

# About this LEVER Harp Edition of the "Modulation Staircase"

The Modulation Staircase is the first step in the full Modulation Warmup Series that includes warmups in arpeggios, scales, rhythms, classical and jazz techniques. Each step in the series takes you through the practice of modulating from key to key. As they progress, each pattern introduces different technical, rhythmic, improvisatory or harmonic elements.

This specific mini-series sets up the basic modulation pattern and - if you're using the online resources - the use of the Modulation Star Chart.

You don't need to know anything about harmony to play the music. Just practice the basics, move it from key to key as written in the music and look for the patterns and subpatterns. Eventually it's best to memorize each pattern and the key series, but use the music however it works best for you.

# The Legacy Project Creative Team for Modulation Staircase Steps 1-2-3-4 is

Sally Walstrum • Heleen Vandeputte • Tammy Halun Gustavo Muñoz • Verena Jochum • Mary Robinson

Special Thanks to the Members of Hip Harp Academy for their input as the First Readers of this mini-series.

### Where does this publication fit in the Harp Repertoire?

This lever harp series is part of my mission to create compositions, training and resources for lever harp that are comparable with that which is available for pedal harp so that these powerful, flexible instruments - and their players - have the tools, skills and resources to expand their creative voices powerfully in the world.

**This particular mini-series will create a deeper sense of connection with your instrument,** in particular with the levers and how they impact music theory and harmony and expand your options in many ways: to combine pieces that you didn't think might fit together, moving from key to key and knowing what levers to change with confidence, and the flexibility to play in different keys.

#### This is a special Beta Edition. For updates or errata list:

Go to HipHarp.com, look for the Projects and then for Modulation Staircase. As we're still in Beta it may take a few weeks for errata page & online resources to be available.

**HAVE FUN!** 

#### **About this Edition of "Modulation Staircase"**

The "Modulation Staircase" is the first part of a "Modulation Warmup Series," which combines the practice of modulating from key to key with developing skills in rhythm, technique, harmony and improvisation - and it's part of my mission to create tools and training for harpists in the fundamentals of improv and jazz.

As we were preparing to publish the Warmup Series, we realized we needed a pre-series that would give harpists a foundation in modulating before combining modulation with skills of harmony, rhythm and technique. So we created this mini-series to introduce harpists to modulation in its simplest form as a foundation for the series of warmups to follow.

This mini-series will create a deeper sense of connection with your instrument, in particular with the levers, their patterns, and how they impact music theory and harmony. It will help you combine pieces you didn't think might fit together, move from key to key, know what levers to change with confidence, and have the flexibility to play in different keys.

This particular lever harp series is part of my mission to create compositions, training and resources for lever harp to give these powerful, flexible instruments and their players more tools, skills and resources to expand their creative voices powerfully in the world.

#### This is a Lever Harp Edition BUT it's for Pedal Harpists, too

For the purposes of modulation training this edition works for any harp - and what you learn in this series can be applied directly to any key on any harp. This edition includes all the keys that most harpists are likely play in - regardless of the type of harp you play. - but we do plan to release a future version that includes modulation to all the pedal harp keys as well.

**You don't need to know anything about harmony to play the music.** This mini-series sets up the basic modulation pattern and - if you're using the online resources - will show you how to use the Modulation Star Chart.

Just practice the basics, move it from key to key as written in the music and look for the patterns and sub-patterns. Eventually it's best to memorize each pattern and the key series, but use the music however it works best for you.

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#### **HAVE FUN!**

# Going Up & Down the Modulation Staircase

## "Going Up"

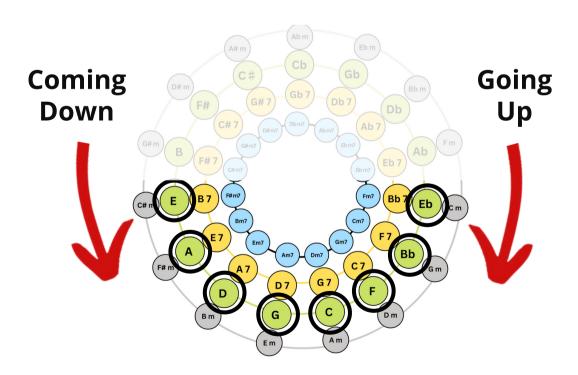
"Going Up" means that this pattern will modulate you the next more 'sharp' key in the circle of 5ths. Eg:  $\mathbf{Eb} > \mathbf{Bb} > \mathbf{F} > \mathbf{C} > \mathbf{G} > \mathbf{D} > \mathbf{E}$ 

## "Coming Down"

"Coming Down" means that this pattern will modulate you the next more 'flat' key in the circle of 5ths. Eg:  $\mathbf{E} > \mathbf{A} > \mathbf{D} > \mathbf{G} > \mathbf{C} > \mathbf{F} > \mathbf{Bb} > \mathbf{Eb}$ 

#### The Modulation Star Chart

If you have access to online resources of the Modulation Staircase, you'll have access to the interactive "Modulation" Star Chart which walks you through the modulations. If not, don't worry. Just learning the patterns and playing them will train you in modulating from key to key in the Circle of Fifths.



