


Cajun Accordion Music Theory - Files

Just let me say this up front: I am no expert at any of this, just learning this stuff like most folks here. I have been playing the accordion for around 10 years now and have just learned the basics of Music Theory. After reading Jamie Hall's Music Theory; it has shined a new light on the subject. I can't believe that I have learned so much by ear and not having known what I was doing (in regards to keys, chords, and notes). Since reading Jamie's music theory I have bought a guitar and really been learning the theory behind the madness; and I now finally understand all that jiberish (KEY Mumbo Jumbo) that everyone has been talking about.

I have attached a few files that I created in regards to what I have been learning.

Please note that one should read Jamie Hall's Music Theory Document prior to reading further.

FIRST: MUSIC Theory: a document that I created to show all of the notes in the major scale, the notes in the major chords, and the chords in the keys. Along the top Row you will find all 12 possible notes in order (one half step apart); for each one of these notes I have shown the music symbol which represents that particular key (I.E. C = .

Under each of these notes I have shown the notes that make up that particular scale. This will help you understand how a scale is created (I.E. for the KEY of C = 1st-C, 2nd-whole-D, 3rd-whole-E, 4th-half-F, 5th-whole-G, 6th-whole-A, 7th-whole-B, 8th-half-C) and show you which notes create that scale.

Under the notes in the scale I have taken the 1st, 3rd, and 5th notes to show the three notes that make up the major chord. Together these three notes will make the sound of that chord (I.E. the 1st-C,3rd-E,5th-G Notes will make a C chord).

Under this I have included the notes that make up the minor chord which is created by simply using the notes from the major chord and flattening the 3rd note (I.E. the 1st-C, flattened 3rd-**E_b**,5th-G Notes will make a C minor Chord).

Under this I have listed the Principal chords that will likely be played in a certain key; which for a 2 chord song will likely be the 1st and 5th chord of the scale and for a 3 chord song will likely be the 1st, 4th, and 5th chord of the scale (I.E. The Calcasieu Waltz - Played in C (On a C accordion - Push 1st Position) - will include the chords 1st-C, 2nd-F,& 3rd-G, I.E. The Back Door Played in G (On a C accordion - Pull 2nd Position) - will include the chords 1st-G, 2nd-C, & 3rd-D)

Under this I have listed other relative minor chords that go along with that key (I.E. in the Key of C - Am, Dm, E7 can be played).

SECOND: ACCORDION Key Theory: A document that I created to show all of the chords in a certain key (For A, Bb, C, D, & G accordions) being played, all of the possible button/tablature variations to play those chords, and the relationship between

chords and different Keys/Positions of the accordion. I.E. shows what the chords will be when you change position / modulate in a song.

I have used some of the information from the MUSIC THEORY file to create this to show the particulars about what can be played on a certain Key Accordion. Notice on the top row you will find the Keys that can be played (I.E. On the C accordion you can play in C (1st Push Position), in F(3rd Partial Position), and in G (2nd Pull Position).

Below each key column you will find the three notes that make up that major chord (I.E. the C,E,G Notes make up the C Chord. I will use this below to show the button variations that will make up the different chords. (Notice that many of which will only include 2 of the 3 needed notes to make up the chords). Many cajun accordion players call these blends, but are actually partial chords.

Under this you will find the three principal chords that will be played in that particular key (I.E. in the key of C - you will play the 1st-C Chord, 4th-F Chord, 5th-G Chord in a song that consists of three chords, If the song is in the key of C and only consists of two chords you will likely play the 1st-C Chord, & 5th-G Chord)

To the right of each chord you will find the button combinations that will make up that chord; with push #'s in **RED** and pull #'s in **Blue**. (I.E. On a C accordion the C-Chord can be played 8 different ways by using any three consecutive buttons on the push - **1E-2G-3C**, **2G-3C-4E-**, **3C-4E-5G**, and so on....) (I.E. On a C accordion the G-Chord can only be fully played by pulling the - **1'G-3'D-6'B**, but can partially be played a few other ways by pulling the **3'D-6'B**, **6'B-7'D**, & **7'D-10'B**. Cajun songs in the key of G are often ended not with the Chord of G but with the octave of G notes on the push **5G-8G**, or **2G-5G**) (I.E. On a C accordion the D-Chord can only be partially played by pulling the **3'D-5'A**, **5'A-8'F**, or **8'F-9'A**).

