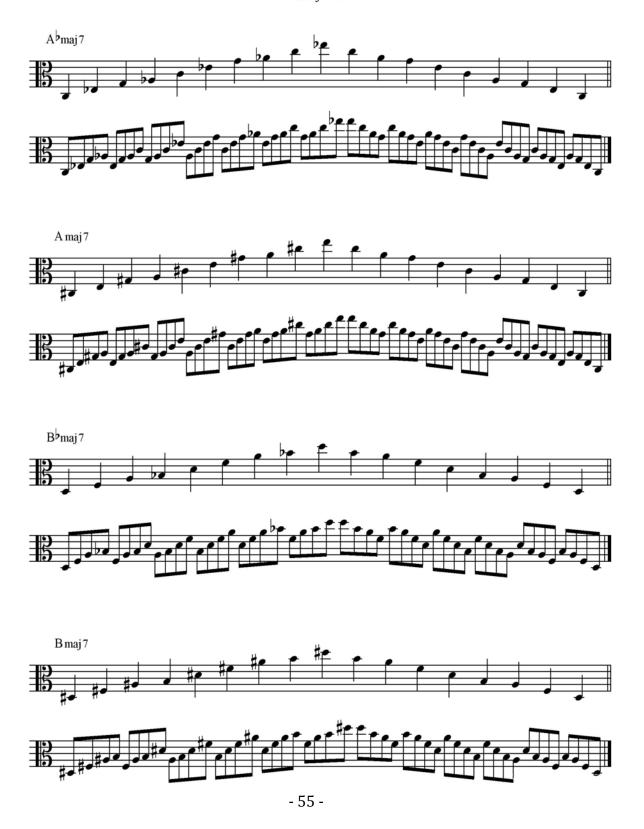
Viola

7th Chord Worksheet Major 7





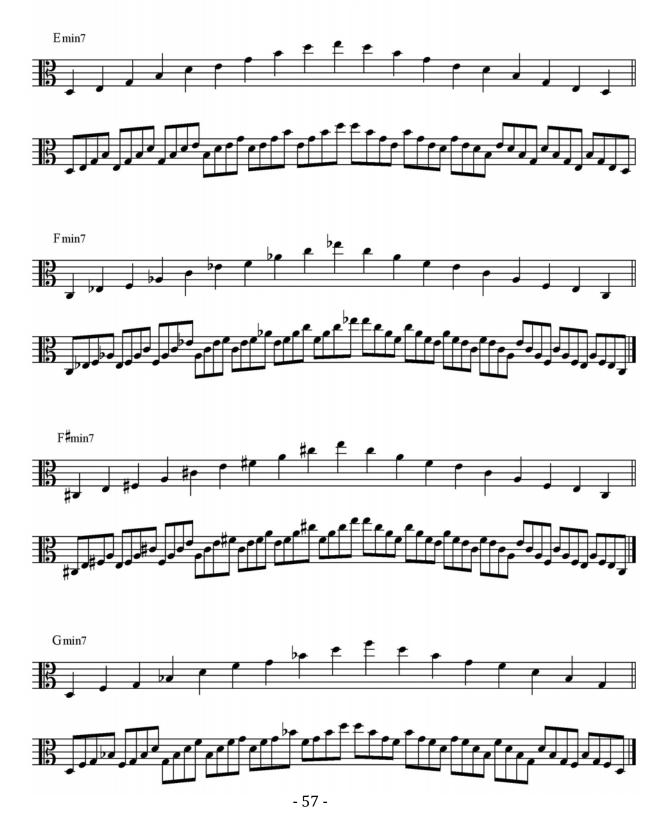
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