To Access the Online Learning Resources HipHarp.com/modulation-staircase

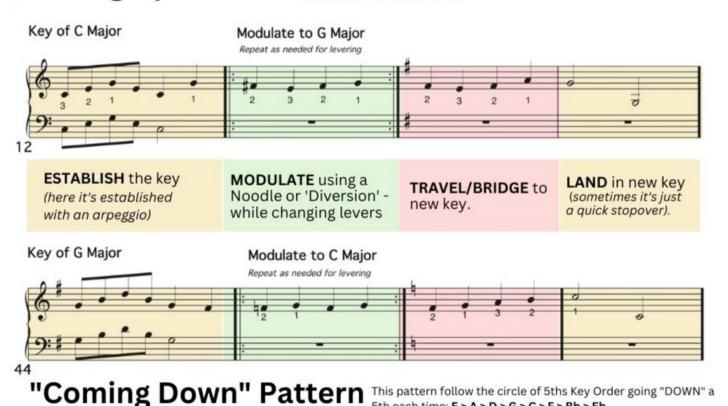
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# **STEP 1:** Modulation Staircase

In which we meet the basic modulation pattern of establishing the key, modulating, bridging, and landing in the new key

#### STEP 1 - Modulation Staircase - Pattern Overview & Breakdown

"Going Up" Pattern This pattern follow the circle of 5ths Key Order going "UP" a 5th each time:



FN: Canva: Modulation Staircase - Patterns & Promotions - UD 230814 - 10:45 AM

5th each time: E > A > D > G > C > F > Bb > Eb

# STEP 1: Modulation Staircase Warmup

Version #1 (230821)

In this step you play the triad of the key you're in, locate the lever that will modulate you to the next key in the circle of 5th and modulate.

This grounds you in WHAT and WHERE is the next lever to change, and lets you practice playing a 'diversion' while you change the levers. You can choose to change levers throughout the whole harp, or just in the middle two octaves - whichever you prefer to do.

Note that during the modulating measure, depending on when you change your lever, you may hear the change of key while you're playing that measure or not. It doesn't matter when you hear the pitch change - it's a matter of taste and whatever's easiest for you right now. In other words, in the 2nd measure of each pattern you can change the lever whenever works for you, there's not a 'right way' to do it.

#### "Going Up" Pattern

(From Eb Major to E Major via the Circle of 5ths)













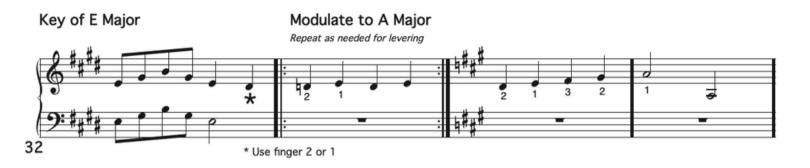




### "Coming Down" Pattern

#### (From E Major to Eb Major via the Circle of 5ths)

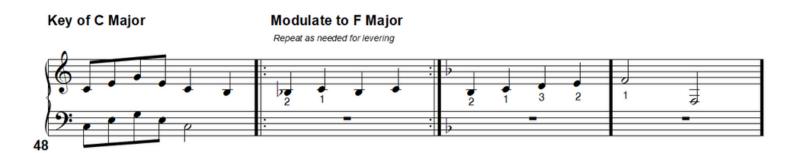
(Note the alternate fingering for the last note of the first measure - do whatever is easiest for you)















#### Key of Eb Major



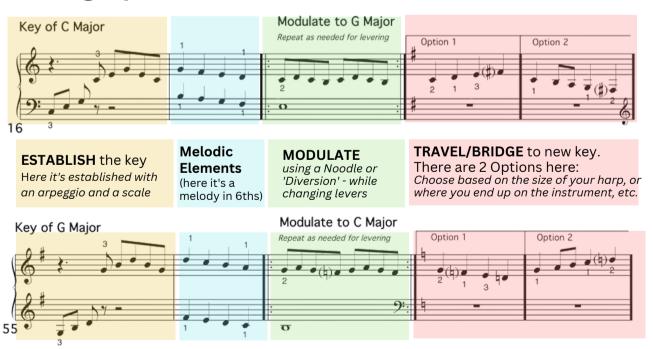
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# STEP 2: Modulation Staircase

