

## The Second Harmonic Environment

The second harmonic environment is produced when note 2 acts as the tonal center. The result is one of the most important minor scales used in contemporary jazz music.

2 · 3 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 | 1 · | 2

### Practice tips

As you improvise over the accompanying jam tracks, think of the second harmonic environment as a new world of sounds to be explored and discovered. Don't worry right now about how these sounds relate to the sounds in the 1st harmonic environment. You'll see how that works when you begin working with chord progressions. For now, just treat each harmonic environment of the major scale as a separate world to discover, and focus on learning the musical lessons that each harmonic environment has to teach you.

### Using the jam tracks

This time you'll be building the second harmonic environment on your instrument. In the accompanying mp3 jam tracks, the filename tells you where to locate note 2 on your instrument. (Remember to transpose this note for your instrument if you play a transposing instrument.)

For example, the jam track in the key of A indicates that note 2 = B for this track. So you just need to go to the note B on your instrument and imagine this to be your note 2. Then use the tonal map drawing above to construct the rest of the scale.

The jam tracks in this collection let you experience the sounds of each harmonic environment in three very different ways:

**Meditative.** This is the best place to start. The meditative tracks give you lots of space for deep contemplation of the sounds. These tracks are ideal for learning the musical lessons contained in each harmonic environment. Play slowly and listen deeply to each note you play. Think of this activity as your opportunity to get to know the raw materials of your art. Later in the other tracks you can focus on creating music with these sounds. But first you should take the time to really get to know each sound, and the meditative tracks are perfect for that.

**Modern.** The modern tracks allow you to hear each harmonic environment in a style that will be more familiar to you. These tracks will help you discover the beautiful melodic possibilities that each harmonic environment offers you. Use these tracks to practice creating your own music, and embrace the creative challenge of finding your own musical voice within these diverse styles.

**Jazz.** The jazz tracks give you an opportunity to really stretch out and follow your imagination. These tracks provide the ideal supporting environment for more intellectual or abstract modal playing. Use these tracks to push the limits of your playing, both creatively and physically.

## Note about transposing for wind instruments

Remember that not all instruments use the same names for the notes. In the tracks, the key listed for each jam track always refers to the concert key. If you play an instrument that is not in concert key, remember to transpose this key name to the corresponding key on your instrument. (If you're not sure how to do this for your instrument, a quick Google search will lead you to many clear explanations.)