

HEXATONIC CHORDS

BEN PORTNER

When working over different scales one can use two different triads within the scale to create a "hexatonic" chord. Two triads equals six notes thus using the word hexatonic. We will go over different scales in every key and the hexatonic chords that can be used to improvise. Hexatonics are extremely efficient for improvising as usually they will outline certain tension of the chord. After learning these patterns it will be up to you to come up with your own permutations of these exercises to use in your improvisation.

C7 C and Bb Triads over c dominant 7

A musical staff in 4/4 time. The notes are: C E G C D F Bb D E G C E F Bb D F G C E G Bb D F Bb C E G C. The notes are grouped into pairs of eighth notes, representing two different triads (C and Bb) played sequentially.

5 C G E C B F D Bb G E C G F D Bb F E C G E D Bb F D C G E C

A musical staff in 4/4 time. The notes are: C G E C B F D Bb G E C G F D Bb F E C G E D Bb F D C G E C. The notes are grouped into pairs of eighth notes, representing two different triads (C# and B) played sequentially.

C#7

C# and B Triads over C# dominant 7th

A musical staff in 4/4 time. The notes are: C# E# G# C# D# F# B D# E# G# C# E# F# B D# F# G# C# E# G# B D# F# B. The notes are grouped into pairs of eighth notes, representing two different triads (C# and B) played sequentially.

A musical staff in 4/4 time. The notes are: C# E# G# C# - C# G# E# C# B F# D# B G# E# C# G# F# D# B F#. The notes are grouped into pairs of eighth notes, representing two different triads (C# and B) played sequentially.

16 E# C# G# E# D# B F# D# C# G# E# C#

A musical staff in 4/4 time. The notes are: E# C# G# E# D# B F# D# C# G# E# C#. The notes are grouped into pairs of eighth notes, representing two different triads (D and C) played sequentially.

D7

D and C Triads over D dominant 7th

19 D F# A D E G C E F# A D F# G C E G A D F# A C E G C D F# A D

A musical staff in 4/4 time. The notes are: D F# A D E G C E F# A D F# G C E G A D F# A C E G C D F# A D. The notes are grouped into pairs of eighth notes, representing two different triads (D and C) played sequentially.

2

23 D A F# D C G E C A F# D A G E C G F# D A F# E C G E D A F# D

E_b⁷ [Eb and Db Triads over Eb dominant 7th]

28 E_b G Bb Eb F Ab Db F G Bb Eb G Ab Db F Ab Bb Eb G Bb Db F Ab Db Eb G Bb Eb

32 Eb Bb G Db Ab F Db Bb G Eb Bb Ab F Db Ab G Eb Bb G F Db Ab F Eb Bb G Eb

E⁷ [E and D Triads over E dominant 7th]

36 E G# B E F# A D F# G# B E G# A D F# A B E G# B D F# A D E G# B E

40 E B G# E D A F# D B G# E B A F# D A G# E B G# F# D A F# E B G# E

F⁷ [F and Eb Triads over F dominant 7th]

44 F A C F G Bb Eb G A C A A Bb Eb G Bb C F A C Eb G Bb Eb F A C F

48 F C A F Eb Bb G Eb C A F C Bb G Eb Bb A F C A G Eb Bb G F C A F

G_b⁷ [Gb and E Triads over Gb dominant 7th]

53 Gb Bb Db Gb Ab Cb Fb Ab Bb Db Gb Bb Cb Fb Ab Cb Db Gb Bb Db Fb Ab Cb Fb

56 Gb Bb Db Gb Gb Db Bb Gb Fb Cb Ab Fb Db Bb Gb Db Cb Abb Fb Cb

59 Bb Gb Db Bb Ab Fb Cb Ab Gb Db Bb Gb

G⁷ [G and F Triads over G dominant 7th]

61 G B D G A C F A B D G B C F A C D G B D F A C F G B D G

65 G D B G F C A F D B G D C A F C B G D B A F C A G D B G

A_b⁷ [Ab and Gb Triads over Ab dominant 7th]