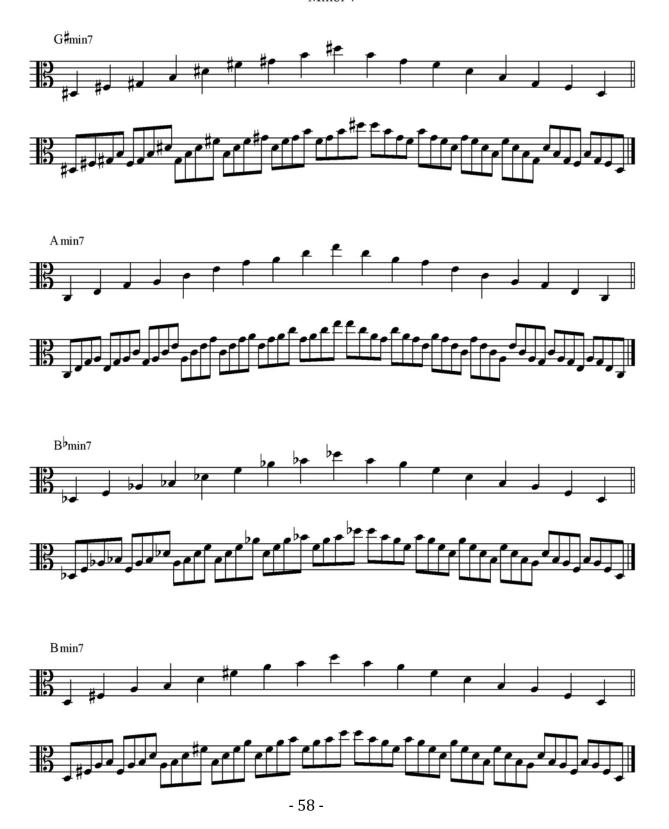
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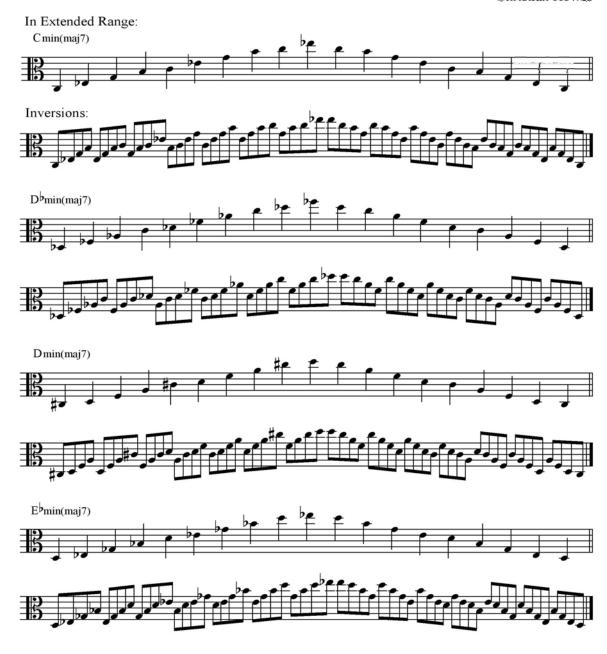


