

CHROMATIC SCALE—Trombone

What is the Chromatic Scale? The Chromatic Scale is a scale made up entirely of half-steps. It starts and ends on the same pitch, for a total of 13 pitches. You can start on any pitch, and end on that same pitch. We use SHARPS for note names ASCENDING the scale, and FLATS for note names DESCENDING.

TERMS you need to know to help you understand the Chromatic Scale:

- **Accidentals**- sharps #, flats ♭, or naturals ♮
- **Sharp**- will raise the pitch one half step #
- **Flat**- will lower the pitch one half step ♭
- **Enharmonics**- two notes that sound the SAME pitch, have the SAME fingering/position, but have DIFFERENT note names. (For example: C# and D♭, G# and A♭)
- **Ascending**- moving UP the scale
- **Descending**- moving DOWN the scale
- **Half-Step**- The closest two notes can be to one another. (There are no pitches in between a half step.)

The minus sign (-2 or -3) means the 2nd position is a “short 2nd” or a “short 3rd”

Your Concert B♭ Chromatic Scale Ascending

B♭ B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A B♭

1 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 5 4 -3 -2 1

Your Concert B♭ Chromatic Scale Descending

B♭ A A♭ G G♭ F E E♭ D D♭ C B B♭

1 -2 -3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1