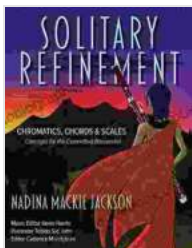


# Chromatics Chords Scales Concepts for the Committed Bassoonist

Chromatics are a fundamental part of music, and they can be used to create a wide range of expressive effects. For bassoonists, chromatics are especially important, as they are often used in solo and orchestral repertoire.

In this article, we will explore the basics of chromatics chords, scales, and concepts. We will also provide some practical tips on how to use chromatics effectively in your playing.



## Solitary Refinement: Chromatics, Chords & Scales - Concepts for the Committed Bassoonist by Morton Manus

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## Chromatic Chords

A chromatic chord is a chord that contains one or more chromatic notes. Chromatic notes are notes that are not part of the diatonic scale. For

example, the C major scale contains the notes C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. The C major chromatic scale contains all of the notes in the C major scale, plus the chromatic notes C#, D#, F#, G#, and A#.

There are many different types of chromatic chords. Some of the most common include:

- **Diminished chords:** Diminished chords are built on a diminished fifth. They have a dark and dissonant sound.
- **Augmented chords:** Augmented chords are built on an augmented fifth. They have a bright and intense sound.
- **Half-diminished chords:** Half-diminished chords are built on a diminished fifth and a minor third. They have a bittersweet sound.
- **Whole-tone chords:** Whole-tone chords are built on a whole tone. They have a mysterious and ethereal sound.

## Chromatic Scales

A chromatic scale is a scale that contains all of the chromatic notes. There are many different types of chromatic scales, but the most common is the 12-tone chromatic scale. The 12-tone chromatic scale contains all of the 12 notes in the octave.

Chromatic scales can be used for a variety of purposes, including:

- **To practice fingerings:** Chromatic scales are a great way to practice your fingerings, as they require you to use all of the notes on your instrument.

- **To improve your intonation:** Chromatic scales can also help you to improve your intonation, as they require you to play each note accurately.
- **To create melodic and harmonic interest:** Chromatic scales can be used to create melodic and harmonic interest in your playing. They can be used to add tension or release, or to create a sense of movement.

## Chromatic Concepts

In addition to chromatic chords and scales, there are also a number of chromatic concepts that are important for bassoonists to understand.

These concepts include:

- **Chromatic mediants:** A chromatic mediant is a chord that is built on the third of a chromatic scale. Chromatic mediants can be used to create a sense of harmonic movement and interest.
- **Chromatic passing tones:** A chromatic passing tone is a note that is played between two other notes. Chromatic passing tones can be used to add melodic interest and to create a sense of movement.
- **Chromatic neighbor tones:** A chromatic neighbor tone is a note that is played above or below a main note. Chromatic neighbor tones can be used to add melodic interest and to create a sense of tension.

## Using Chromatics Effectively

Now that we have explored the basics of chromatics, let's take a look at some practical tips on how to use chromatics effectively in your playing.

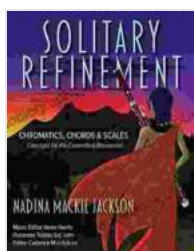
- **Use chromatics sparingly:** Chromatics can be a powerful tool, but they should be used sparingly. Too much chromaticism can make your

music sound cluttered and disjointed.

- **Use chromatics to create contrast:** Chromatics can be used to create contrast between different sections of your music. For example, you could use a chromatic chord to create a sense of tension before a major climax.
- **Use chromatics to add interest to your melodies:** Chromatic passing tones and neighbor tones can be used to add interest to your melodies. They can also be used to create a sense of movement.
- **Practice your chromatics regularly:** The best way to improve your chromatic playing is to practice regularly. Chromatic scales and exercises can help you to develop your fingerings and intonation.

Chromatics are a powerful tool that can be used to add interest, contrast, and movement to your bassoon playing. By understanding the basics of chromatics chords, scales, and concepts, you can use them effectively in your own playing.

So what are you waiting for? Start practicing your chromatics today!



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