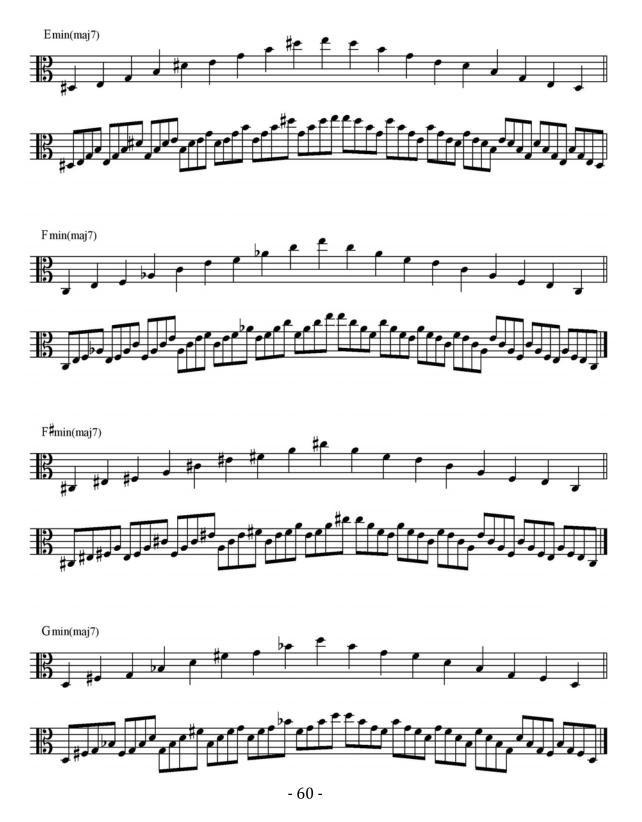
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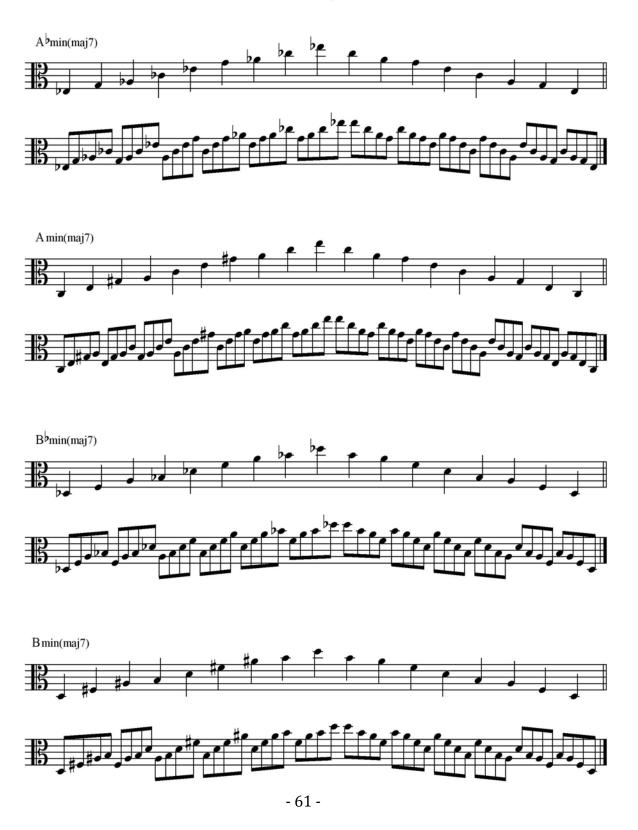
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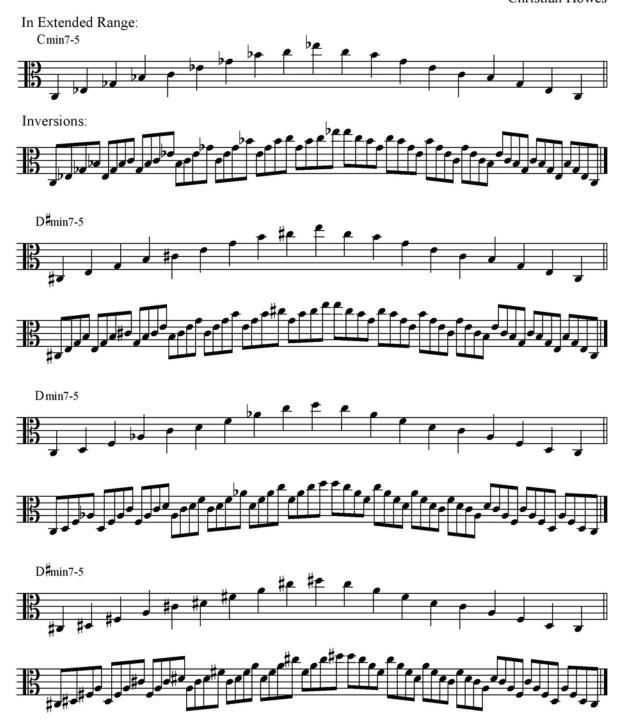


