## One Seventh Comma Modified Meantone As An All-Around Tuning System

Tim Farley, Registered Piano Technician - 2010 PTG Convention

## Recommended Reading

Carhart, Thad. The Piano Shop on the Left Bank: Discovering a Forgotten Passion in a Paris Atelier. New York: Random House, 2001.

Daniélou, Alain. Music and the Power of Sound: The Influence of Tuning and Intervals of Consciousness. Rochester, VT: Inner Traditions International, 1943, revised edition 1995.

Duffin, Ross. How Equal Temperament Ruined Music and Why You Should Care.
Eskelin, Gerald. Lies My Music Teacher Told Me. Woodland Hills, CA: Stage 3 Publishing, 1994.

Hall, Donald. Musical Acoustics.
Hemholz, Herman. The Sensation of Tone. Published in 1890.
Jorgenson, Owen. Tuning Historical Temperaments by Ear. Northern Michigan University Press, 1977.

* This selection is out of print, but the author has granted permission to copy it. Copies are available for $\$ 25$.
* Note: See page 194 for the Jean Baptiste Romieu 1/7 comma meantone tuning used on Kvapil Chopin CD.

Jorgenson, Owen. Tuning: The Perfection of Eithteenth-Century Temperament, The Lost Art of Nineteenth-Century Temperament, and the Science of Equal Temperanment, Complete with Instrumctions for Aural and Electronic Tuning. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 1991.

McClain, Ernest G. The Myth of Invariance: The origin of the Gods, Mathematics and Music From the Rg Veda to Plato. York Beach, ME: Nicolas-Hays, Inc., 1976, 1984.

Ruland, Heiner. Expanding Tonal Awareness.
Steblin, Rita. A History of Key Characteristics in the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries. Ann Arbor, MI: UMI Research Press. (Thesis may be obtained through University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana inter-library loan.)

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## Recommended Listening

The King's Singers" CD La Dolce Vita, Catalog \#1226

* Available by CD mail order through 503-472-6971

Ton Koopman (any performances on organ or harpsichord)
Pieter Wispelway on Channel Classics 6494
Archibudille. Schubert, Beethoven, etc. Especially listen to any trios without piano, as they are wonderful examples of tuning.

Andrew Lawrence King CDs La Harpe Royale, ale, Harpe Royal. Pieces without piano are wonderful examples of string players' temperaments.

Andrew Lawrence King CDs La Harpe Royale, Italian Harpe Music and Harp of Lodovico.
Radoslav Kvapil. Czech pianist. Radoslav Kvapil Plays Frédéric Chopin CD produced at Farley's House of Pianos, February 2000. Tuning by Tim Farley.

Wha'd Ya Know radio show. The piano and bass on Michael Feldman's weekly program on National Public Radio has been in meantone for many years. The pianist prefers it.

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## How To Tune To 1/7 Comma MeanTone - Starting From Middle C <br> According to Jean Baptiste Romieu - As found in "Tuning the Historical Temperaments" by Owen Jorgensen

