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Basic Three-Note Patterns

Note:

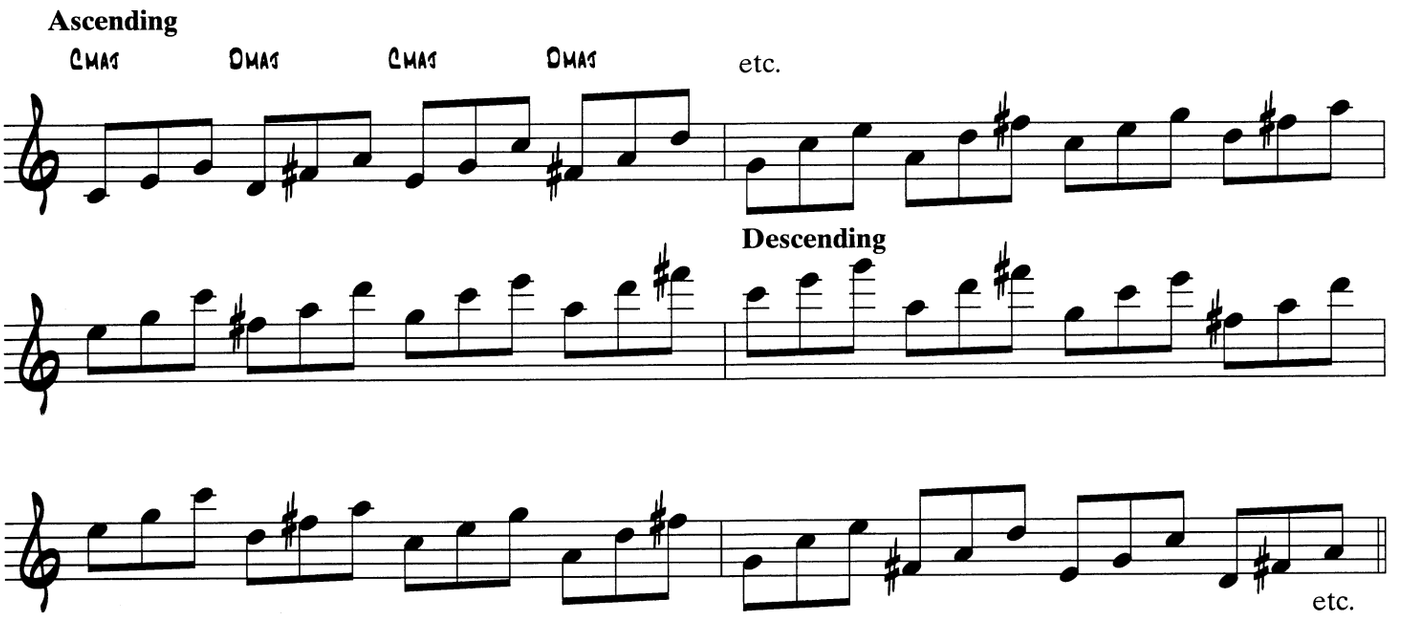
Most of the patterns presented hereafter are in the following order:

