

Learning to understand the layout of the C/G concertina

In general:

Notes on the push on the C and G rows are all found in the major chords built on the root notes of those keys i.e.

C row - all notes are C E or G on the push

G row - all notes are G B or D on the push

Generally these notes repeat in octaves every four buttons.

The C row has a nice useful low C root note on button 1 push but the G row has a B (the 3rd) on button 1 push. On my old Hohner D 40 this was a low D root note - more useful?

On the push - notes on buttons 3, 4 and 5 are an exact octave below notes on buttons 6,7 and 8. These notes fall on corresponding buttons of both sides

Most notes on the pull on the C row are the notes not found in the major chord of that key i.e. B,D,F and A.

The exception being the G found on the pull on button 1.

All notes on the pull on the G row are notes not found in the major chord of that key i.e. F#,A,C and E (which kind of spells FACE - not to be confused with the spaces of the treble clef!!)

Generally notes on the pull repeat in octaves every five buttons. The notes out of sequence on button 1 mess this up a bit!!

On the pull - notes on buttons 2,3, 4 and 5 are an exact octave below notes on buttons 6,7,8 and 9 - so not on corresponding buttons.

Adjacent notes played in the same bellows direction on the C and G rows are a 5th apart except for button 1.

e.g. C row button 2 push is G
G row button 2 push is D

C row button 2 on the pull is B
G row button 2 on the pull is F#

There are many useful semitone slurs dotted about the layout.

Extra row button 2 pull - C row button 2 pull
(A# - B)

Extra row button 3 push - G row button 2 push
(C# - D)

G row button 2 pull - extra row button 4 pull
(F# - G)

Extra row button 5 pull - C row button 6 pull
(A# - B)

Extra row button 6 push - G row button 5 push
(C# - D)

Extra row button 6 pull - C row button 7 pull
(C# - D)

Extra row button 7 pull - G row button 5 pull
(D# - E)

Extra row button 9 pull - C row button 10 pull
(A# - B)

G row button 1 push – C row button 3 push
(B – C)

G row button 4 push – C row button 6 push
(B – C)

G row button 7 push – C row button 9 push
(B – C)

C row button 4 pull – G row button 2 pull
(F – F#)

C row button 8 pull – G row button 6 pull
(F – F#)

C row button 3 pull – extra row button 3 pull
(D – D#)

C row button 3 push – extra row button 3 push
(C – C#)

C row button 6 push – extra row button 6 push
(C – C#)

C row button 5 push – extra row button 5 push
(G – G#)

C row button 8 push – extra row button 8 push
(G – G#)

C row button 5 pull – extra row button 5 pull
(A – A#)

C row button 7 pull – extra row button 7 pull
(D – D#)

C row button 8 push – extra row button 8 push
(G – G#)

C row button 9 pull – extra row button 9 pull
(A – A#)

C row button 9 push – extra row button 9 push
(C – C#)

There may be more that I've missed!!