$E b-B b-F-C-G-D-A-E-B-F \#-C \#-G \#$

1. Tune middle $\mathrm{C}_{40}$.
2. Tune $\mathrm{E}_{44}$ from $\mathrm{C}_{40}$ (major $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) wide at 7.0 BPS.
3. Tune $\mathrm{G}_{35}$ from $\mathrm{E}_{44}\left(6^{\mathrm{th}}\right)$ wide at 7.0 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{C}_{40}-\mathrm{E}_{44}$ and $\mathrm{E}_{49}-\mathrm{G}_{35}$ are equal beating at 7.0 BPS.
4. Tune $A_{37}$ from $E_{44}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ narrow at 1.2 BPS.
5. Tune $\mathrm{D}_{42}$ from $\mathrm{A}_{37}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.6 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{D}_{42}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ beats at 1.0 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{E}_{44}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ beats at 1.2 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{C}_{40}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ beats at 1.4 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{D}_{42}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ beats at 1.6 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{C}_{40}-\mathrm{E}_{44}$ (major $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) beats at 7.0 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{E}_{44}\left(6^{\text {th }}\right)$ beats at 7.0 BPS. Test that the $4^{\text {th }} \mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{D}_{42}$ beats $11 / 2$ times as fast as the $5^{\text {th }} \mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{D}_{42}$ (narrow), then test that the $4^{\text {th }} \mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{D}_{42}$ beats $11 / 3$ times as fast as the $5^{\text {th }} \mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{E}_{44}$ (narrow).
6. Tune $\mathrm{E}_{32}$ from $\mathrm{E}_{44}$ pure. Check that the minor $3^{\text {rd }} \mathrm{E}_{32}-\mathrm{G}_{35}$ and the $6^{\text {th }} \mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{E}_{44}$ are both equal beating at 7.0 BPS. Then check that the minor $3^{\text {rd }} \mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{C}_{40}$ beats narrow at 9.3 BPS .
7. Tune $\mathrm{B}_{38}$ from $\mathrm{D}_{42}$ (major $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) wide at 6.2 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{B}_{638}$ beats at 8.3 BPS.
8. Tune $F_{33}$ from $D_{42}\left(6^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 6.2 BPS. Check that the $3^{\text {rd }} B_{b 38}-D_{42}$ and the $6^{\text {th }} F_{33}-D_{42}$ both beat at 6.2 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{F}_{33}-\mathrm{C}_{40}$ beats at 0.9 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{D}_{42}$ beats at 1.0 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{F}_{33}-\mathrm{Bb}_{38}$ beats at 1.2 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{C}_{40}$ beats at 1.4 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{F}_{33}-\mathrm{A}_{37}$ beats at 4.7 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{E}_{44}\left(6^{\text {th }}\right)$ beats at 7.0 BPS.
9. Tune $\mathrm{E}_{b_{31}}$ from $\mathrm{Bb}_{38}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ narrow at 0.8 BPS .
10. Tune $\mathrm{E}_{b_{43}}$ from $\mathrm{B}_{b_{38}}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.7 BPS. Check the octave $\mathrm{E}_{6}$ to $\mathrm{E}_{6}$. Check that $\mathrm{E}_{631}$ $\mathrm{G}_{35}$ beats at 4.1 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{Bb}_{38}$ and $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{E}_{43}$ both beat at 8.3 BPS. Then check the $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion $C$ minor chord. Check that $G_{35}-\mathrm{E}_{643}$ (minor $6^{\text {th }}$ ) beats 8.3 BPS and that $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Eb}$ (minor $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) beats at 11.1 BPS .
11. Tune $\mathrm{B}_{39}$ from $\mathrm{G}_{35}$ (major $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) wide at 5.2 BPS .
12. Tune $\mathrm{C}_{441}$ from $\mathrm{E}_{32}\left(6^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 5.9 BPS. This $6^{\text {th }}\left(\mathrm{E}_{32}-\mathrm{C}_{\# 41}\right)$ should beat the same as $\mathrm{A}_{37}-$ $\mathrm{C} \# 41$. Check the major 3rds: $\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{A}=4.7, \mathrm{G}-\mathrm{B}=5.2, \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{C} \#=5.9$, and $\mathrm{Bb}-\mathrm{D}=6.2$.
13. Tune $F_{\# 34}$ from $B_{39}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.3 BPS. Test that the $4^{\text {th }} F \#_{34}-B_{39}$ beats $11 / 2$ times as fast as the $5^{\text {th }} \mathrm{E}_{32}-\mathrm{B}_{39}$, then test that the $4^{\text {th }} \mathrm{F} \mathrm{F}_{34}-\mathrm{B}_{39}$ also beats $11 / 3$ times as fast as the $5^{\text {th }}$ $\mathrm{F}_{\#_{34}}-\mathrm{C}_{441}$. Check the minor 3rds: $\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{G}=7.0, \mathrm{~F} ;-\mathrm{A}=7.8, \mathrm{G}-\mathrm{Bb}=8.3$. Also check that $\mathrm{F} \#-\mathrm{C} \#=1.0$ and $\mathrm{F} \ddagger-\mathrm{B}=1.3$.
14. Tune $\mathrm{G}_{\# 36}$ from $\mathrm{C}_{\# 41}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.5 BPS. Test that the wolf diminished $6^{\text {th }} \mathrm{Eb}-\mathrm{G} \#$ beats at 3.7 BPS. Chromatically check the major 3rds from $\mathrm{D}_{30}$. Then check the minor 3rds.