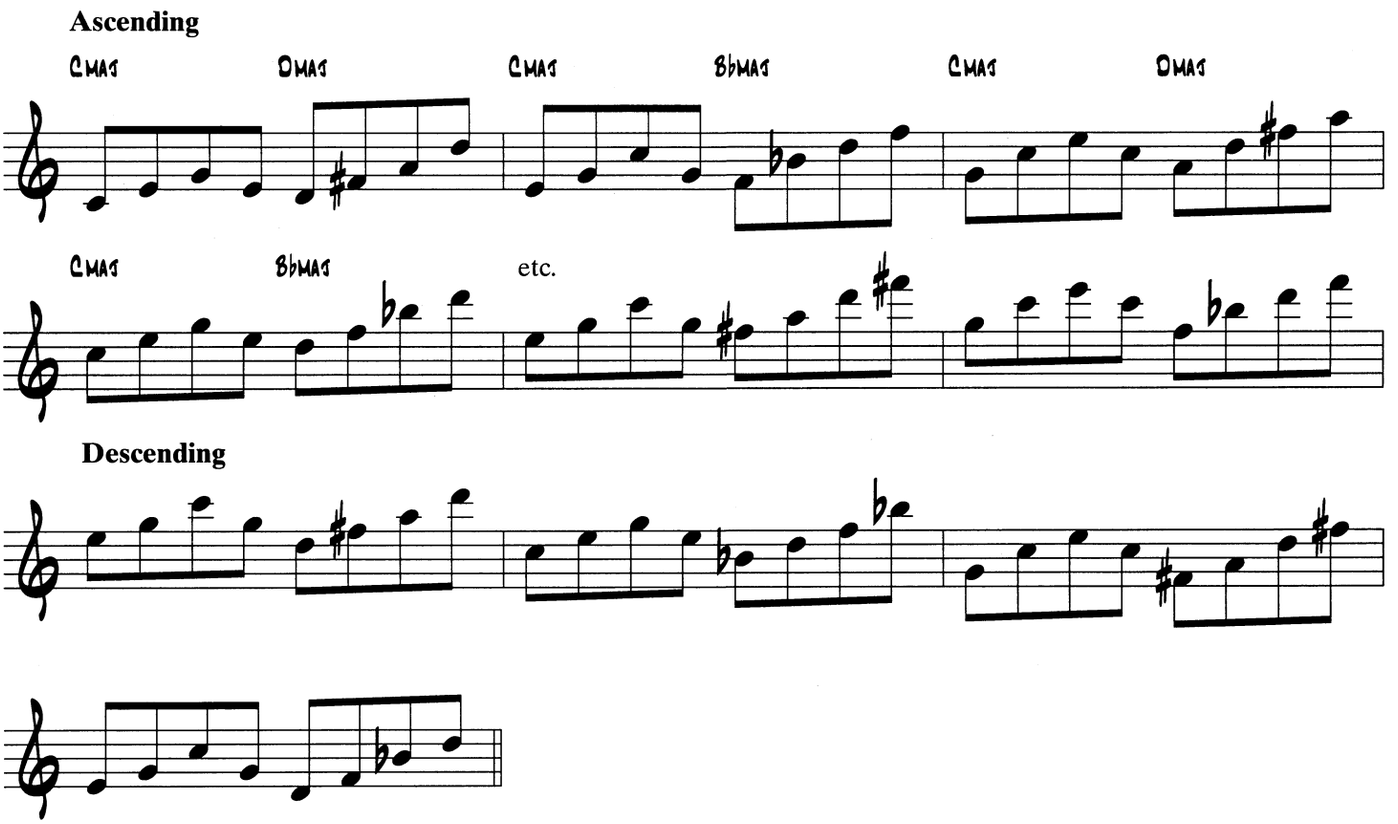
1. Triads going up—ascending/descending pattern.
2. Triads going down—ascending/descending pattern.
3. Triads alternating (one up, one down)—ascending/descending pattern.
   Many alternating patterns are not shown. Figure them out!

Important: Don't forget to do all of the transpositions for each pattern, and reverse the order in alternating patterns. For maximum results, be thorough!

Notation: With regard to the use of accidentals—I have notated sharps and flats in such a manner as to facilitate reading and to help identify each triad as a separate entity. Accordingly, accidentals may be marked more than once within a given measure, and sharps and flats may coexist within a given measure.

1) Major Triads A Whole-Step Apart



Interchanging Patterns and Altering the Chord Sequence

Here I have selected a few basic patterns and illustrated some ways to make them more interesting (I hope). In the first example, I alter the basic Two Major Triads a Whole-Step Apart, the central triad being C major. Rather than pair it with D major only, I interchange B♭ major (for D) every other time.