70 A_bC E_bA_bB_bD_bG_b B_b C E_bA_bC D_bG_b B_b D_b E_bA_bC E_bG_bB_bD_b G_b

73 A_bC E_b A_b A_b E_b C A_b G_b D_b B_b G_b E_b C A_b E_b D_b B_b G_b D_b

76 C A_bE_bC B_bG_bD_b B_b A_bE_bC A_b

A⁷

A and G Triads over A dominant 7th

79 A C#E A B D G B C#E A C#D G B D E A C#E G B D G A C#E A

83 A E C#A G D B D E C#A E D B G D C#A E C#B G D B A E C#A

B_b⁷

Bb and Ab Triads over Bb dominant 7th

88 Bb D F Bb C Eb A b C D F Bb D Eb A b C Eb F Bb D F A b C Eb A b Bb D F Bb

92 Bb F D Bb A b E b C A b F D Bb F E b C A b E b D Bb F D C A b E b C Bb F D Bb

B⁷

B and A Triads over B dominant 7th

97 Bb D# F# B C# E A C# D# F# B D# E A C# E F# B D# F# A C# E A B D# F# B

101 B F# D# B A E C# A F# D# B F# E C# A E D# B F# D# C# A E C# B F# D# B

105

Now we're going to impose the major and dominant chords using the # 11. In the key of C major this would be the C and D triads. We will do this in every key.

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Cmaj7(#11)

C and D triads over major 7th # 11]

115 C E G C D F# A D E G C E F# A D F# G C E G A D F# A C E G C C G E C

119 A F# D A G E C G F# D A F# E C G E D A F# D C G E C

Db and Eb triads over Db major 7th # 11]

D_bmaj7(#11)

125 D_b F Ab D_b E_b G B_b E_b F Ab D_b F G B_b E_b G Ab D_b F Ab B_b E_b G B_b

128 D_b F Ab D_b D_b Ab F

131 Eb B_b G Eb D_b A_b F D_b

D and E triads over D major 7 #11]

Dmaj7(#11)

135 D F# A D E G# B E F# A D F# G# B E G# A D F# A B E G# B D F# A D D A F# D

139 B G# E B A F# D A G# E B G# F# D A F# E B G# E D A F# D

E♭maj7(#11)

Eb and F triads over Eb major 7 #11

143 E♭ G B♭ E♭ F A C F G B♭ E♭ G A C F C B♭ E♭ G B♭ C F A C E♭ G B♭ E♭ E♭ B♭ G

147 C A F C B♭ G E♭ B♭ A F C A G E♭ B♭ G F C A F E♭ B♭ G E♭

Emaj7(#11)

E and F# major triads over major 7 #11

153 E G# B E F# A# C# F# G# B E G# A# C# F# A# B E G# B C# F# A# C#

156 E G# B E E B G# E C# A# F# C# B G# E B A# F# C# A# G# E B G#

159 F# C# A# F# E B G# E

Fmaj7(#11)

F and G major triads over F major 7 #11

163 F A C F G B D G A C F A B D G B C F A C D G B D F A C F F C A F

167 DB G D C A F C B G D B A F C A G D B G F C A F

Gbmaj7(#11)

Gb and Ab major triads over Gb major 7 #11

173 Gb Bb Db Gb Ab C Eb Ab Bb Db Gb Bb C Eb Ab C D b Gb Bb Db Eb Ab C Eb

176 Gb Bb Db Gb Gb Db Bb Gb Eb C Ab Eb Db Bb Gb Db C Ab Eb C Bb Gb Db Bb

179 Ab Eb C Ab Gb Db Bb Gb

Gmaj7(#11)

G and A major triads over G major 7 #11

183 G B D G A C#EA B D G B C#EA C# D G B D E A C#E G B D G G D B G

187 E C#A E D B G D C#A E C#B G D B A E C#A G D B G

Abmaj7(#11)

Ab and Bb major triads over Ab major 7 #11

193 Ab C Eb Ab Bb D F Bb C Eb Ab C D F Bb D Eb Ab C Eb F Bb D F Ab C Eb Ab Ab Eb C Ab

197 F D Bb F Eb C Ab Eb D Bb F D C Ab Eb C Bb F D Bb Ab Eb C Ab

Amaj7(#11)

A and B major triads over A major 7 #11

203 A C#E A B D#F# B C#E A C#D#F# B D# E A C#E F#B D#F#

206 A C#E A A E C#A F#D#B F#E C#A E D#B F# D#C#A E C#

209 B F#D# B A E C#A

Bbmaj7(#11)

