Jazz Piano Improvisation Tutorial

Learn in the Groove!

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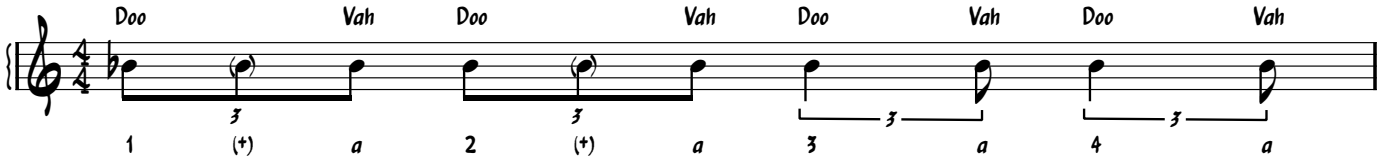
Piano Productivity Peace

This resource introduces you to 30 different approaches to improvising over a jazz swing 2-5-1 progression in Bb Concert pitch.
For each idea there is an example phrase written out.
It's recommended you focus on one or two ideas per practice session until you have gained 'effortless mastery',
You don't need to rush through, there is a lot of fun to be had with each technique!
To ensure true mastery adapt techniques to different keys and over repertoire.

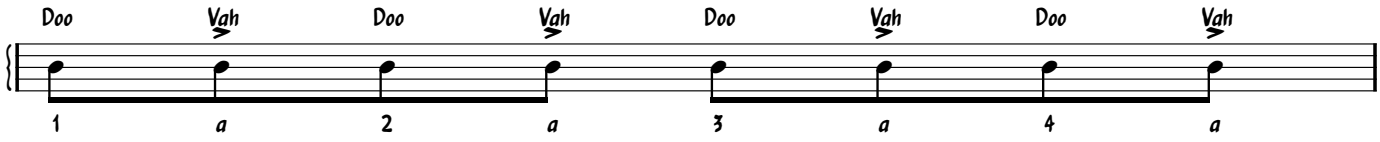
This resource follows the improvisation tutrial video found here:
Jazz Swing Improvisation Tutorial (30 Ideas Call and Response with Backing Track)
https://youtu.be/q3AqShq2lqE