## Tuning 1/7 Comma Mean Tone With Five Flats

1/7 Comma Beat Speeds of Chromatic 4ths

| Interval | BPS | BPS, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{F}$ | 1.9 |  |
| $\mathrm{~B}-\mathrm{E}$ | 1.8 |  |
| $\mathrm{~B}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.7 |  |
| $\mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{D}$ | 1.6 |  |
| $\mathrm{~A}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.5 |  |
| $\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{C}$ | 1.4 |  |
| $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{B}$ wolf | 4.4 | 3.1 |
| $\mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.2 |  |
| $\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{A}$ | 1.2 |  |
| $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.1 |  |
| $\mathrm{D}_{30}-\mathrm{G}$ | 1.0 | 0.0 |

1/7 Comma Beat Speeds of Major 3rds

| Interval | BPS | BPS, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{F}$ | 7.4 |  |
| $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{E}$ | 7.0 | 9.3 |
| $\mathrm{~B}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{D}$ | 6.2 |  |
| $\mathrm{~A}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{C}$ | 5.6 |  |
| $\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{B}$ | 5.2 | 7.0 |
| $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 5.0 |  |
| $\mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{A}$ | 4.7 | 6.2 |
| $\mathrm{E}_{31}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{G}$ | 4.2 |  |

## Major 3rds

| G | A | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | B | C | D | E | F |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | F | $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | G | $\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | C | $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |

Minor 3rds

| F | $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | G | $\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | C | $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | D | $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | F |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| D | $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | E | F | G | A | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | B | C | D |

Minor 3rds - 6ths

| $A$ | $C$ | $F$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $G$ | $B^{b}$ | $E^{b}$ |
| $F$ | $A^{b}$ | $D^{b}$ |
| $E$ | $G$ | $C$ |
| $D$ | $F$ | $B^{b}$ |
| $C$ | $E^{b}$ | $A^{b}$ |
| $B^{b}$ | $D^{b}$ | $G^{b}$ |

Major 3rds - 6ths

| $A^{b}$ | $D^{b}$ | $F$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $G$ | $C$ | $E$ |
| $F$ | $B^{b}$ | $D$ |
| $E$ | $A^{b}$ | $C$ |
| $D$ | $G$ | $B$ |
| $D^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $G^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $B^{b}$ |
| $C$ | $F$ | $A$ |
| $B^{b}$ | $E^{b}$ | $G$ |

1/7 Comma Beat Speeds of Chromatic 5ths

| Interval | BPS | BPS, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{F}$ | 1.2 |  |
| $A-\mathrm{E}$ | 1.2 |  |
| $\mathrm{~A}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.1 |  |
| $\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{D}$ | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.0 |  |
| $\mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{C}$ | 0.9 |  |
| $\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{B}$ | 0.9 |  |
| $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 0.8 |  |
| $\mathrm{D}_{30}-\mathrm{A}$ | 0.8 |  |

1/7 Comma Beat Speeds of Minor 3rds

| Interval | BPS | BPS, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $D-F$ | 12.5 | 15.6 |
| $C-E^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 11.1 |  |
| $B-D$ | 10.5 |  |
| $B^{\mathrm{b}}-D^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 9.9 |  |
| $A-C$ | 9.3 | 11.7 |
| $G-B^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 8.3 |  |
| $F-A^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 7.4 |  |
| $E-G$ | 7.0 | 8.7 |
| $E^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 6.6 |  |
| $\mathrm{D}_{30}-\mathrm{F}$ | 6.2 | 7.8 |

## Cents Deviation from Equal Temperament

 (Chart for $\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{C}$ )| Note | Cents | Cents, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $F$ | +4.5 | +1.4 |
| $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | +10.1 | +7.0 |
| G | +2.2 | -0.8 |
| $\mathrm{~A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | +7.8 | +4.7 |
| $A$ | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| $\mathrm{~B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | +5.6 | +2.5 |
| $B$ | -2.2 | -2.2 |
| $C$ | +3.4 | +0.3 |
| $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | +8.9 | +5.9 |
| $D$ | +1.1 | +1.1 |
| $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | +6.7 | +3.6 |
| $E$ | -1.1 | -1.1 |
| $F$ | +4.5 | +1.4 |