Bb and C major triads over Bb major 7 # 11

213 BbDF BbCE G C D F BbDE G C E F BbDF G C E G BbDF BbBbFD Bb

217 G E C G F D BbF E C G E D BbFD C G E C BbFD Bb

Bmaj7(#11)

B and C# major triads over B major 7 #11

223 B D#F#B C# E# G#C# D#F#B D#E#G#C# E# F#B D#F#G#C#E#G#

226 B D#F#B B F#D# B G#E# C# G#F#D#B F# E#C#G#E#D#BF#D#

229 C#G#E# C#BF#D#B

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) with a common time signature. It features two groups of eighth notes: the first group consists of C#, G#, and E# (with a sharp above the note heads), and the second group consists of C#, B, F#, D, and B (with a sharp above the note heads). Both groups are followed by a series of six vertical dashes representing rests.

Now we are going to work on the tritone substitution. Each triad will be a tritone away from one another

C⁷⁽¹¹⁾_{b9}

C and F# triads over a C7b9#11 chord

A musical staff in common time. It shows a sequence of chords starting with C, followed by E, G, C, then C#F#Bb, C#EG, C, F#Bb, C#F#G, C, G, Bb, C#F#, Bb, C, E, G, C, C, G, E, and finally C. The notes are primarily eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns.

241 Bb F# C# Bb G E C G F# C# Bb F# E C G E

A musical staff in common time. It shows a sequence of chords starting with Bb F# C# Bb, followed by G E C G, then F# C# Bb, F# E C G E, C# Bb F#, and finally C# C G E C. The notes are primarily eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns.

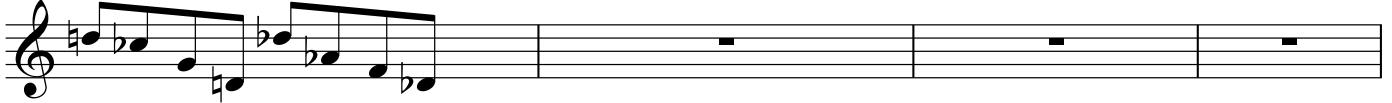
Db⁷⁽¹¹⁾_{b9}

Db and G triads Db 7 b9#11

A musical staff in common time. It shows a sequence of chords starting with Db F, followed by Ab Db D, then G, B, D, F, Ab Db F, G, B, D, G, Ab Db F, Ab B, D, G, and finally B. The notes are primarily eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns.

A musical staff in common time. It shows a sequence of chords starting with Db F, followed by Ab Db D, then B, G, D, B, Ab F, Db Ab, G, D, B, G, F, and finally Db Ab F. The notes are primarily eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns.

251 D B G D Db Ab F Db

D⁷(^{#11}_{b9})

D and G# triads over D7 #11 b9

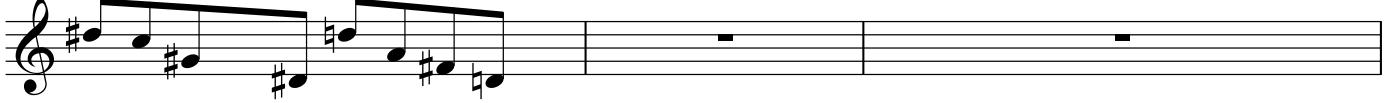
255 D F# A D D# G# C D# F# A D F# G# C D# G# A D F# A C D# G# C



258 D F# A D D A F# D C G# D# C A F# D A G# D# C G# F# D A F#



261 D# C G# D# D A F# D

Eb⁷(^{#11}_{b9})