Swing Groove Subdivision

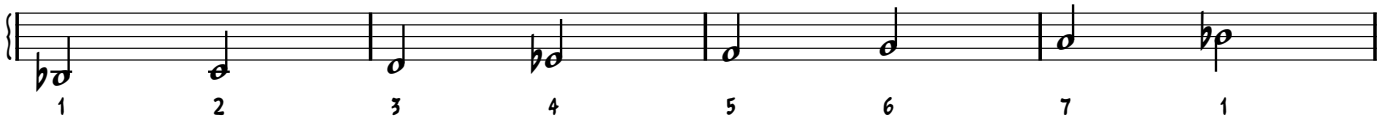


Swing Groove Subdivision

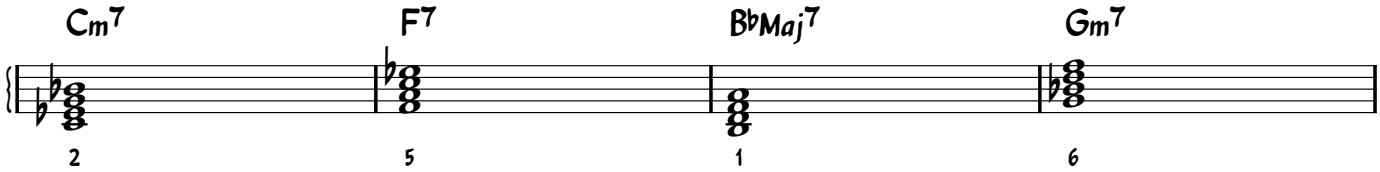
Swing



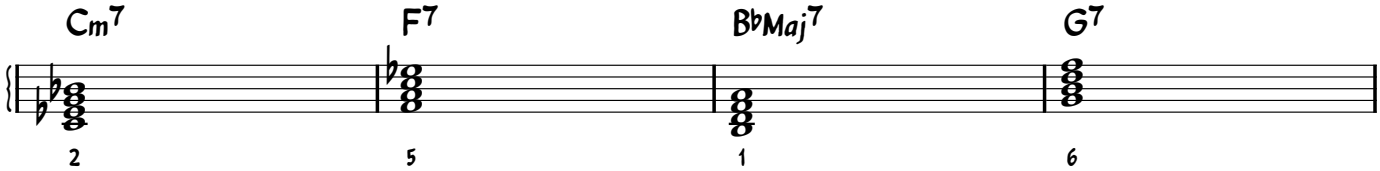
The Key Centre



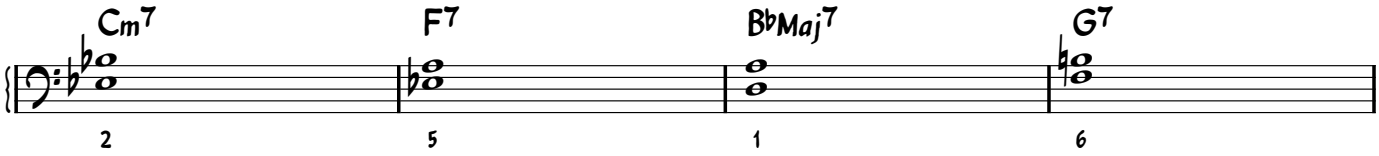
The Key Centre



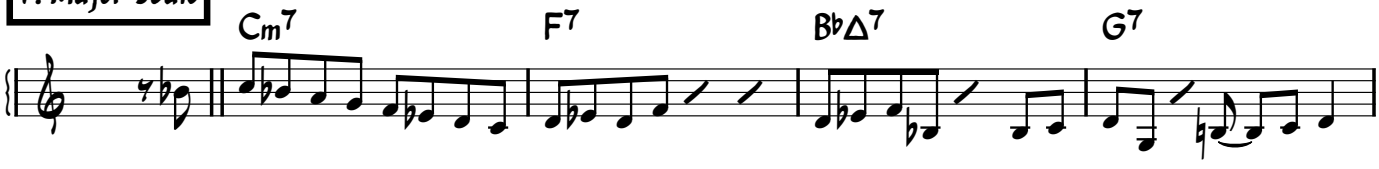
The Key Centre



Shell Voicings

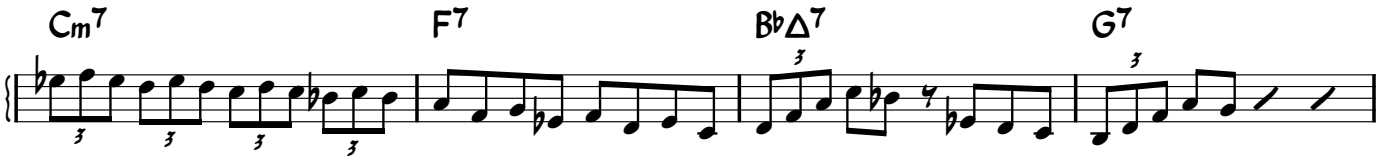


1. Major Scale



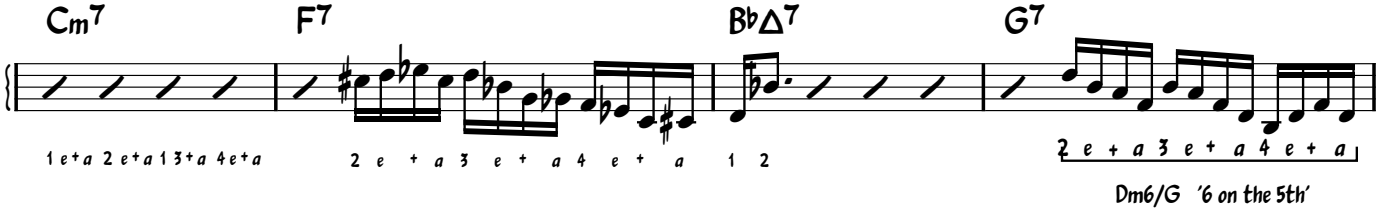
*Examples are sometimes played an octave higher to create a lighter effect