In which we add more Melodic Elements

#### Step 2 - Modulation Staircase Warmup - Pattern Overview & Breakdown

"Going Up" Pattern This pattern follow the circle of 5ths Key Order going "UP" a 5th each time: Eb>Bb>F>C>G>D>A>E



"Coming Down" Pattern This pattern follow the circle of 5ths Key Order going "DOWN" a 5th each time: E > A > D > G > C > F > Bb > Eb

### STEP 2

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# Modulation Staircase Warmup

Version #1 (230821)

Use this Warmup to get familiar with the Circle of 5ths Modulation Patterns

Look for the patterns and component- or sub-patterns.

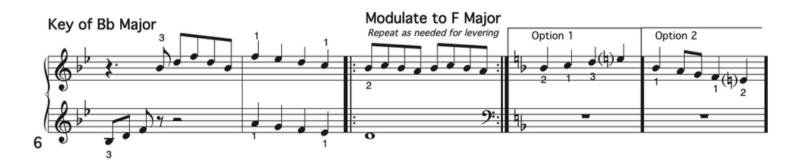
Why are there two different options for the final measure of each line?

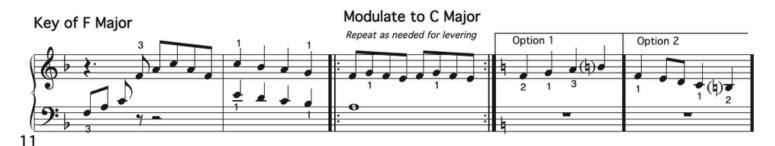
When would you use each?

In the "Coming Down" Patterns what's different about the last 2 measures of each line as compared to the "Going Up" Patterns? Why does this happen?

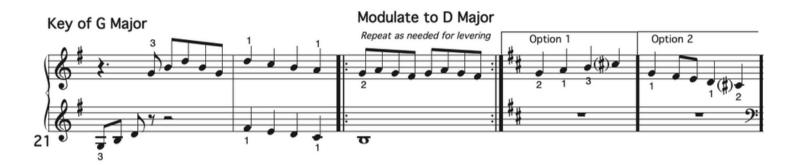
"Going Up" Pattern (From Eb Major to E Major via the Circle of 5ths)