Notice that on a C Accordion the only two keys than can fully be played are the Key of C and the Key of G (meaning that they both of which can play all three principal chords in each key - I.E. In the Key of C the chords C,F,G can all be played, and in the Key of G the chords G,C,D can all be played). With this being said notice that on a Key of C accordion in the Key of D you can't play the 5th chord (A) or in the Key of F you can't play the 4th chord (Bb). So only two chord songs can be fully converted from C or G over to F (I.E. J'ete A Bal, Les Flamme D'enfer, etc.... which are both played in G then modulated down to F).

THIRD: Cajun Accordion Guitar Note Decode: A document that I created using Big Nick's Button Decode and some other guitar note information to show the relationship between guitar notes and accordion notes based on a Key of C accordion.

I just wanted to share this information with anyone who is at the stage where they can use it. I have noticed a step change in my accordion playing skills and the speed of learning a new song ever since I have had this information at my fingertips and since learning to play the guitar.

Again please note that I am not an expert and just learning most of this so feel free to

ask questions / comment as you feel needed.

This really shows you the relationship of chords/notes while either switching key accordions or playing in different positions (Push, Pull, etc..) on the same accordion. Hope this can help some of you. Let me know if there are any issues that you may need help with.

Hope you Enjoy:

Brett Thibodeaux

thibodeauxba@yahoo.com

1-21-11

Note Sequence -->

KEY

Notes in Scale

- 1
- 2 Whole
- 3 Whole
- 4 Half
- 5 Whole
- 6 Whole
- 7 Whole
- 8 Half

	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B
C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	
D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	
E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	
F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	Eb	E	F#	
G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	Eb	E#	F	F#	G	
A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	E	F	F#	G	A	Bb	
B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	
C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	

Notes in Major Chord

- 1
- 3
- 5

C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B
E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb
G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#

Notes in Minor Chord

- 1
- 3b
- 5

C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B
Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D
G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#

3 Principal Chords in key (Note a two chord song will use the 1st & 5th chords)

- 1
- 4
- 5

C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B
F	F#	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E
G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	F#

Relative Minor Chords in Key

Am	Bbm	Bm	Cm	C#m	Dm	D#m	Em	Fm	F#m	Gm	G#m
Dm	Ebm	Em	Fm	F#m	Gm	G#m	Am	Bbm	Bm	Cm	C#m
E7	F7	F#7	G7	G#7	A7	A#m	B7	C7	C#7	D7	D#7

Possible Keys (A Accordion)

KEY of Song

Notes in Major Chord

1
3
5

A Push (1st Position)	B	D (3rd Partial Position)	E Pull (2nd Position)
A	B	D	E
Db	Eb	F#	Ab
E	F#	A	B

Accordion button combinations that make up the chord (# = Push / #' = Pull)

3 Principal Chords in key (Note a two chord song will use the 1st & 5th chords)

1	A	1Db-2E-3A, 2E-3A-4Db, 3A-4Db-5E, 4Db-5E-6A, 5E-6A-7Db, 6A-7Db-8E, 7Db-8E-9A, 8E-9A-10Db	B	3'B-5'F#, 5'F#-7'B, 7'B-9'F#	D	4'D-5'F#, 5'F#-8'D, 8'D-9'F#	E	1'E-3'B-6'Ab, 3'B-6'Ab, 6'Ab-7'B, 7'B-10'Ab, 5E-8E, 2E-5E
4	D	4'D-5'F#, 5'F#-8'D, 8'D-9'F#	E	1'E-3'B-6'Ab, 3'B-6'Ab, 6'Ab-7'B, 7'B-10'Ab, 5E-8E, 2E-5E	G		A	1Db-2E-3A, 2E-3A-4Db, 3A-4Db-5E, 4Db-5E-6A, 5E-6A-7Db, 6A-7Db-8E, 7Db-8E-9A, 8E-9A-10Db
5	E	1'E-3'B-6'Ab, 3'B-6'Ab, 6'Ab-7'B, 7'B-10'Ab, 5E-8E, 2E-5E	F#		A	1Db-2E-3A, 2E-3A-4Db, 3A-4Db-5E, 4Db-5E-6A, 5E-6A-7Db, 6A-7Db-8E, 7Db-8E-9A, 8E-9A-10Db	B	3'B-5'F#, 5'F#-7'B, 7'B-9'F#