2. Triplets



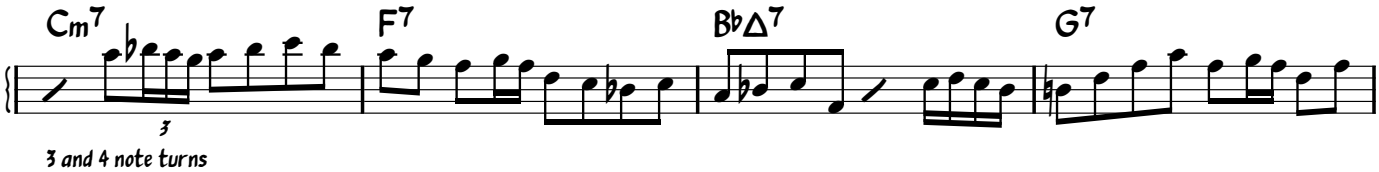
Rhythm ideas

3. Semiquavers



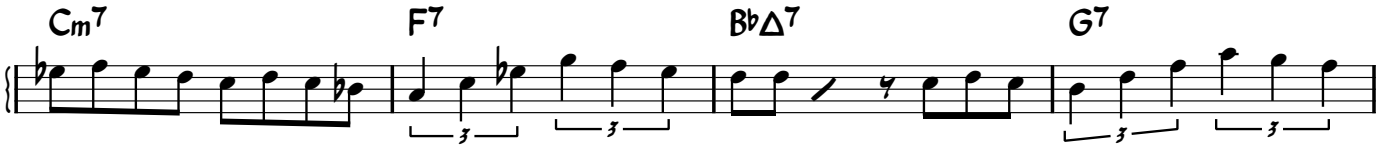
Dm6/G '6 on the 5th'