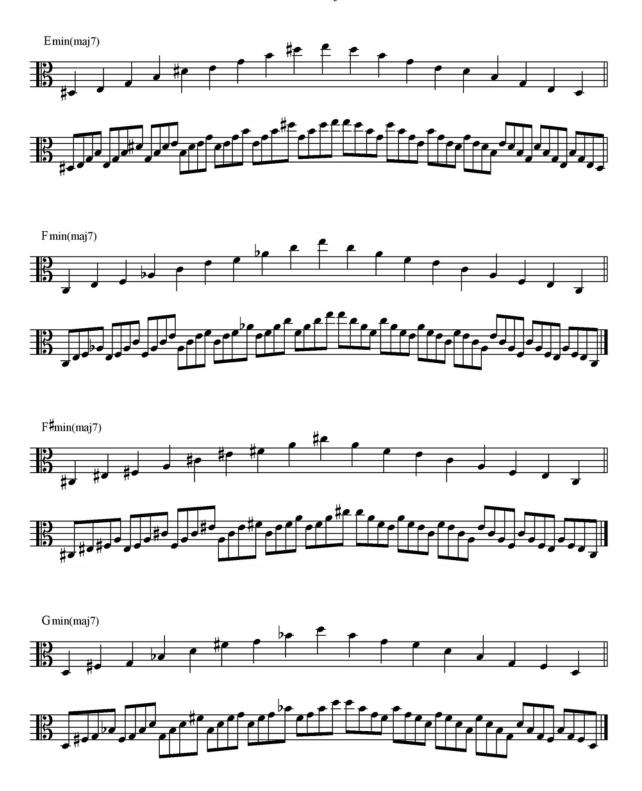
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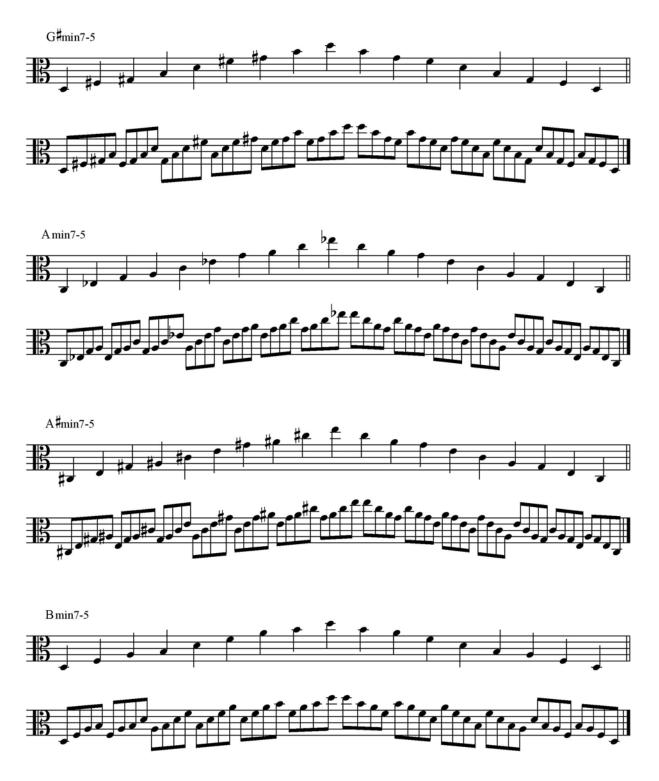


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7th Chord Worksheet Minor 7 -5