Possible Keys (Bb Accordion)

KEY of Song	Bb Push (1st Position)	C	Eb (3rd Partial Position)	F Pull (2nd Position)
Notes in Major Chord				
1	Bb	C	Eb	F
3	D	E	G	A
5	F	G	Bb	C

Accordion button combinations that make up the chord (# = Push / #' = Pull)
 3 Principal Chords in key (Note a two chord song will use the 1st & 5th chords)

1	Bb	C	Eb	F
	1D-2F-3Bb, 2F-3Bb-4D, 3Bb-4D-5F, 4D-5F-6Bb, 5F-6Bb-7D, 6Bb-7D-8F, 7D-8F-9Bb, 8F-9Bb-10D	3'C-5'G, 5'G-7'C, 7'C-9'G	4'Eb-5'G, 5'G-8'Eb, 8'Eb-9'G	1'F-3'C-6'A, 3'C-6'A, 6'A-7'C, 7'C-10'A, 5F-8F, 2F-5F
4	Eb	F	Ab	Bb
	4'Eb-5'G, 5'G-8'Eb, 8'Eb-9'G	1'F-3'C-6'A, 3'C-6'A, 6'A-7'C, 7'C-10'A, 5F-8F, 2F-5F		1D-2F-3Bb, 2F-3Bb-4D, 3Bb-4D-5F, 4D-5F-6Bb, 5F-6Bb-7D, 6Bb-7D-8F, 7D-8F-9Bb, 8F-9Bb-10D
5	F	G	Bb	C
	1'F-3'C-6'A, 3'C-6'A, 6'A-7'C, 7'C-10'A, 5F-8F, 2F-5F		1D-2F-3Bb, 2F-3Bb-4D, 3Bb-4D-5F, 4D-5F-6Bb, 5F-6Bb-7D, 6Bb-7D-8F, 7D-8F-9Bb, 8F-9Bb-10D	3'C-5'G, 5'G-7'C, 7'C-9'G

Possible Keys (C Accordion)

KEY of Song

Notes in Major Chord

1
3
5

C Push (1st Position)	D	F (3rd Partial Position)	G Pull (2nd Position)
C	D	F	G
E	F#	A	B
G	A	C	D

Accordion button combinations that make up the chord (# = Push / #' = Pull)

3 Principal Chords in key (Note a two chord song will use the 1st & 5th chords)

1	C	1E-2G-3C, 2G-3C-4E, 3C-4E-5G, 4E-5G-6C, 5G-6C-7E, 6C-7E-8G, 7E-8G-9C, 8G-9C-10E	D	3'D-5'A, 5'A-7'D, 7'D-9'A	F	4'F-5'A, 5'A-8'F, 8'F-9'A	G	1'G-3'D-6'B, 3'D-6'B, 6'B-7'D, 7'D-10'B, 5G-8G, 2G-5G
4	F	4'F-5'A, 5'A-8'F, 8'F-9'A	G	1'G-3'D-6'B, 3'D-6'B, 6'B-7'D, 7'D-10'B, 5G-8G, 2G-5G	Bb		C	1E-2G-3C, 2G-3C-4E, 3C-4E-5G, 4E-5G-6C, 5G-6C-7E, 6C-7E-8G, 7E-8G-9C, 8G-9C-10E
5	G	1'G-3'D-6'B, 3'D-6'B, 6'B-7'D, 7'D-10'B, 5G-8G, 2G-5G	A		C	1E-2G-3C, 2G-3C-4E, 3C-4E-5G, 4E-5G-6C, 5G-6C-7E, 6C-7E-8G, 7E-8G-9C, 8G-9C-10E	D	3'D-5'A, 5'A-7'D, 7'D-9'A