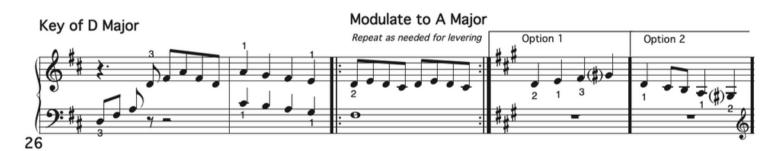


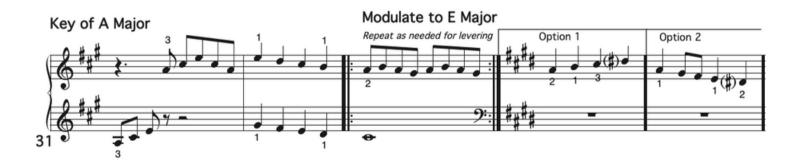


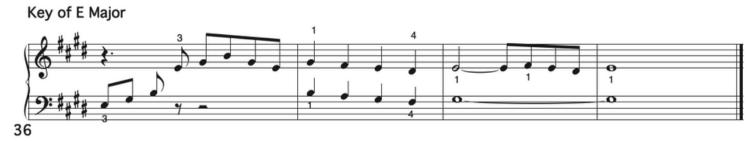






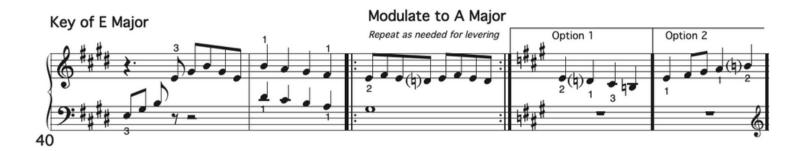


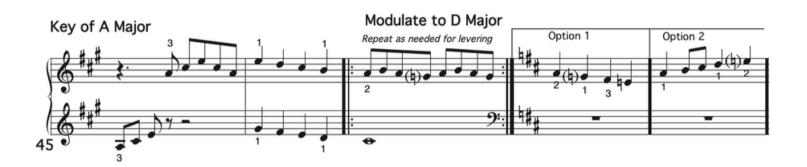


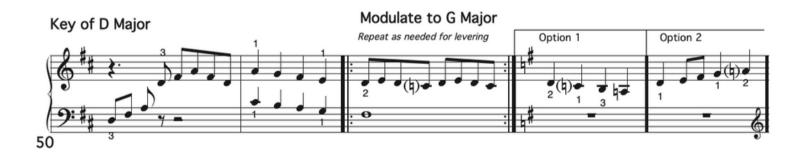


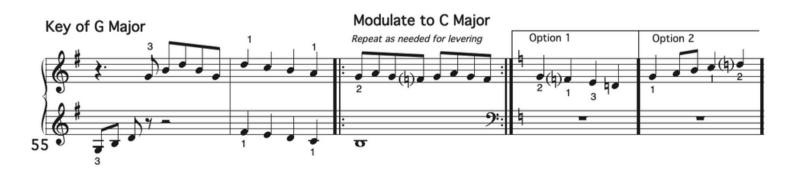
Step-02-Modulation-Staircase-v5DHC.musx / musiclab ud 8/24/23 @2023 Deborah Henson-Conant

## "Coming Down" Pattern (From E Major to Eb Major via the Circle of 5ths)



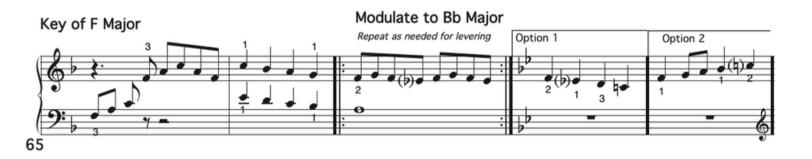


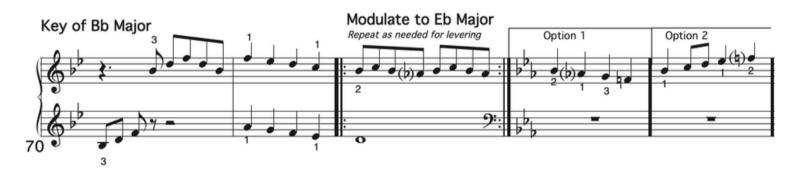


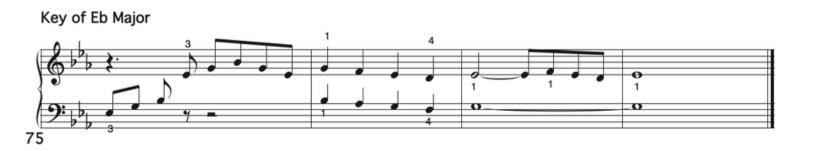


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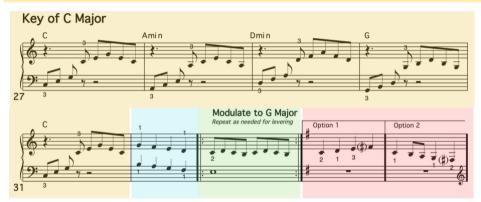


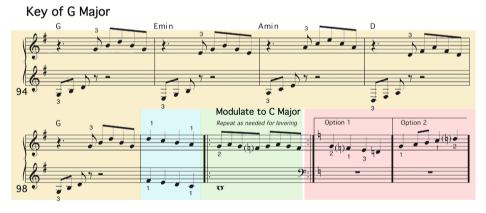
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# STEP 3: Modulation Staircase

In which we combine a 1-6-2-5 progression with the basic pattern

#### Step 3 - Modulation Staircase Warmup - Pattern Overview & Breakdown





#### "Going Up" Pattern

The "Going Up" pattern follows the circle of 5ths Key Order going "UP" a 5th each time: Eb > Bb > F > C > G > D > A > E

A PROGRESSION (to establish the key - it just happens to be arpeggiated). This progression is: 1 - 6 - 2 - 5 (1)

**Melodic Elements** (here it's a melody in 6ths)

**Modulating** Noodle or 'Diversion'

**Bridge** to new key. There may be different options based on where you end up on the instrument, etc.

The "Coming Down" pattern follows the circle of 5ths Key Order going "DOWN" a 5th each time:

E > A > D > G > C > F > Bb > Eb

"Coming Down" Pattern

FN: Canva: Modulation Staircase Warmup Patterns - UD 230806 - 10pm

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## STEP 3

# **Modulation Staircase Warmup**

Version #1 (230821)

This step adds a "1-6-2-5" PROGRESSION to the beginning of the warmup.