4. Neighbour Note Turns

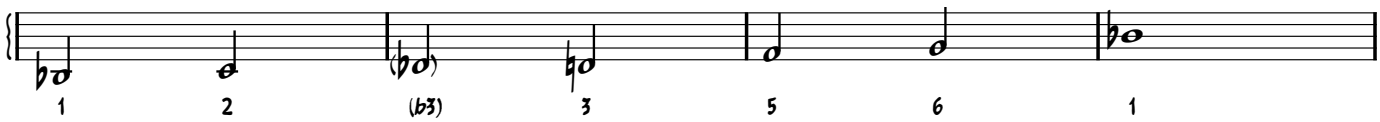


3 and 4 note turns

5. Crotchet triplets

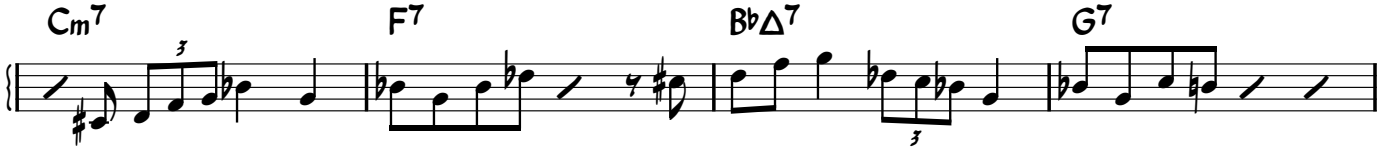


6. Major Pentatonic Scale



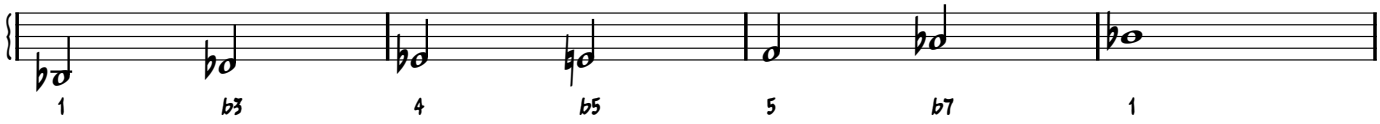
Pitch Ideas

6. Major Pentatonic Scale

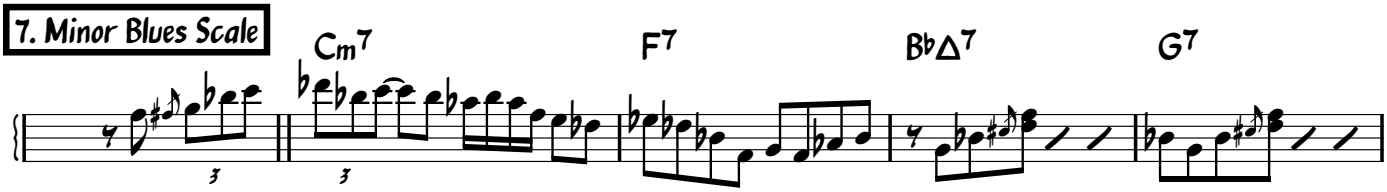


A good scale for creating memorable, accessable hooks

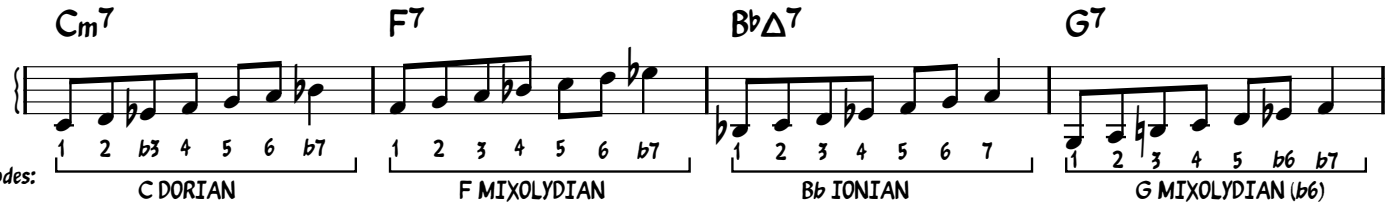
7. Minor Blues Scale



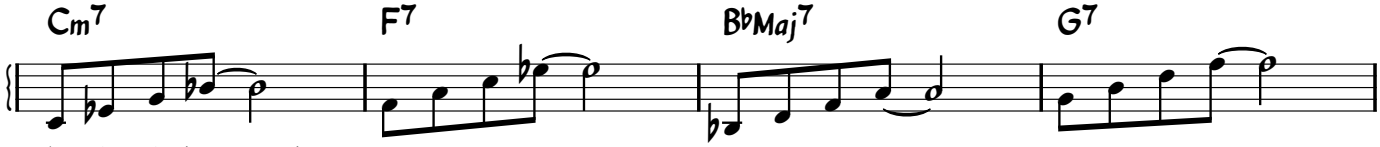
7. Minor Blues Scale



Mixing the minor blues scale & major pentatonic scale

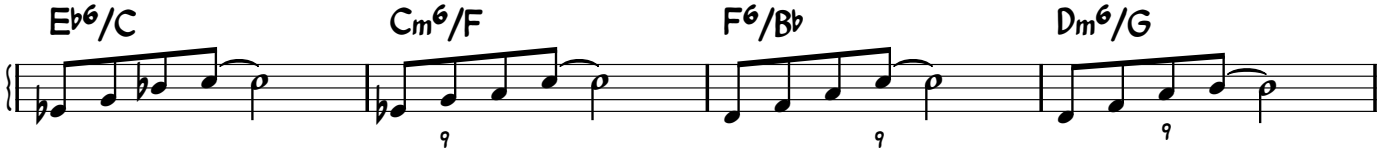


8. Arpeggios



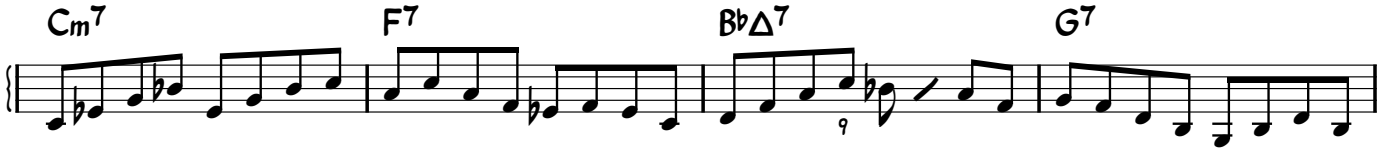
Learning guide tones (chord tones)