Possible Keys (D Accordion)

KEY of Song

| D | Push (1st Position) **| E |** **| G |** (3rd Partial Position) **| A |** Pull (2nd Position) **|**

Notes in Major Chord

1
3
5

D		E		G		A	
F#		Ab		B		Db	
A		B		D		E	

Accordion button combinations that make up the chord (# = Push / #' = Pull)

3 Principal Chords in key (Note a two chord song will use the 1st & 5th chords)

1	D	1F#-2A-3D, 2A-3D-4F#, 3D-4F#-5A, 4F#-5A-6D, 5A-6D-7F#, 6D-7F#-8A, 7F#-8A-9D, 8A-9D-10F#	E	3'E-5'B, 5'B-7'E, 7'E-9'B	G	4'G-5'B, 5'B-8'G, 8'G-9'B	A	1'A-3'E-6'Db, 3'E-6'Db, 6'Db-7'E, 7'E-10'Db, 5A-8A, 2A-5A
4	G	4'G-5'B, 5'B-8'G, 8'G-9'B	A	1'A-3'E-6'Db, 3'E-6'Db, 6'Db-7'E, 7'E-10'Db, 5A-8A, 2A-5A	C		D	1F#-2A-3D, 2A-3D-4F#, 3D-4F#-5A, 4F#-5A-6D, 5A-6D-7F#, 6D-7F#-8A, 7F#-8A-9D, 8A-9D-10F#
5	A	1'A-3'E-6'Db, 3'E-6'Db, 6'Db-7'E, 7'E-10'Db, 5A-8A, 2A-5A	B		D	1F#-2A-3D, 2A-3D-4F#, 3D-4F#-5A, 4F#-5A-6D, 5A-6D-7F#, 6D-7F#-8A, 7F#-8A-9D, 8A-9D-10F#	E	3'E-5'B, 5'B-7'E, 7'E-9'B

Possible Keys (G Accordion)

KEY of Song

Notes in Major Chord

1
3
5

G Push (1st Position)	A	C (3rd Partial Position)	D Pull (2nd Position)
G	A	C	D
B	Db	E	F#
D	E	G	A

Accordion button combinations that make up the chord (# = Push / #' = Pull)

3 Principal Chords in key (Note a two chord song will use the 1st & 5th chords)

1	G	1B-2D-3G, 2D-3G-4B, 3G-4B-5D, 4B-5D-6G, 5D-6G-7B, 6G-7B-8D, 7B-8D-9G, 8D-9G-10B	A	3'A-5'E, 5'E-7'A, 7'A-9'E	C	4'C-5'E, 5'E-8'C, 8'C-9'E	D	1'D-3'A-6'F#, 3'A-6'F#, 6'F#-7'A, 7'A-10'F#, 5D-8D, 2D-5D
4	C	4'C-5'E, 5'E-8'C, 8'C-9'E	D	1'D-3'A-6'F#, 3'A-6'F#, 6'F#-7'A, 7'A-10'F#, 5D-8D, 2D-5D	F		G	1B-2D-3G, 2D-3G-4B, 3G-4B-5D, 4B-5D-6G, 5D-6G-7B, 6G-7B-8D, 7B-8D-9G, 8D-9G-10B
5	D	1'D-3'A-6'F#, 3'A-6'F#, 6'F#-7'A, 7'A-10'F#, 5D-8D, 2D-5D	E		G	1B-2D-3G, 2D-3G-4B, 3G-4B-5D, 4B-5D-6G, 5D-6G-7B, 6G-7B-8D, 7B-8D-9G, 8D-9G-10B	A	3'A-5'E, 5'E-7'A, 7'A-9'E

Cajun Accordion (button decode)

<http://www.bignick.net>

Big Nick & the Cydecos
Copyright © 2005 by Tom Nickel

1

1 1' 2 2' 3 3' 4 4' 5 5' 6' 6 7' 7 8' 8 9' 10' 9 10
E G G B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E G

E	F	G	A	B	C	D
B	C	D	E	F	G	A
G	A	B	C	D	E	F
D	E	F	G	A	B	C
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
E	F	G	A	B	C	D