Eb and A triads over Eb 7 #11 b9

264 Eb G Bb Eb E A D b E G Bb Eb G A D b E A Bb Eb G Bb D b Eb G Bb Eb Eb Bb G



268 D b A E D b D b G E b Bb A E D b A G E b Bb G E D b A E E b Bb G E b



E⁷⁽¹¹⁾

E and Bb triads over E7 #11b9

273 E G#B E E#A#D E# G#B E G#A#D E# A# B E G#B D E# A# D

276 E G#B E E B G#E D A#E#D B G#E B A#E#D A#G# E B G#

279 E#D A#E#E B G#E

F⁷⁽¹¹⁾

F and B triads over F7 # 11 b9

283 F A C F F#B Eb F# A C F A B Eb F# B C F A C Eb F# B Eb F A C F F C A F

287 Eb B F# Eb C A F C B F# Eb B A F C A F# Eb B F# F C A F

Gb and C triads over Gb 7 #11 b9

Gb⁷⁽¹¹⁾

292 Gb Bb Db Gb G C E G Bb Db Gb Bb C E G C Db Gb Bb Db E G C E

295 Gb Bb Db Gb Gb Db Bb Gb E C G E Db Bb Gb Db C G E C Bb Gb Db Bb

298 G E C G Gb Db Bb Gb

G and C# triads over G7#11b9

G^{7(♯11)}

302 G B D G G#C#F G# B D G B C#F G# C# D G B D F G#C# F

305 G B D G G D B G F C#G# F D B G D C#G#FC#BGDB G#FC#G#GDB B

Ab^{7(♯11)}

Ab and D triads over Ab 7 #11 b 9

309 A♭C E♭A♭A D G♭A C E♭A♭C D G♭A D E♭A♭C E♭G♭A D G♭A B♭C E♭ A♭A♭E♭ A♭ C

313 Gb D A Gb E♭C A♭ E♭D A Gb DC A♭ E♭C A Gb D A A♭ E♭C A♭

$A^7(\#_9)$

A and D# triads over A7 #11b9

318 A C#E A A#D#G A# C#E A C#D# G A# D# E A C#E G A#D#G

321 A C#E A A E C#A G D#A# G E C#A E D#A# G D#C#A E C#

324 A#G D#A# A E C#A

 $B_b^7(\#_9)$

Bb and E triads over Bb7 #11 b9

328 BbD F BbB E AbB D F BbD E AbB E F BbD F AbB E Ab BbD F Bb Bb F D Bb

332 Ab E B Ab F D Bb F E B Ab E D Bb F D B B

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 $B^7(\#_9)$

338 B D#F#B C F A C D#F#B D#F A C F F#B D#F#A C F A

341 B D#F# B B F#D# A F C A F#D#BF#F C A F D#BF#D#CAF C B F#D#B

Now we will work on the diminished major 7th chord. This chord can be made by taking one triad and combining it with a triad that is a half step below it. Practice in every key.

C^{omaj7}

C and B triads over C dim major 7

345 C E G C EbF#B Eb E G C E F#B Eb F# G C E G B Eb F#B C E G C C G E C

349 B F#Eb B G E C G F#Eb B F#E C G E E b B F# Eb C G E C

Db and C triads over Db dim maj 7

D_bomaj7

355

Db F Ab Db E G C E F Ab Db F G C E G Ab Db F Ab C E G C D b F A b D b D b A b F D b

359 C G E C C G F Db Ab F E C G E Db Ab F D b

D and C# triads over d diminished major 7th

D_omaj7

365

D F # A D F G # C # F F F # A D F # G # C # F G # A D F # A C # F G # C #

368 D F # A D D A F # D

C # G # F C # G # F # D A F # F C # G # F D A F # D

370 G # F C # G # F # D A F # F C # G # F D A F # D

Eb and D triads over Eb dim major 7

E_bomaj7

375

Eb G Bb Eb Gb A D Gb G Bb Eb G A D Gb A Bb Eb G Bb D Gb A D Eb G Bb Eb Eb Bb G Eb

379 D A G_b B_b G E_b B_b A G_b D A G E_b B_b G G_b D A G_b E_b B_b E_b

E and D# triads over E diminished major 7th

E^{omaj7}

385 E G[#] B E G A[#] D[#] G G[#] B E G[#] A[#] D[#] G A[#] B E G[#] B D[#] G A[#] D[#]

388 E G[#] B E B G[#] E D[#] A[#] G D[#] B G[#] E B A[#] G D[#] A[#] G[#] E B G[#]

391 G D[#] A[#] G E B G[#] E

F and E triads over F diminished major 7th

F^{omaj7}

395 F A C F A b B E A b A C F A B E A b B C F A C E A b B E F A C F F C A F

399 E B A b E C A F C B A b E B A F C A A b E B A b F C A F

F# and F triads over F# diminished major 7th

F#omaj7

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405 F# A# C# F# A C F A A# C# F# A3 C F A C C# F# A# C# F A C F