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## How To Tune To 1/7 Comma MeanTone - Starting From D Above Middle C <br> According to Jean Baptiste Romieu - As found in "Tuning the Fistorical Temperaments" by Owen Jorgensen

$\mathrm{E} b-\mathrm{B} b-\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{D}-\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{B}-\mathrm{F} \#-\mathrm{C} \#-\mathrm{G} \#$

1. Assume the piano is at 400 HZ or desired pitch in equal temperament. Begin with D. Do not change pitch.
2. Tune $\mathrm{G}_{35}$ from $\mathrm{D}_{42}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ narrow at 1.0 BPS .
3. Tune $\mathrm{C}_{40}$ from $\mathrm{G}_{35}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.4 BPS.
4. Tune $\mathrm{F}_{33}$ from $\mathrm{C}_{40}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ narrow at 0.9 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{F}_{33}-\mathrm{D}_{42}\left(6^{\text {th }}\right)$ beats 6.2 BPS (wide).
5. Tune $A_{37}$ from $D_{42}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.6 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{F}_{33}-\mathrm{A}_{37}$ beats at 4.7 BPS (wide). Also check that $\mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{C}_{40}$ beats at 9.3 BPS (narrow).
6. Tune $\mathrm{E}_{44}$ from $\mathrm{A}_{37}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ narrow at 1.2 BPS. Check that the minor triad $\mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{C}_{40}$ beats at 9.3 BPS and that $\mathrm{C}_{40}-\mathrm{E}_{44}$ beats at 7.0 BPS. Then check that both $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{E}_{44}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{40}-\mathrm{E}_{44}$ beat at 7.0 BPS .
7. Tune $B b_{38}$ from $F_{33}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.2 BPS. Check that $B b_{38}-D_{42}$ and $F_{33}-D_{42}$ are both equal beating at 6.2 BPS . Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{B}_{b_{38}}$ (minor $3^{{ }^{\text {rd }}}$ ) beats at 8.3 BPS (narrow).
8. Tune $\mathrm{E}_{31}$ from $\mathrm{B}_{38}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ narrow at 0.8 BPS.
9. Tune $\mathrm{E}_{b_{43}}$ from $\mathrm{Bb}_{38}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.7 BPS. Check the octave $\mathrm{E}_{b}$ to $\mathrm{Eb}_{6}$. Check that $\mathrm{E}_{31}$ $\mathrm{G}_{35}$ beats at 4.1 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{B}_{b_{38}}$ (minor $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) and $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{E}_{643}$ (minor $6^{\text {th }}$ ) both beat at 8.3 BPS. Then check the $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion $C$ minor chord. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{E}_{643}$ (minor $6^{\text {th }}$ ) beats 8.3 BPS and that $\mathrm{C}_{40}-\mathrm{E}_{43}$ (minor $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) beats at 11.1 BPS.
10. Tune $B_{39}$ from $\mathrm{E}_{44}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right.$ ) wide to beat at 1.8 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{35}-\mathrm{B}_{39}$ (major $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) beats at 5.2 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{B}_{39}-\mathrm{D}_{42}$ beats at 10.4 BPS ( $2: 1$ ratio).
11. Tune $D_{30}$ from $D_{42}$ pure. Check the octave $D-D$.
12. Tune $F_{34}$ from $B_{39}\left(4^{\text {th }}\right)$ wide at 1.3 BPS. Check that $D_{30}-F_{34}$ beats at 3.9 BPS (wide) and that $G_{35}-B_{39}$ beats at 5.2 BPS . Check that $\mathrm{F}_{34}-\mathrm{A}_{37}$ (minor $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) beats at 7.8 BPS (narrow). Check that $\mathrm{F}_{34}-\mathrm{D}_{35}$ (minor $6^{\text {th }}$ ) beats at 7.8 (narrow).
13. Tune $\mathrm{E}_{32}$ from $\mathrm{E}_{44}$ pure.
14. Tune $C_{\# 41}$ from $F_{\# 34}\left(5^{\text {th }}\right)$ narrow to beat at 1.0 BPS. Check that $F_{34}-A_{37}$ beats at 7.8 BPS and that $\mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{C} \ddot{F}_{41}$ beats at $5.9 \mathrm{BPS}\left(4: 3\right.$ ratio). Check that $\mathrm{C}_{41}-\mathrm{E}_{44}$ beats twice as fast at 11.7 BPS as $\mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{C}_{41}$ at 5.9 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{E}_{44}-\mathrm{A}_{37}$ beats at 1.2 BPS (narrow) and that $\mathrm{E}_{32}-\mathrm{B}_{39}$ beats at 0.9 BPS (narrow). Check that $\mathrm{E}_{32}-\mathrm{C} \ddagger_{41}\left(6^{\text {th }}\right)$ and $\mathrm{A}_{37}-\mathrm{C} \#_{41}$ (minor $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) both beat at 5.9 BPS.
15. Tune $\mathrm{G}_{\#_{36}}$ from $\mathrm{C} \#_{41}$ wide at 1.5 BPS. Check that $\mathrm{G}_{\#_{34}}-\mathrm{E}_{33}$ (wolf diminished $6^{\text {th }}$ ) beats at 3.7 BPS. Check that $E_{32}-G \# 36$ beats at 4.4 BPS (wide). Then check that $G_{\#}-B$ and $G_{\sharp}-$ E both beat 8.8 BPS . This is a $2: 1$ ratio.