8. Arpeggios

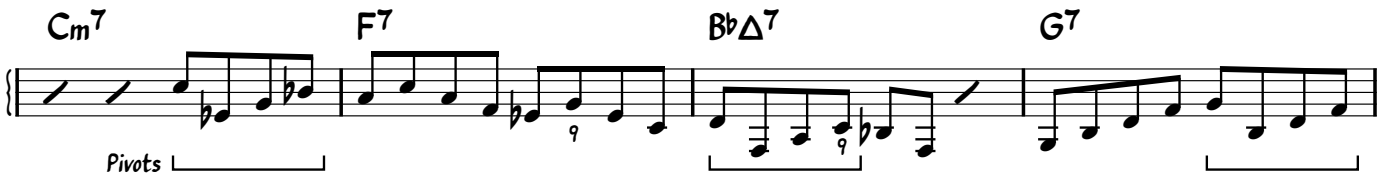


Another arpeggio option is to think in Maj6 and Min6 chords based on the 5th chord note - this outlines the 9 in the chord
(The Maj6 chord for Cm7 is build off the b3)

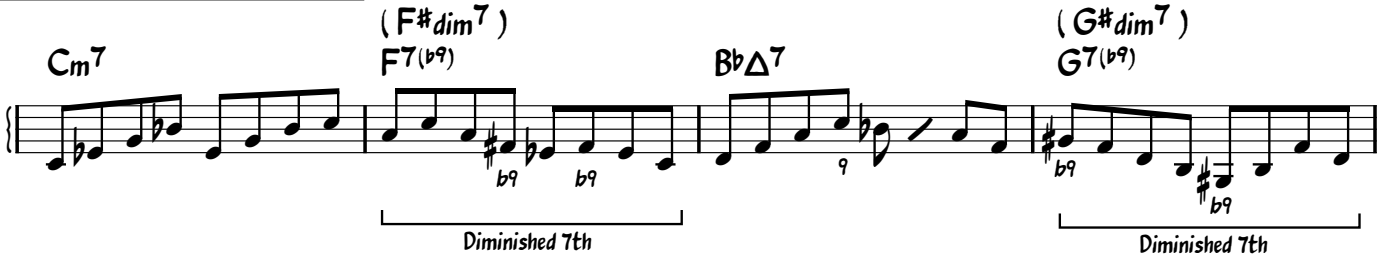
8. Arpeggios



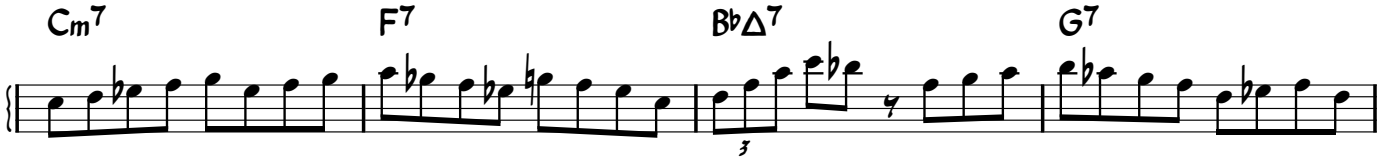
9. Pivot Arpeggios



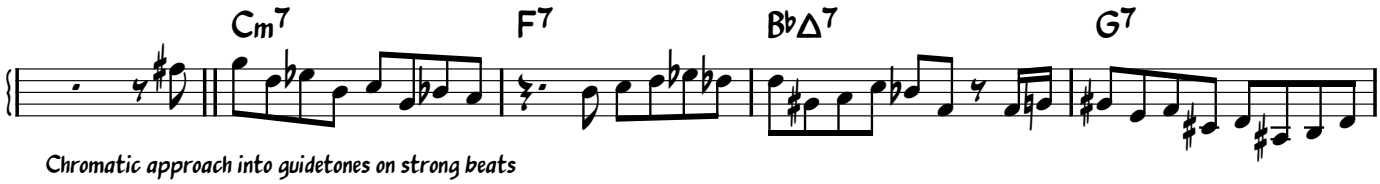
10. Diminished 7th Arpeggio



11. Linking Guidetones