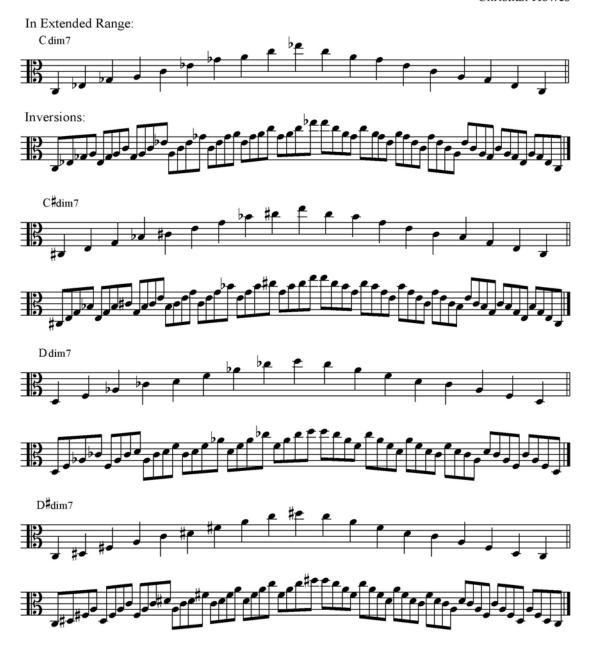


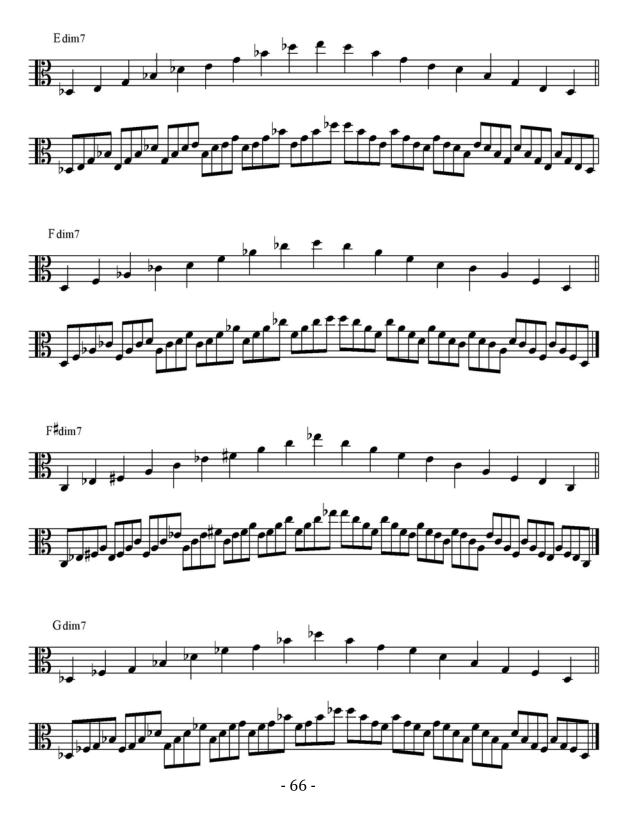


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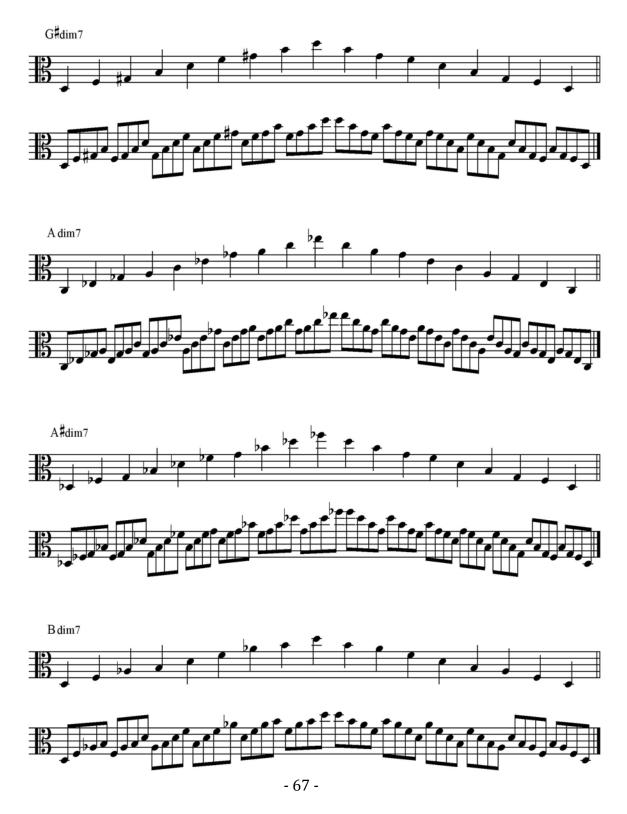
Viola

