

BASS TIPS

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Bass Tips For The Bebop Scale

Welcome to Bass Tips! If you are a bass player who likes to do bass solos and you are into jazz improvisation, you must know that the bebop scale, is essential to define the jazz sound in your playing. It has been used by jazz musicians like Charlie Parker, Joe Pass, Bud Powell, etc. There are other bebop scales like the bebop major, bebop minor, etc. But the bebop dominant scale is the most common. Let's find out!

The bebop scale is the mixolydian mode with a descending chromatic note between the root and the b7.

C Mixolydian mode: C-D-E-F-G-A-Bb-C

Formula: 1-2-3-4-5-6-b7-8

C Bebop Scale: C-D-E-F-G-A-Bb-B-C

Formula: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-b7-8

NOTE:

Opposed to traditional scales, the bebop scales are a nine-note scale.

THE BEBOP DOMINANT SCALE

Musical notation for the Bebop Dominant Scale in 4/4 time. The top staff shows the scale in bass clef: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G#3, A3. The bottom staff shows guitar fretboard fingerings: G (3), A (5), B (2), C (3), D (5), E (2), F# (3), G# (4), A (5).

Application:

Musical notation for the application of the Bebop Dominant Scale over a C7 chord. The top staff shows a C7 chord with a tempo of 200 bpm and a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The bottom staff shows guitar fretboard fingerings: G (17), A (16), B (15), C (17), D (15), E (16), F# (17), G# (17), A (14), B (17), C (15), D (14).

- Play the B natural as a passing tone.
- The B natural should always appear on an upbeat never on the downbeat.
- Play the Bebop Scale over the Dominant 7th chord and their extensions like 9th and 13ths.
- It works very well over the II V I and the Blues progressions like the twelve bar blues, etc.