

The Three Row Diatonic Melodeon A Comprehensive Guide

Part 5a – The Accidentals

The 6 notes on the chin-end buttons provide accidentals. These are the notes (*F, *Eb, G# and Bb - *two octave repeats). The F, Eb and Bb notes don't appear in any of the three scales featured on this instrument.

i.e. there is no F, Eb and Bb note in the major scales of A, D or G. Such notes, if they occur in tunes set in these keys (which can happen), are called accidentals or accidents if you like in that you're not expecting them to happen! Although G# does appear in the scale of A major it is any accidental in the keys of D major and G major.

Many tunes feature accidental notes alongside those from the major scale of the key signature – so, in other words, accidentals can be useful.

Right Hand Chords Using Accidental Buttons

The F on the push on the G row could be useful to give you a 7th feel – try adding it to buttons 2,3 and 4 (G7 chord) (F + D + G + B).

The Eb on the pull on the G row when added to buttons 2,3 and 4 will give you a diminished chord – actually four!! – (Eb dim, F# dim, A dim and C dim).

Add the Bb on the pull on the D row to buttons 2,3 and 4 and you get Bb dim, C# dim, E dim and G dim. This note, when added to the G on button 4 on the D row and the D on button 3 on the A row, will give you a G minor chord – not available on the left hand (pull bellows – awkward fingering!)

Similarly, if you add the F on the pull on the A row to buttons 2,3 and 5 you get F dim, B dim, D dim and G# dim.

Chromatic Runs Using Accidentals

Notice how if you play G3 (G row button 3) push D1 (D row button 1) push G3 pull D1 pull you get G, G#, A and Bb. – a chromatic run up.

Similarly if you play D1 push D5 push D1 pull D5 pull you get G#, A, Bb and B – a chromatic run up.

So.. if you play G3 push D1 push G3 pull D1 pull D5 pull you get G, G#, A, Bb and B. – this can be extended.

Similarly if you play A7 pull G1 pull A7 push G1 push you get D, Eb, E and F.

If you play G1 pull D7 pull G1 push and D7 push you get Eb, E, F and F#.

So... if you play A7 pull G1 pull A7 push G1 push D7 push you get D, Eb, E, F and F# etc. This can be extended.

D3 push A1 push D3 pull A1 pull gives you D,Eb,E and F.

Similarly A1 push A4 push A1 pull A4 pull gives you Eb,E,F and F#.

So.... D3 push A1 push D3 pull A1 pull A4 pull gives you D,Eb,E,F and F#.

Try The Third Man excerpt – in the key of Ab – uses only notes on the A and D rows including quite a few accidentals. See my You Tube video – “Learning To Play The Melodeon Blog 52”.

Right Hand Chords

This instrument is fully polyphonic so multiple notes can be played simultaneously. This means that as you have already seen, chords can be played with the right hand – sometimes in a block and sometimes arpeggiated.

You tend to rely on your left hand to provide the chords you need but of course, sometimes you need your right hand notes to do this if the chord you need simply doesn't exist on the left-hand side.

Although I have touched on a few already, I will deal with right hand chords in detail in a separate video.

Now go to Part 6:-

The Three Row Diatonic Melodeon – The Left Hand