7th Chord Worksheet Fully Diminished



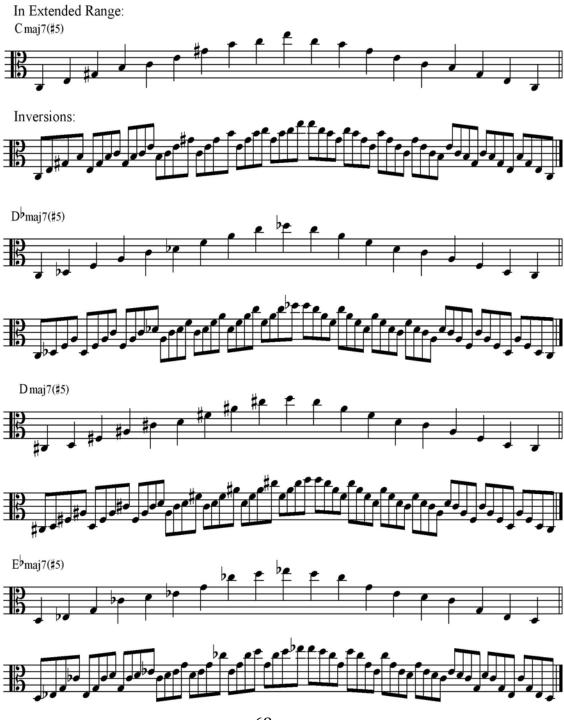


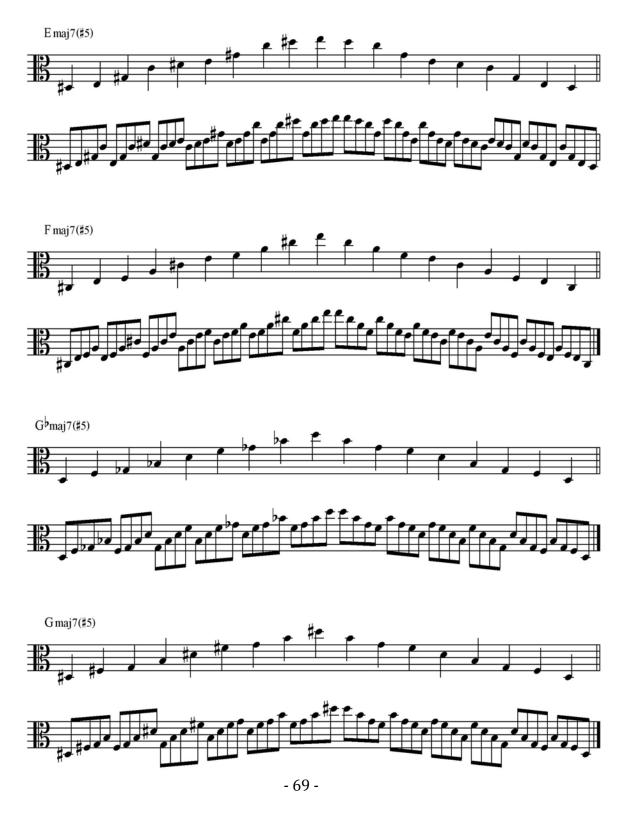
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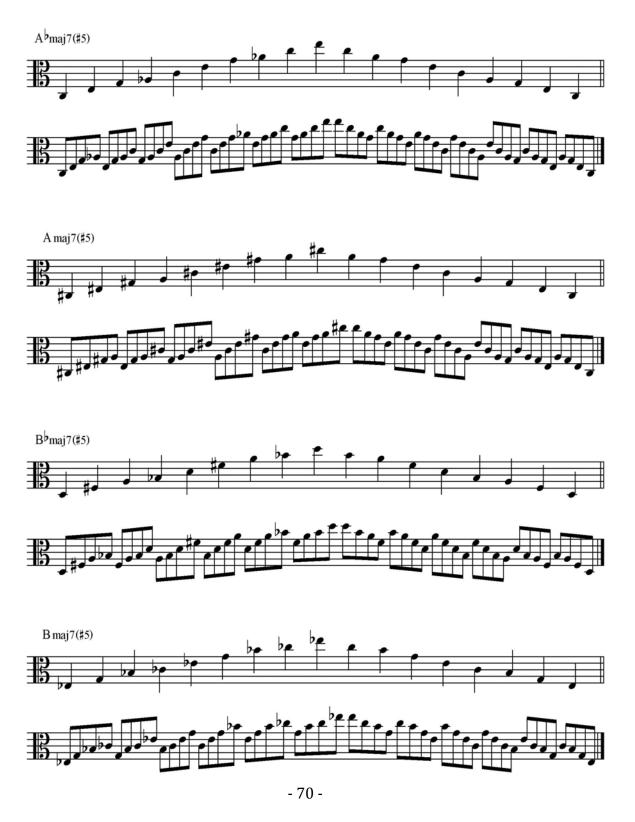
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7th Chord Worksheet Augmented Major 7





