Upper & Lower Neighbors

We will start with a simple one-octave D major scale.



Now, before each ascending note, let's add an upper neighbor note to pair up with the main note. When descending, we will add a lower neighbor note. For reference, all the main scale notes are in green.



These were all diatonic neighbors, meaning that the pitches are within the key of D major. Now, let's try the same thing but with chromatic neighbors, making them all a half step away from the main notes. This one is more challenging for the ear because of the non-diatonic neighbor pitches, as most of them are not part of the scale.



Now let's reverse everything: play a lower neighbor when ascending and an upper neighbor descending, keeping them chromatic.



As you can see, because of the half steps in the scale, some of the neighbor tones had to be a repeat of the note preceding it (ie -F# and C# going up; D and G going down). Let's change those pairs to have neighbors approaching from the opposite side. This way, there won't be consecutive note repeats.