Tuning 1/7 Comma Mean Tone With Five Flats

1/7 Comma Beat Speeds of Chromatic 4ths

| Interval | BPS | BPS, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $C-F$ | 1.9 |  |
| $B-E$ | 1.8 |  |
| $B^{b}-E^{b}$ | 1.7 |  |
| $A-D$ | 1.6 |  |
| $A^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.5 |  |
| $\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{C}$ | 1.4 |  |
| $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{B}$ woll | 4.4 | 3.1 |
| $F-\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.2 |  |
| $E-A$ | 1.2 |  |
| $E^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.1 |  |
| $\mathrm{D}_{30}-\mathrm{G}$ | 1.0 | 0.0 |

## 1/7 Comma Beat Speeds of Major 3rds

| Interval | BPS | BPS, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{F}$ | 7.4 |  |
| $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{E}$ | 7.0 | 9.3 |
| $\mathrm{~B}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{D}$ | 6.2 |  |
| $\mathrm{~A}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{C}$ | 5.6 |  |
| $\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{B}$ | 5.2 | 7.0 |
| $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 5.0 |  |
| $\mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{A}$ | 4.7 | 6.2 |
| $\mathrm{E}_{31}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{G}$ | 4.2 |  |

## Major 3rds

| G | A | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | B | C | D | E | F |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | F | $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | G | $\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | C | $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |

## Minor 3rds

| $F$ | $G^{b}$ | $G$ | $A^{b}$ | $B^{b}$ | $C$ | $D^{b}$ | $D$ | $E^{b}$ | $F$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| D | $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | E | F | G | A | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | B | C | D |

Minor 3rds - 6ths
Major 3rds - 6ths

| $A$ | $C$ | $F$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| G | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |
| F | $\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |
| E | G | C |
| D | F | $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |
| C | $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |
| $\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |


| $A^{b}$ | $D^{b}$ | $F$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $G$ | $C$ | $E$ |
| $F$ | $B^{b}$ | $D$ |
| $E$ | $A^{b}$ | $C$ |
| $D$ | $G$ | $B$ |
| $D^{b}$ | $G^{b}$ | $B^{b}$ |
| $C$ | $F$ | $A$ |
| $B^{b}$ | $E^{b}$ | $G$ |

1/7 Comma Beat Speeds of Chromatic 5ths

| Interval | BPS | BPS, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $B^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{F}$ | 1.2 |  |
| $A-E$ | 1.2 |  |
| $\mathrm{~A}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.1 |  |
| $\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{D}$ | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 1.0 |  |
| $\mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{C}$ | 0.9 |  |
| $E-B$ | 0.9 |  |
| $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 0.8 |  |
| $\mathrm{D}_{30}-\mathrm{A}$ | 0.8 |  |