Use this Warmup to get familiar with that progression and the

Circle of 5ths Modulation Patterns

Look for the patterns and component- or sub-patterns. Is there any place in this warmup that you see any of the previous steps embedded? If so, how much of that previous step is embedded and where is it in each warmup?

What does that suggest about how you might use these warmup patterns in your playing?

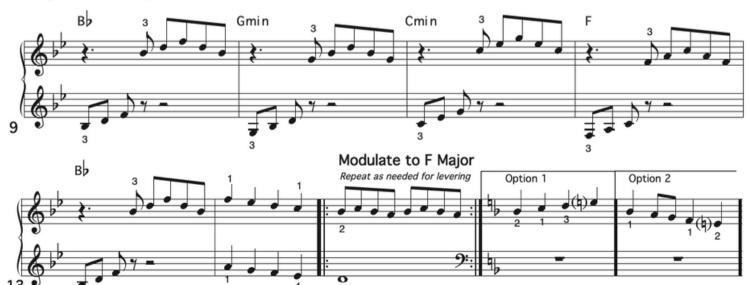
### "Going Up" Pattern (From Eb Major to E Major via the Circle of 5ths)

#### Key of Eb Major



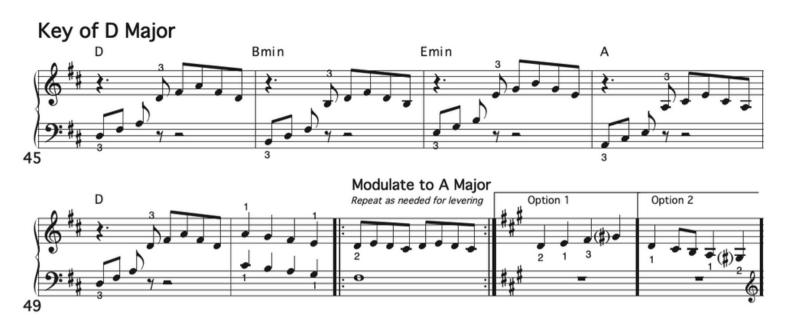


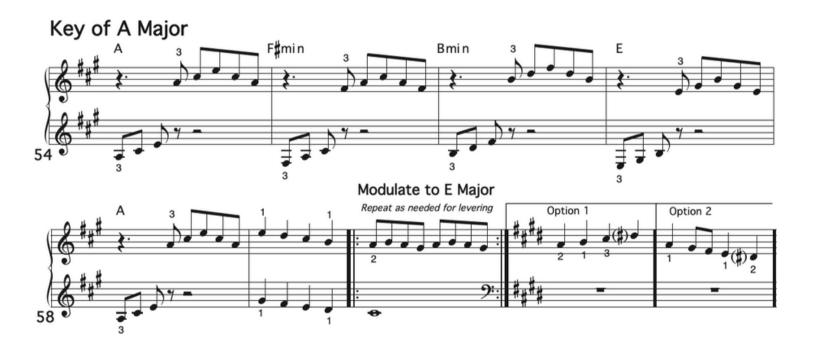
#### Key of Bb Major

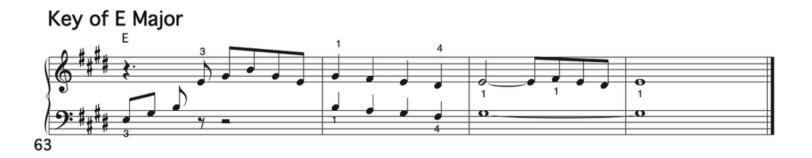




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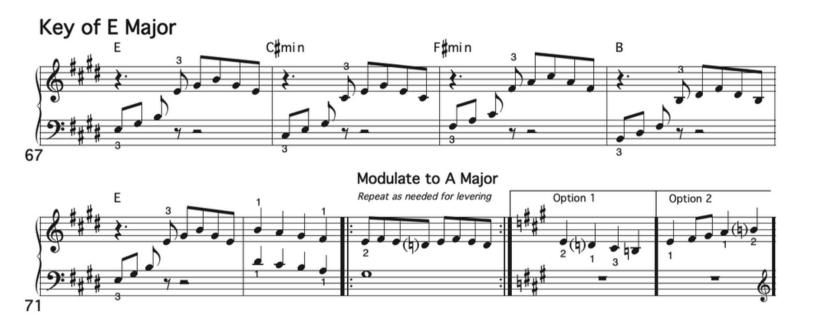




## "Coming Down" Pattern (From EMajor to Eb Major via the Circle of 5ths)

Note that during the modulating measure, depending on when you change your lever, you may hear the change of key during the modulating measure.