408 F# A# C# F# F# C# A# F# F C A F C# A# F# C# C A F C A# F# C# A#

411 A F C A F# C# A# F#

Gomaj7

G and F# triads over G diminished major 7th

414 G B D G Bb C# F# Bb B D G B C# F# Bb C# D G B D F# Bb C# F# G B D G G D B D

418 F# C# Bb F# D B G D C# Bb F# C# B G D B Bb F# C# Bb G D B G

A♭omaj7

Ab and G triads over Ab diminished major 7th

423 A♭ C E♭ A♭ B D G B C E♭ A♭ C D G B D E♭ A♭ C E♭ G B D G A♭ C E♭ A♭ A♭ E♭ A♭ C

427 G D B G E♭ C A♭ E♭ D B G D C A♭ E♭ C B G D B A♭ E♭ C A♭

433

A C#E A C D#G# C C#E A C#D#G# C D# E A C#E G#C D#G#

436

A C#E A A E C#A G#D# C G# E C#A E D#CG#D# C#A E C# C G#D# C A E C#A

Bb and A major triads over Bb diminished major 7th

B_b^{omaj7}

440

Bb D F Bb Db E A Db D F Bb D E A Db E F Bb D F A Db E A Bb D F Bb Bb F D Bb

444

A E Db A F D Bb F E Db A E D Bb F D Bb

B^{omaj7}

450

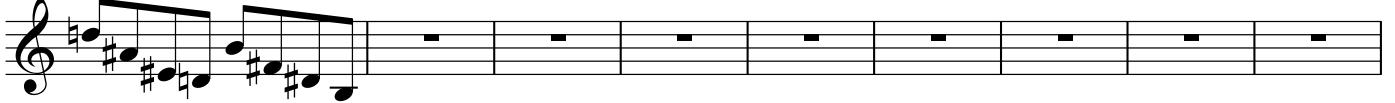
B D# F# B D F A# D D# F# B D# F# F A# D F F# B D# F# A# F F A#

453

B D# F# B B F# D# B A# F D A# F# D# B F# D#

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456 D A# F D B F# D# B



The last hexatonic we are going to use a triad and impose the triad that is a half step above it. For example C and Db which is a half step above.

This can be used over the altered chord.

C⁷alt.

C and C# triads over C altered



469 G#F C#G# G E C G F C#G#F E C G E C#G#F C# C G E C

Db⁷alt.

Db and D triads over Db altered



478 D A G_bD D_bA_bF D_b

D and D# triads over D altered

D⁷alt.

482 D F# A D D# G A# D# F# A D F# G A# D# G A D F# A A# D# G A#

485 D F# A D D A F# D A# G D# A# A F# D A G D# A# G F# D A F#

488 D# A# G D# D A F# D

E_b⁷alt.E_b and E triads over E_b altered

492 E_b G B_b E_b E A_b B E G B_b E_b G A_b B E A_b B B_b E_b G B_b B E A_b B E_b G B_b E_b B_b G E_b

496 B Ab E B B_b G E_b B_b A_b E B A_b G E_b B_b G E B A_b E E_b B_b G E_b

E⁷alt.

E and F triads over E altered

501 E G#BE F A BbF G#BE G#Ab F A B E G#B C F A C E G# B E E B G# E

505 C A F C B G#EB A F C A G#EB G#F C A F E B G#E

F⁷alt.

F and F# triads over F altered

511 F A C F F#Bb C#F# A C F A Bb C#F#Bb C F A C C#F#Bb C#

514 F A C F F C A F C#Bb F#C# C A F C Bb F#C#Bb A F C A F F#C#Bb F#F C A F

Gb⁷alt.

Gb and G triads over Gb altered

518 Gb Bb Db Gb G B D G Bb Db Gb Bb B D G B Db Gb Bb Db D G B D

521 Gb Bb Db Gb Gb Db Bb Gb D B G D Db Bb Gb Db B G D B Bb Gb Db Bb

524 G D B D Gb Db Bb Gb

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) with a common time signature. The notes are: G (quarter note), D (eighth note), B (eighth note), D (eighth note), Gb (eighth note), Db (eighth note), Bb (eighth note), Gb (eighth note). The notes are grouped by vertical stems.