1/7 Comma Beat Speeds of Minor 3rds

| Interval | BPS | BPS, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $D-F$ | 12.5 | 15.6 |
| $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 11.1 |  |
| $\mathrm{~B}-\mathrm{D}$ | 10.5 |  |
| $\mathrm{~B}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 9.9 |  |
| $\mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{C}$ | 9.3 | 11.7 |
| $\mathrm{G}-\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 8.3 |  |
| $\mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 7.4 |  |
| $\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{G}$ | 7.0 | 8.7 |
| $\mathrm{E}^{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | 6.6 |  |
| $\mathrm{D}_{30}-\mathrm{F}$ | 6.2 | 7.8 |

Cents Deviation from Equal Temperament (Chart for $\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{C}$ )

| Note | Cents | Cents, Pure G-D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $F$ | +4.5 | +1.4 |
| $G^{b}$ | +10.1 | +7.0 |
| $G$ | +2.2 | -0.8 |
| $A^{b}$ | +7.8 | +4.7 |
| $A$ | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| $B^{b}$ | +5.6 | +2.5 |
| $B$ | -2.2 | -2.2 |
| $C$ | +3.4 | +0.3 |
| $D^{\mathrm{b}}$ | +8.9 | +5.9 |
| $D$ | +1.1 | +1.1 |
| $E^{b}$ | +6.7 | +3.6 |
| $E$ | -1.1 | -1.1 |
| $F$ | +4.5 | +1.4 |

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Tuning Jean Baptiste Romieu - 1/7 Syntonic Comma Meantone
As found in "Tuning the Historical Temperaments" by Owen Jorgensen

## Tuning 1/7 Modified Comma Meantone By Ear

- All 4ths and 5ths are tempered by 3.1 cents
( 1 cent more than equal temperament)
- All 4ths are wide
- All 5ths are narrow
- All major 3rds are wide
- All minor 3rds are narrow
- All major 3rds progress evenly from low to high
- All minor 3rds progress evenly from low to high
- There needs to be a wolf of 3.7 BPS ( $\mathrm{E} b-\mathrm{G}$ )
- All major 3rds are 4.5 cents narrower than equal temperament
- All minor 3 rds are 3.4 cents wider than equal temperament
- All tritones are 6.8 cents narrower than equal temperament
- All major 6 ths are 3.4 cents narrower than equal temperament
- All minor 6 ths are 4.5 cents wider than equal temperament

Equal Beating Major 3rds - Major 6ths

| $\mathrm{G}_{35}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{40}$ | $\mathrm{E}_{44}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{~F}_{33}$ | $\mathrm{~B}_{38}^{6}$ | $\mathrm{D}_{42}$ |
| $\mathrm{E}_{32}$ | $\mathrm{~A}_{37}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{40}^{7}$ |
| $\mathrm{D}_{30}$ | $\mathrm{G}_{35}$ | $\mathrm{~B}_{39}$ |

Equal Beating minor 3rds - minor 6ths

| $\mathrm{a}_{37}$ | $\mathrm{c}_{40}$ | $\mathrm{f}_{45}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{~g}^{\boldsymbol{\#}} 36$ | $\mathrm{~b}_{39}$ | $\mathrm{e}_{44}$ |
| $\mathrm{~g}_{35}$ | $\mathrm{~b}_{38}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\mathrm{e}_{43}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |
| $\mathrm{f}^{\mathrm{f}} 34$ | $\mathrm{a}_{37}$ | $\mathrm{~d}_{42}$ |
| $\mathrm{e}_{32}$ | $\mathrm{~g}_{35}$ | $\mathrm{c}_{40}$ |
| $\mathrm{~d}_{30}$ | $\mathrm{f}_{33}$ | $\mathrm{~b}_{38}^{\mathrm{b}}$ |

- All whole tones are 2.2 cents narrower than equal temperament



# KEY COLOR 2001 Appreciate the Differences 

Timothy Farley RPT and Daniel Eberhardy RPT PTG Annual Convention - Reno

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1200 cents $=1$ octave, thus
$\underline{\log _{x}} \underline{2}=\log _{x}(1$ cent, or rather the frequency-ratio of two tones once cent apart) 1200.

