

Diminished Chords

Gé Bijvoet

Diminished Chord & Scale 1

Diminished Chord & Scale 2

Diminished Chord & Scale 3

C° Eb° F#° A° C#° E° G° A#° D° F° G#° B°

The diminished scale consists of 8 notes we call it Octatonic (8 Greek) or Octotonic (8 Italian)

Diminished (Dim) chords a row of minor thirds 1 b3 b5 bb7

The Scale 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2

The dim scale consist of 2 dim chords Co and as a sort of upper structure Do

4 C° D° Eb F F# Ab A B

To enrich the chord we can play every single note a major second higher

Lift A to B

Lift two notes Gb and A to Ab and B

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We can place the 2e dim chord a whole note higher as an uperstructure on top, we play the complete scale in two hands now, the max dim chord

But beter to spread/mix the ingrediens,
The next step is transposing the chords minor thirds. All chords are Co all the chords are Ebo, Gbo and Ao

7 C°

9 D♭°

11 D°

We see diminished chords replacing dominant 7 chords with a b9

A^{7(b9)}/C♯

13 C C♯° Dm⁷ G⁷ C A^{7(b9)} Dm G⁷

We can use the same diminished scale within b9 chords.
B9 makes a chord more minor and use in V^{7(b9)} to Im⁷ so V in minor
From the root to b9 (a half step) 1/2 1 1/2 1

17 C^{7(b9)} Fm⁷ B♭^{7(b9)} E♭m⁷

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Just Friends

There is a similarity between dim, b9 and #9 chords, the scale and voicings of the left hand.
 $A7 = C7 = Eb7 = Gb7$

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Because there is some consistency in the moving minor 3 you can experiment with melodies shifting minor thirds with and without the chord.
 Check the George Cables recording 'Old Wine New Bottles' for a lot of examples

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Go to www.pianotunes.eu for the video tutorial and a lot of other information about playing piano, Jazz and improvisation