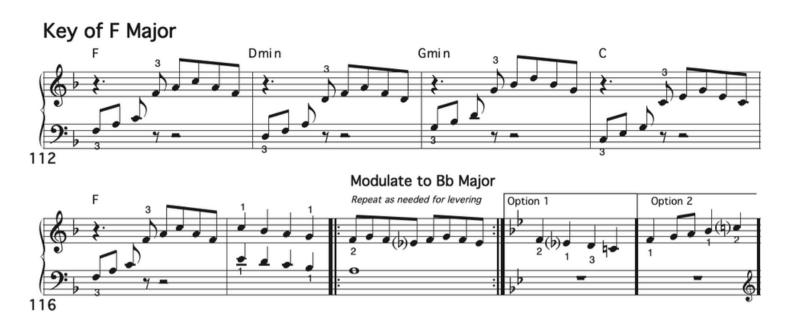
It doesn't matter when you hear the pitch change - it's a matter of taste and whatever's easiest for you right now.

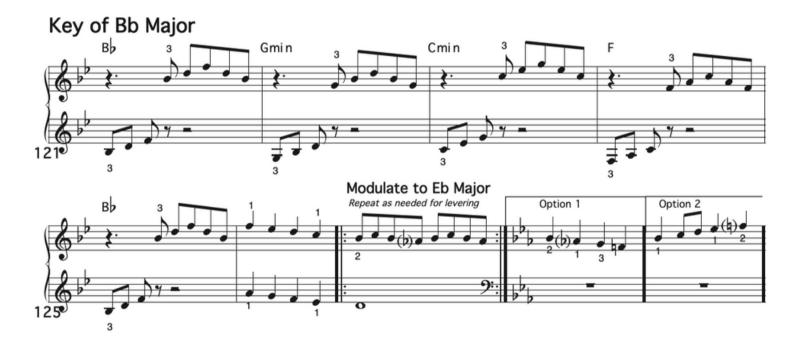


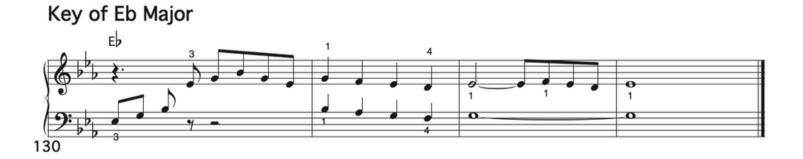




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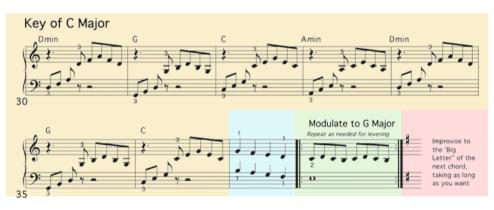
# STEP 4: Modulation Staircase [The Bridge!]

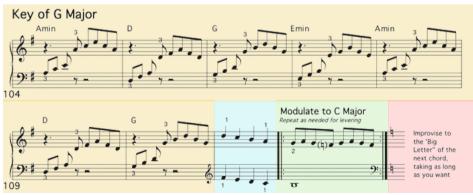
In which we expand the progression and change it to 2-5-1-6

This step isn't really a part of the first series - but is a bridge to more advanced warmups where the 2-5-1-6 progression is used for developing rhythms, improv or more complex techniques.

This step will bridge you to the series that follow this one.

Step 4 - Modulation Staircase Warmup - Pattern Overview & Breakdown





#### "Going Up" Pattern

The "Going Up" pattern follows the circle of 5ths Key Order going "UP" a 5th each time: Eb > Bb > F > C > G > D > A > E

A PROGRESSION (to establish the key - it just happens to be arpeggiated). This progression is: 2-5-1-6 2-5-1-1

**Melodic Elements** (here it's a melody in 6ths)

**Modulating** Noodle or 'Diversion'

**Bridge** to new key. In this version, you get to improvise the bridge to the next key, noodling to the Big Letter of the next chord

The "Coming Down" pattern follows the circle of 5ths Key Order going "DOWN" a 5th each time:

E > A > D > G > C > F > Bb > Eb

"Coming Down" Pattern

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## STEP 4

# **Modulation Staircase Warmup**

Version #1 (230821)

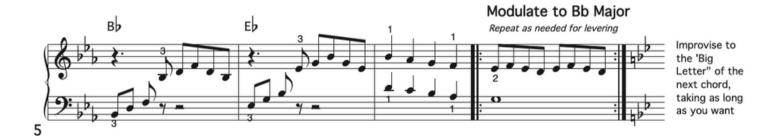
This step adds a "2-5-1-6" 2-5-1-1" PROGRESSION to the beginning of the warmup. This will prepare you for the next set of steps.

