Crypt Tip 4

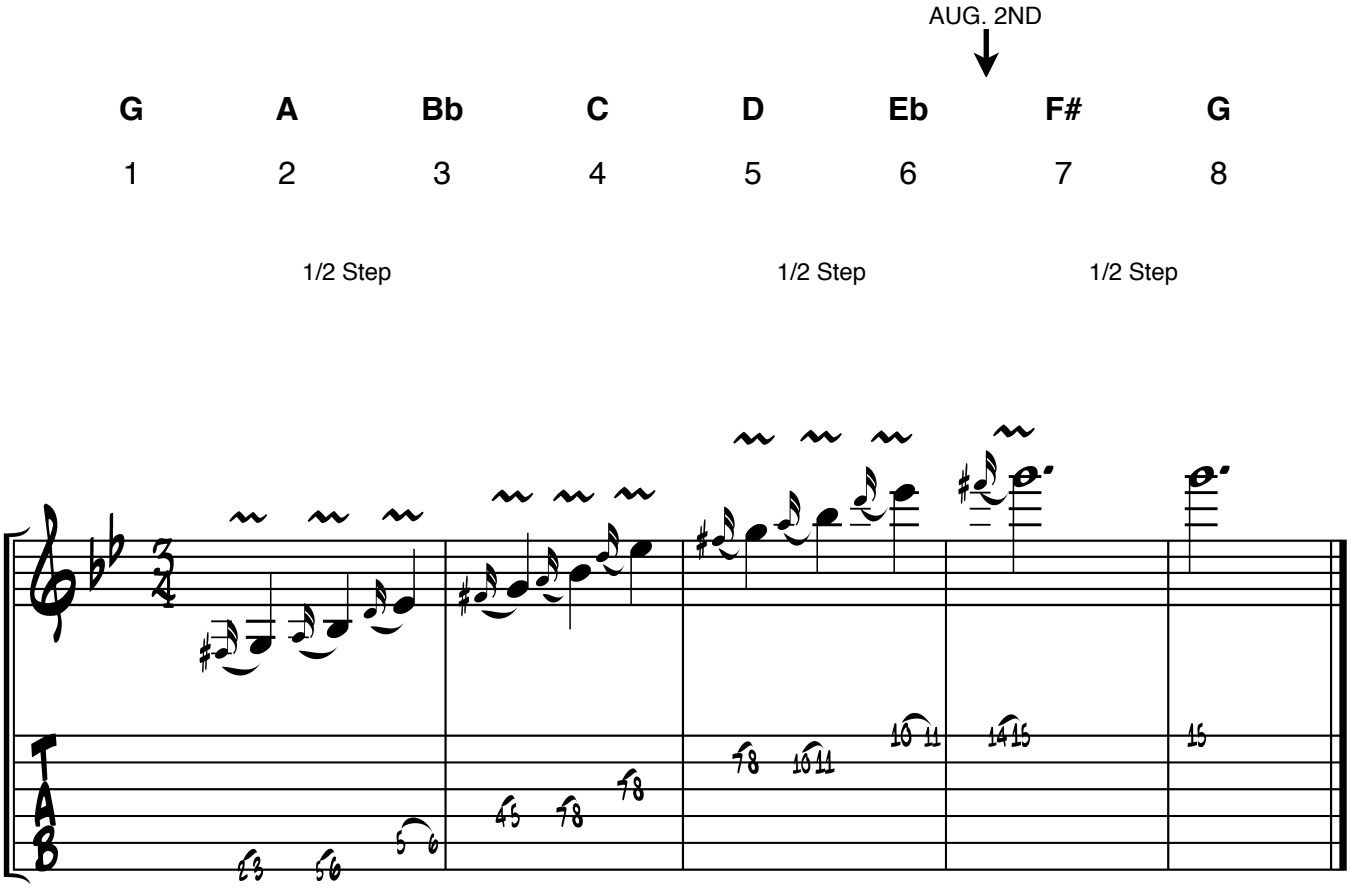
Trilling the Harmonic Minor

DJ Nelson

Did you ever wonder why the harmonic minor scale has the spine tingly, snake charming sound it does? Probably not! But here is why.

- The primary reason is that the raised 7th creates an augmented 2nd between the 6th and 7th scale degree. (enharmonic to a minor 3rd!)
- The raised 7th adds an additional 1/2 step to the scale for a total of (1/2 steps between 2,3 5,6 7,8)

Have a look at G Harmonic minor:



The squiggly line above each beat indicates that the grace note is to be trilled with the note it precedes. A Trill is created by rapidly hammering and pulling off 2 notes on the same string.