On a calculator,
$\sqrt[1200]{2}=1.00057779, \log _{10} 0.00025085832 \ldots, 1.5 \div 2^{7 / 12}=1.002239891$, $\log _{10}=0.000490428, \div 0.00250858 \ldots=1.955001$
$81 \div 80$ (the comma mentioned in " $1 / 4$ comma" " $1 / 7$ comma" etc.) $=1.0125$, $\log _{10}=0.0053953188, \div 0.00490428=11.00065475$
Thus, Standard Equal is only negligibly different from $1 / 11$ comma*.
For comparison, $1 / 12$ comma has each major third nearly 14.9 cents wide. ( 1.2 cents wider than in Standard Equal); three such continuous thirds yield an octave about 3.7 cents wide.

In cents, $81 / 80-1.0125, \log _{10}=0.0053953188 \ldots,(\sqrt[12]{2}) \log =0.025085832 \ldots$, $1.0125, \log _{10}=0.00539503188 \div 0.025085832=0.215062846 \ldots=21.5+$ cents

In such temperaments as $1 / 4$ comma, $1 / 5$ comma, $1 / 6$ comma, and $1 / 7$ comma, whole-tone sequences, if ranging from the first flat to the last sharp, will sound (according to Tim Farley) better than whole-tone sequences that contain a sharp-to-flat "whole tone" (really a diminished third).
*If I figured right, $1 / 11 \mathrm{c}$. treated thus yields octave about $1 / 400$ cent narrow; each perfect fourth or fifth, $1 / 5000$ th cent different from Standard Equal's forth or fifth.

## Guides to Assist in Setting Seventh Comma Meantone Temperament

As far as tuning the seventh comma or eighth comma meantone tunings, it is not much different from anything else you have experienced with two exceptions. 1) All fourths and fifths beat slightly faster 2) All fourths and fifths progress just as they do in equal temperament. As far as the thirds are concerned, as long as it is spelled a third, it progresses as even or more even than in equal temperament. Raised keys are F\#, CH, G\# and Bb and Eb . So there are four that spell diminished fourths, FH to $\mathrm{Bb}, \mathrm{G} \#$ to C , $B$ to Eb , and $\mathrm{C} \#$ to F . These intervals beat noticeably faster. They beat so much faster than in standard tuning that they are virtually only noticeable to the tuner.

The starting point is to set the beat speeds of the violin, viola and cello strings. (C, G, D,
 established, keep tuning in a clockwise motion in fourths and fifths notes $\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{F}$ \# and $\mathrm{G} \#$ This is the last sharp you will tune. (Clockwise tuning makes the raised keys low.) Now. tune counterclockwise F from C above, Bb from F below, and Eb from Bb below. (Counterclockwise tuning makes the raised keys high.) All the fourths and fifths are slightly faster than equal temperament. If you are $100 \%$ successful, there should be 3.7 beats per second between the last flat and the last sharp that you tuned. This looks like a fifth, but it is a wolf diminished sixth. You have to have that to be successful. It is not a mistake.

But, in the same way that fourths and fifths progress in equal temperament, the progression is just as even, or more even in seventh comma. As far as the thirds are concerned, as long as it is spelled a third, it progresses as even or more even than in equal temperament. Raised keys are F\#, C\#, G\# and Bb and Bb. So there are four that spell diminished fourths, $\mathrm{F} \#$ to $\mathrm{Bb}, \mathrm{O} \#$ to C ,
B to Eb , and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{F}$ to F . These intervals beat noticeably faster. They beat so much faster than in standard tuning that they are virtually only noticeable to the tuner.

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## The Standard temperament for 3 Sharps and 2 Flats ( $\left(F^{\#} C^{\#} G^{\#} B^{b} E^{b}\right)$ <br> Jean Baptiste ROMIEU <br> (page 194 in Tuning the Historical Temperaments by Ear, Owen Jorgensen)



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 Cents Deviation from Equal Temperament（Chart for F－A－C）

Key Color
Revised 2005
$7^{\text {th }}$ Comma unmodified Temperament

$-3.4-5.6+5.6 \quad-4.5+6.7$ Cents Devietem fromichart

This is The $7^{\text {themmin Mean tone Tone }}$

 When The Accut under Minutes from $B 5$ to $C$ codppasy

lified），checks are about as follows：