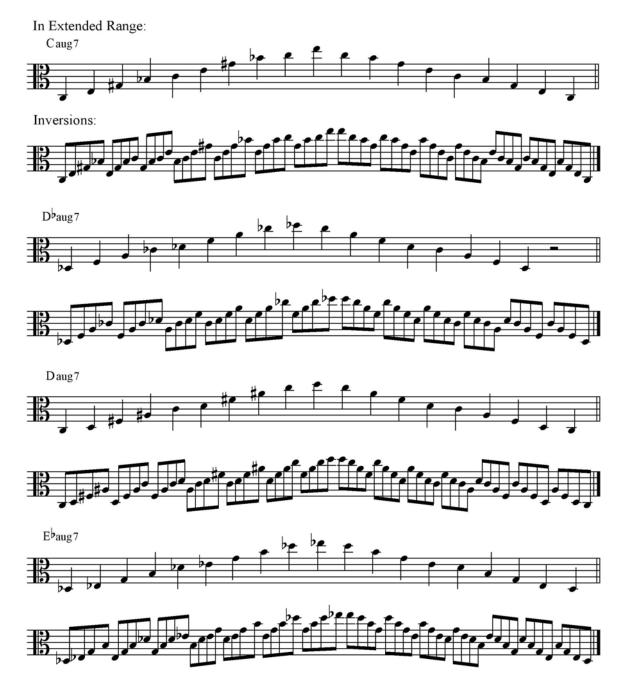
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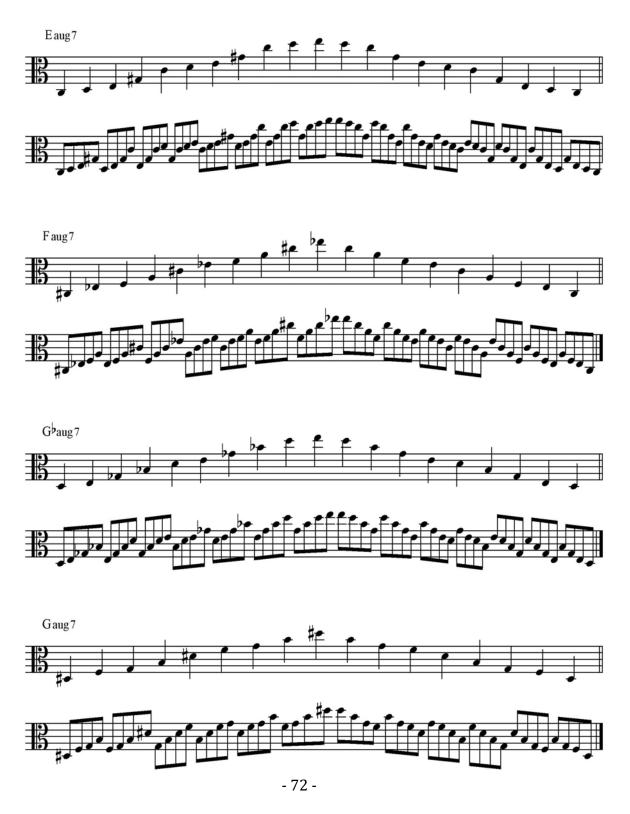


