

# Beginning STEEL DRUM

by Othello Molineaux

Foreword .....	2
Drum Tuning .....	3
Steel Drum Diagram .....	4
Technique .....	5
Sticking Exercises .....	6
Scale .....	7
Chromatic Scales .....	8
Whole Tone Scales .....	10
Major Scales .....	12
C Major Scale .....	13
Major Chords (Triads) .....	14
7th Chords (Dominant 7ths) .....	15
Chord Progressions .....	16
F Major .....	17
G Major .....	20
Bb Major .....	23
Melodies .....	26

## CD TRACK# / SONG TITLE

1	Nine To Five (Performance) .....	27
2	Nine To Five (Accompaniment) .....	27
3	I Just Called To Say I Love You (Performance) .....	27
4	I Just Called To Say I Love You (Accompaniment) .....	27
5	When the Saints go Marching In (Performance) .....	28
6	When the Saints go Marching In (Accompaniment) .....	28
7	Aura Lee (Performance) .....	29
8	Aura Lee (Accompaniment) .....	29
9	St. James Infirmary (Performance) .....	29
10	St. James Infirmary (Accompaniment) .....	29
11	The Yellow Rose of Texas (Performance) .....	30
12	The Yellow Rose of Texas (Accompaniment) .....	30
13	The Caisson Song (Performance) .....	30
14	The Caisson Song (Accompaniment) .....	30

Dictionary of Scales .....	31
Dictionary of Chords .....	43

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# Scales

The musical examples in this book deal only with major scales. Because major scales are composed of half-steps (chromatics) and whole-steps, we will start by practicing the chromatic scale and the whole tone scale.

The following sticking exercises are the ones used in playing these two scales.

C chromatic scale:     R L R L R L R R L R L R L  
                               C C# D D# E F F# G G# A A# B C

C whole tone scale:    L R R R L L L(or R)  
                               C D E F# G# A# C

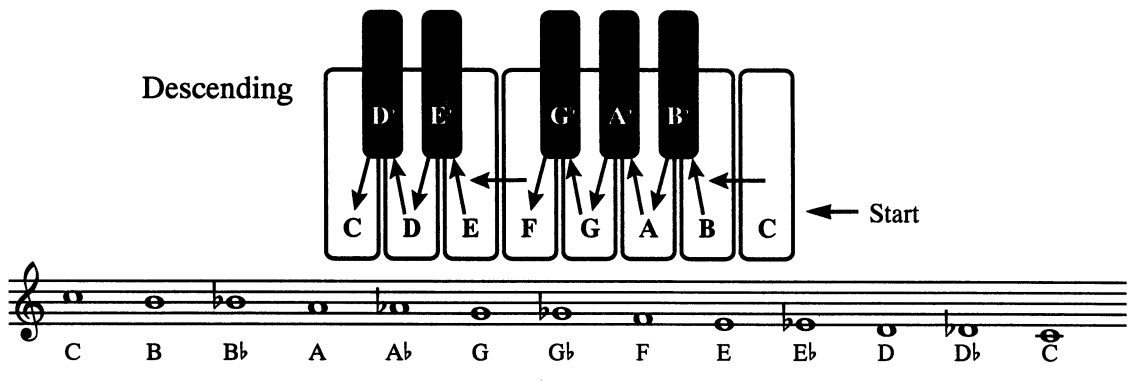
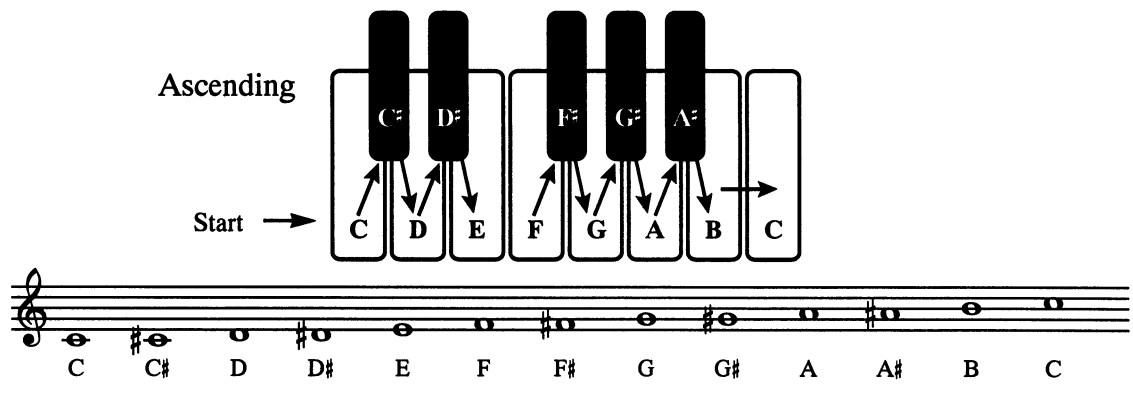
When we play the chromatic scale ascending, we call the accidental notes sharps. However, when we play the chromatic scale descending, we call these same accidental notes flats.

