

# Dominant Seventh Scales and Their Usage

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*The scale numbers refer to the alterations of a major scale necessary to produce each chord scale. Transpose to all Dominant Sevenths.*

## Mixolydian Scale

Use on dominant sevenths descending a perfect 5th.

G<sup>7</sup>

1      2 (9)      3      4 (11)      5      6 (13)      b7      1

## b9, b13 Scale

Harmonic Minor scale a Perfect fourth above dom. seventh root.

Use on dominant sevenths descending a perfect 5th.

C harmonic minor scale starting on root of G7 in this example:

G<sup>7(b9)</sup>

1      b2 (b9)      3      4 (11)      5      b6 (b13)      b7      1

## \* Altered Scale(also called diminished/whole tone).

1st 4 notes from diminished scale, 2nd 4 from whole tone scale (see next page)

melodic minor scale built on the the  
b9 of a dominant seventh chord.

Use on dominant sevenths descending a perfect 5th.

Ab melodic minor scale starting on b9 of G7 in this example:

G<sup>7alt.</sup>

1      b2 (b9)      #9      3      b5      b6 (b13)      b7      1

\*The Altered scale is a term attributed to Herb Pomeroy of the Berklee College of Music (Herb was one of my instructors many years ago. A giant...)

Symmetrical Diminished Scale - use on dominant 7ths  
 descending a perfect 5th, or down a half step, or anywhere you deem musical.  
 This is an 8 note scale.

*sym. dim. scale over a dom. 7th built :*  
*half step, whole step, half, whole etc.*  
*(starts with a half step with when used with a dom 7th)*

G<sup>7</sup>

1      b2 (b9)      #9      3      b5      5      6 (13)      b7      1

There are only 3 symmetrical diminished scales, repeating every 3 half steps.  
 Each diminished scale can be applied to 4 dominant sevenths. For example,  
 in the case of G7, the same scale can be used over Bb7, Db7, and E7, the roots  
 of which form a diminished 7th chord. Learning these 3 scales allows you  
 to cover all 12 keys (actually 15 keys).

This scale can be used over a diminished seventh chord, but the formula is:

*whole step, half step, whole etc.*  
*(starts with a whole step when used with a diminished 7 chord)*

### Lydian b7 (Lydian Dominant) Scale

Use this on dom. sevenths resolving down a 1/2 step  
 or on dom. sevenths with a non-diatonic root.  
 Also use on II7, IV7, bVII7

Db7(lyd b7)

Ab melodic minor scale built on 5th degree of dom 7th

1      2 (9)      3      #4 (#11)      5      6 (13)      b7      1

### Whole Tone Scale

Use on dom 7ths resolving down  
 a perfect fifth, or anywhere you want an effect.

This is a 6 note scale.

G7+

1      2 (9)      3      #4 (#11)      #5      b7      1