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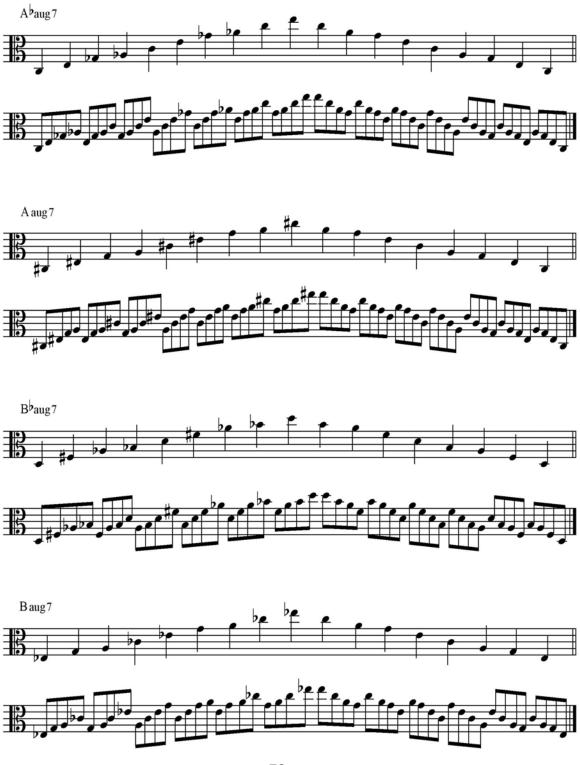
7th Chord Worksheet

Augmented Dominant 7





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Additional Resources

If you enjoyed the exercises in this eBook, then we would like to suggest:

The Jazz Violin Harmony Handbook

Arguably one of Christian Howes' most popular resources, the 70-page **Violin Harmony Handbook** is packed with practical theory, practice exercises, conceptual, intuitive, and analytical tools as well as chord glossaries, and even solo violin transcriptions and charts. There is no guide more useful for anyone playing the jazz violin. You'll develop ear training skills to begin hearing the notes you want to play. You'll also learn how to make the most out of your practice sessions, and along with this eBook, you will begin to become harmonically proficient in all keys.

The Electric Violin Training Kit

Learn everything you need to know to plug in and start jamming on electric violin, viola, and cello! Everything from the basics to his personal secrets, Christian Howes shares how to begin to rock out on your violin. Learn what gear is a must have! From amplifiers to pickups, you will find out the advantages and disadvantages of all types of gear setups. Everyone from beginners to experienced violinists will benefit from this informative eBook.

Both eBooks are available at:

http://christianhowes.com/creative-strings-shop/literature

Creative Strings Academy

The Creative Strings Academy offers over 110 instructional videos that allow string players of all skill levels to learn at their own pace. Covering topics ranging from simple voice leading to implementing complex into your solos, the Academy will have you improvising from the very first day, even if you've never improvised before! Advanced players will benefit from the Academy as well, and will be able to recognize chord progressions and apply different scales to sound like a master improviser.

Try the Creative Strings Academy for one full month FREE:

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