As an example: the descending chromatic scale would be thought of as:  
 C B B<sup>b</sup> (instead of A<sup>#</sup>) A A<sup>b</sup> (instead of G<sup>#</sup>) G G<sup>b</sup> F E E<sup>b</sup> D D<sup>b</sup> C.

Likewise, the descending whole tone scale would be thought of and spelled as:  
 C B<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> G<sup>b</sup> E D C.

When we think or spell a note as a b instead of a #, we call it an enharmonic. In other words, A<sup>#</sup> is the enharmonic to B<sup>b</sup> (they are the same sound).

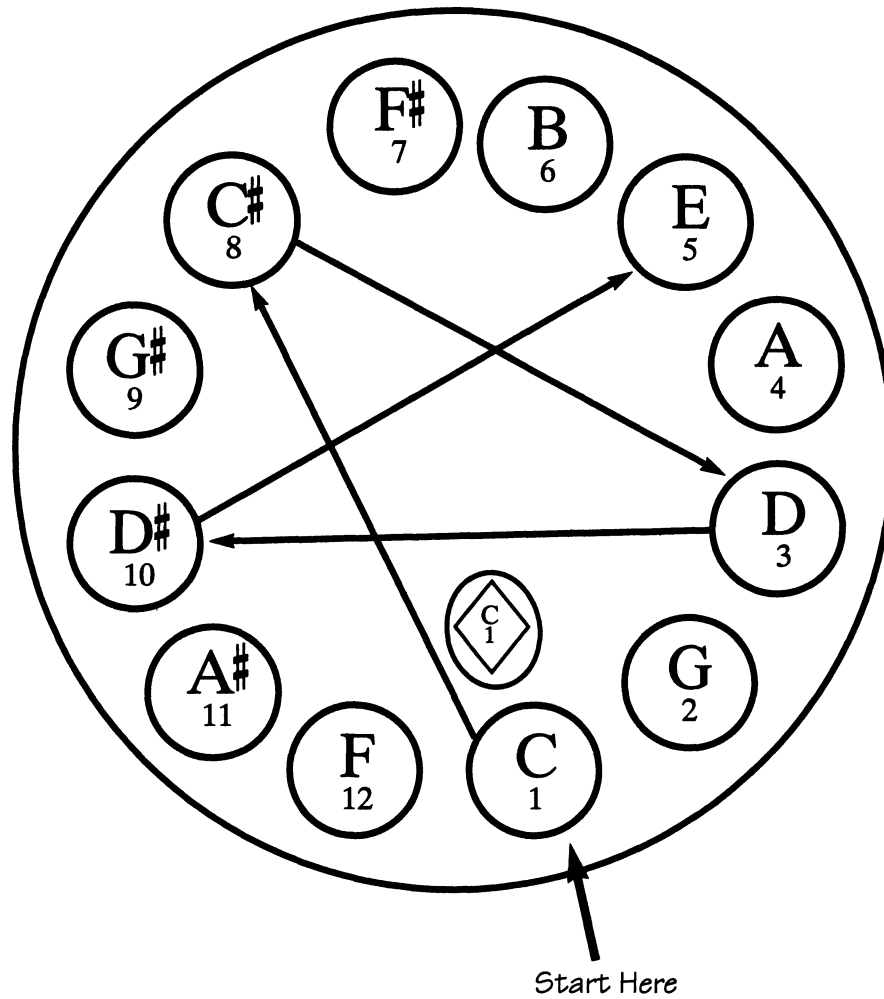
On a piano keyboard it would look like this:



## Chromatic Scales

Practicing the **chromatic** and **whole tone** scales will give you a feel for the placement of all of the notes on your steel drum. You can use these scales as daily warm-ups.

This is a diagram for the **chromatic scale** (*ascending*). Any letter with a  $\diamond$  around it is a note in the **second circle**.



The arrows should guide you through the first 5 notes of the *ascending chromatic scale*. A little study will clarify the pattern. An ascending half-step (chromatic note) is always the note that is one number higher than the note exactly opposite on the drum.

### CHROMATIC SCALE (Ascending)

C	C $\sharp$	D	D $\sharp$	E	F	F $\sharp$	G	G $\sharp$	A	A $\sharp$	B	$\diamond$ C
1	8	3	10	5	12	7	2	9	4	11	6	1
R	L	R	L	R	L	R	R	L	R	L	R	L