G⁷alt.

G and G# triads over G altered

528 G B D G#CD#G#B D G B C D#G#C D G B D D#G#CD#GB D G G D B G

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) with a common time signature. The notes are: G (eighth note), B (eighth note), D (eighth note), G# (eighth note), C (eighth note), D# (eighth note), G# (eighth note), C (eighth note), D (eighth note), G (eighth note), B (eighth note), C (eighth note), D# (eighth note), G# (eighth note), C (eighth note), D# (eighth note), G# (eighth note), C (eighth note), D (eighth note), G (eighth note), G (eighth note), D (eighth note), B (eighth note), G (eighth note).

532 D#CG# D#DB G D C G#D# C B G D B G#D# C G#GDB G

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) with a common time signature. The notes are: D# (eighth note), C (eighth note), G# (eighth note), D# (eighth note), C (eighth note), B (eighth note), G (eighth note), D (eighth note), B (eighth note), G# (eighth note), D# (eighth note), C (eighth note), G# (eighth note), GDB (eighth note), G (eighth note).

Ab⁷alt.

Ab and A triads over Ab altered

536 Ab C Eb Ab A Db EA C Eb Ab C Db EA Db Eb Ab C Eb EA Db E Ab C Eb Ab Ab Eb C Ab

A musical staff in A major (no sharps or flats) with a common time signature. The notes are: Ab (eighth note), C (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), A (eighth note), Db (eighth note), EA (eighth note), C (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), C (eighth note), Db (eighth note), EA (eighth note), Db (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), C (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), EA (eighth note), Db (eighth note), E (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), C (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), C (eighth note), Ab (eighth note).

540 E Db A E Eb C Ab Eb Db A E Db C Ab Eb C A E Db A Ab E C Ab

A musical staff in A major (no sharps or flats) with a common time signature. The notes are: E (eighth note), Db (eighth note), A (eighth note), E (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), C (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), Db (eighth note), A (eighth note), E (eighth note), Db (eighth note), C (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), Eb (eighth note), C (eighth note), A (eighth note), E (eighth note), Db (eighth note), A (eighth note), Ab (eighth note), E (eighth note), C (eighth note), Ab (eighth note).

A⁷alt.

A and Bb triads over A altered

546 A C#EA A#DF A# C#EA C#DDA#D E A C#EF A#DF A C#E A A EC#A

A musical staff in A major (no sharps or flats) with a common time signature. The notes are: A (eighth note), C# (eighth note), E (eighth note), A (eighth note), # (eighth note), D (eighth note), F (eighth note), A# (eighth note), C# (eighth note), E (eighth note), A (eighth note), # (eighth note), D (eighth note), D (eighth note), E (eighth note), A (eighth note), C# (eighth note), E (eighth note), F (eighth note), A# (eighth note), D (eighth note), F (eighth note), A (eighth note), C# (eighth note), E (eighth note), A (eighth note), A (eighth note), EC# (eighth note), A (eighth note).

550 F D A#FE C#AE D A#FD C#AE C# A#FD A#AE C#A



Bb⁷alt.

Bb and B triads over Bb altered

556 Bb D F Bb B Eb F# B D F Bb D Eb F# B E b



560 F# Eb B F# FD Bb F Eb B F# Eb D Bb F D Bb



B⁷alt.

B and C triads over B altered

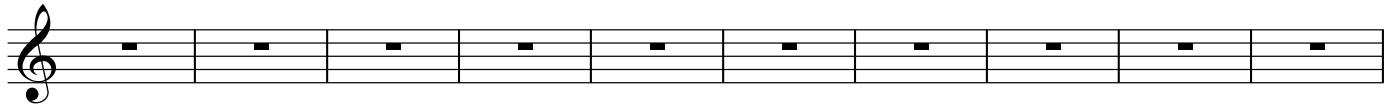
566 B D#F#B C E G C D#F#B D#E G C E F#B D#F#G C E G



570 G E C G F#D#B F#E C G E D#B F#D#C G E C B F#D#B



576



586