Notice that the last 4 Bars of each warmup is exactly the same as the entire pattern in Step 2. What does that suggest about how you might use these warmup patterns in your playing? What other patterns from the Staircase are being re-used? Is there any place in the first 8 measures of this warmup that you see in Step 3?

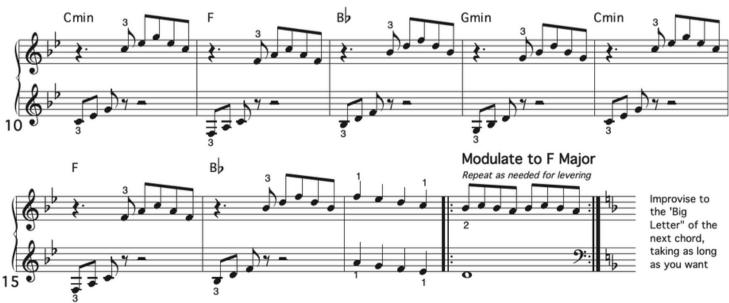
"Going Up" Pattern (From Eb Major to E Major via the Circle of 5ths)







#### Key of Bb Major



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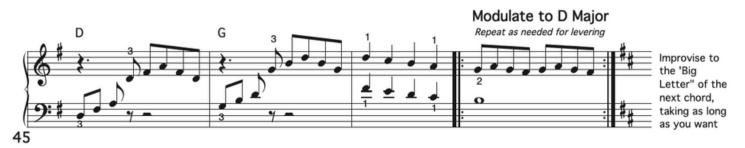
### Key of C Major





### Key of G Major













#### Key of E Major

Note: You can skip these 4 measures and go straight to the "Coming Down" Pattern, if you prefer.

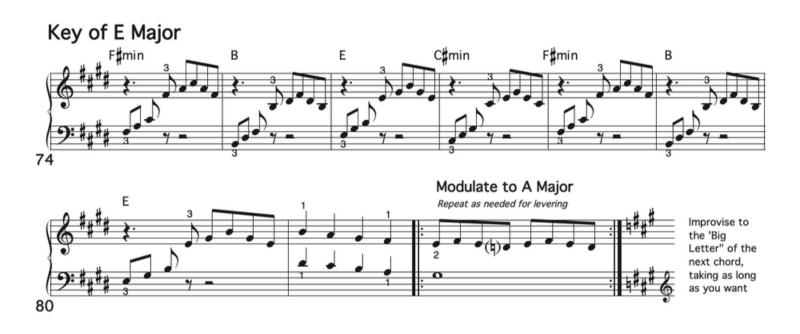


### "Coming Down" Pattern

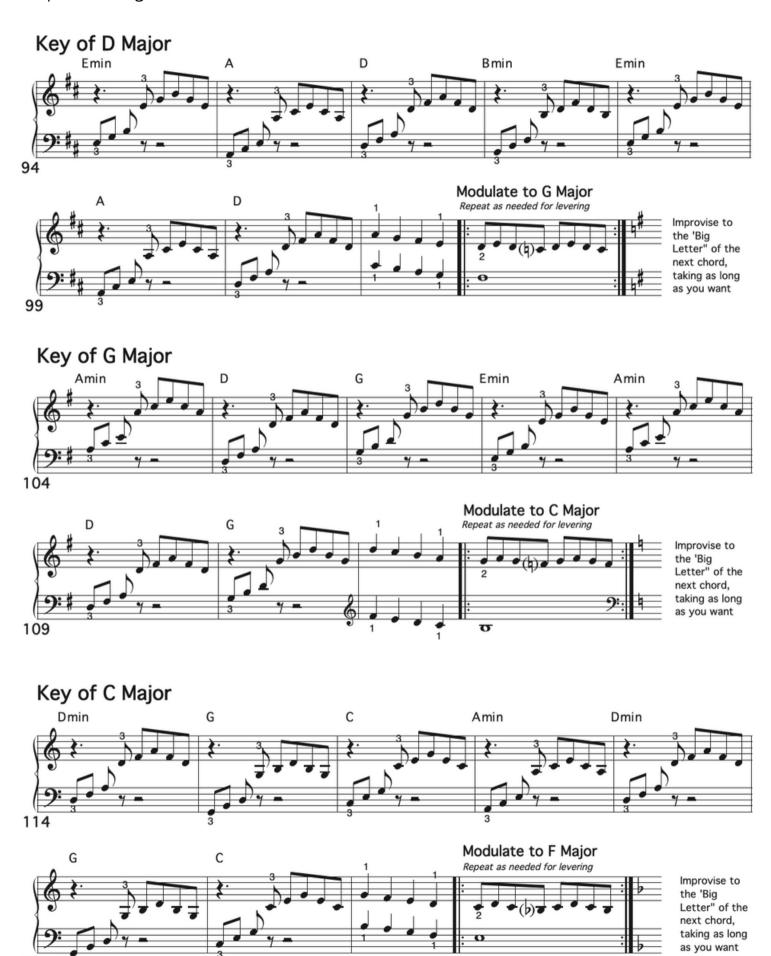
### (From E Major to Eb Major via the Circle of 5ths)

Note that during the modulating measure, depending on when you change your lever, you may hear the change of key during the modulating measure.

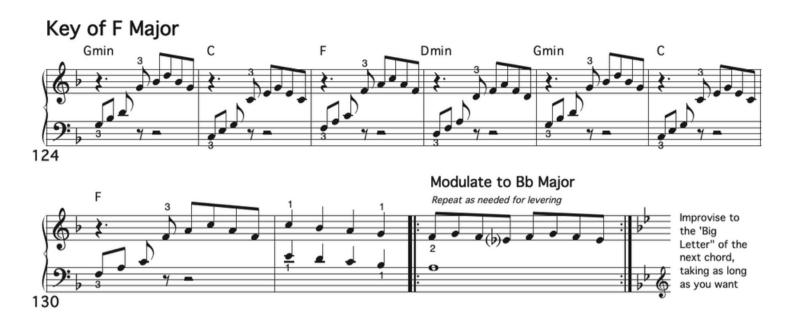
It doesn't matter when you hear the pitch change - it's a matter of taste and whatever's easiest for you right now.

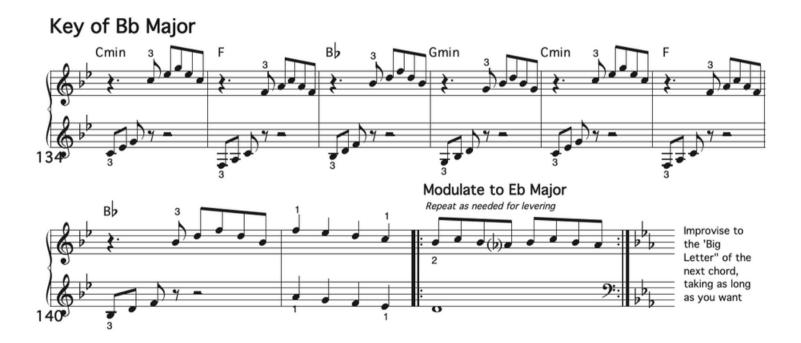


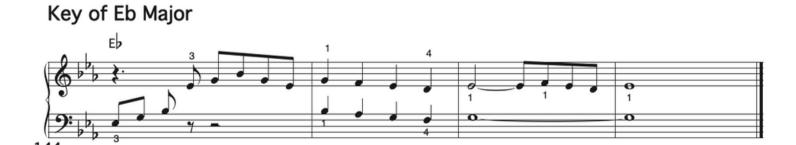




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# I hope you enjoyed the Modulation Staircase Steps 1-2-3-4

# Stay tuned for more advanced versions of the modulation patterns.

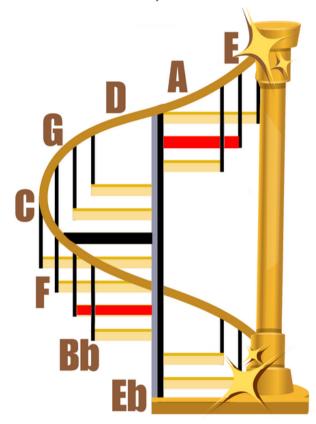
To access the Online Learning Resources go to HipHarp.com/modulation-staircase

To share any mistakes you found, questions or suggestions, use the "Ask-a-Question" form:

HipHarp.com/ask

# **Modulation Staircase**

Solo LEVER Harp • Beta Edition



Other Publications by Deborah Henson-Conant can be found at

HipHarp.com

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