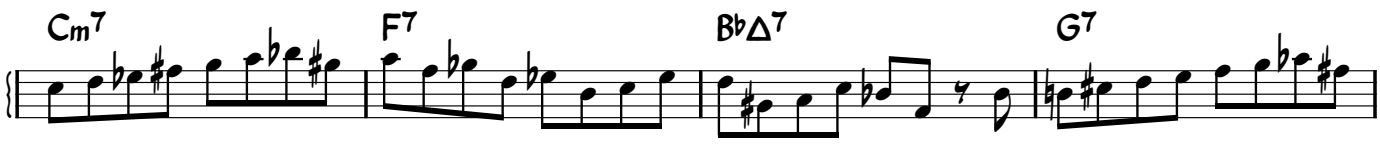


12. Chromatic Approach

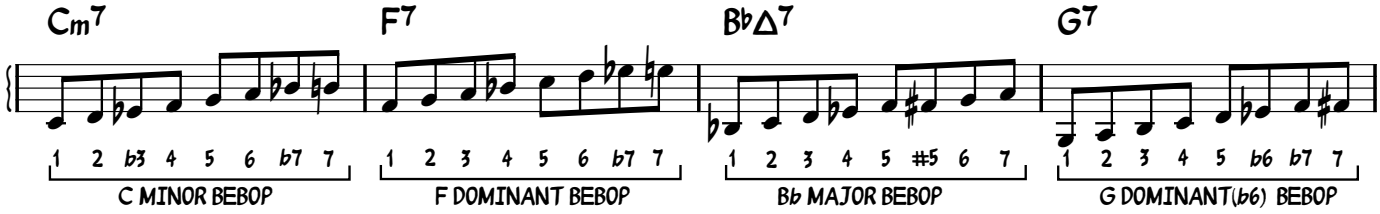


Chromatic approach into guidetones on strong beats

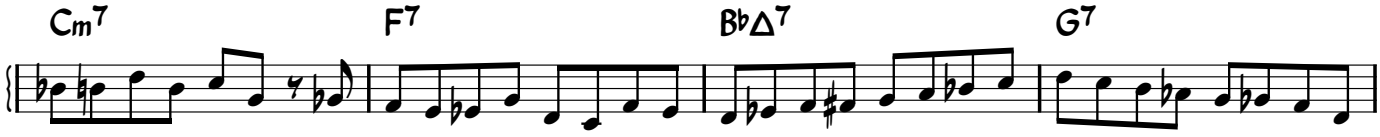
12. Chromatic Approach



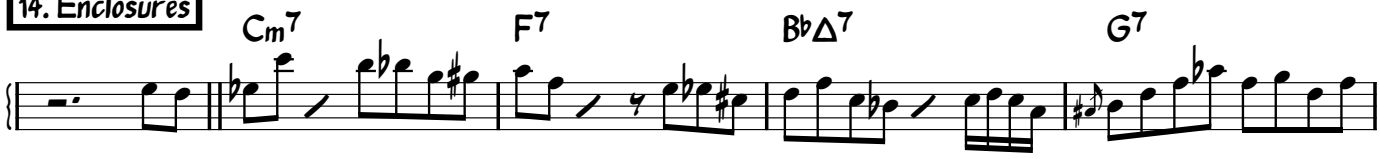
13. Bebop Scales



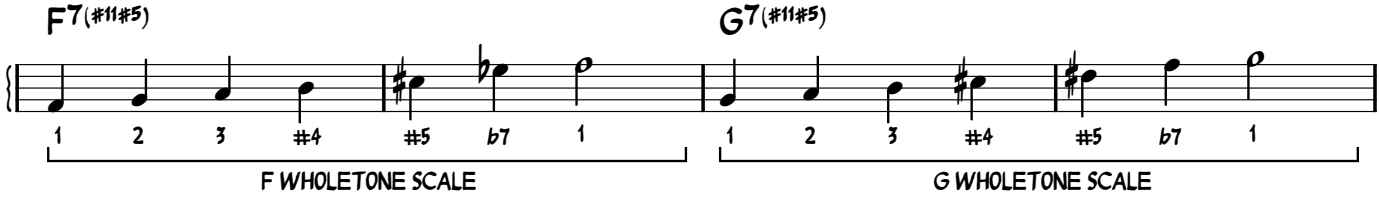
13. Bebop Scales



14. Enclosures



15. Whole Tone Scale



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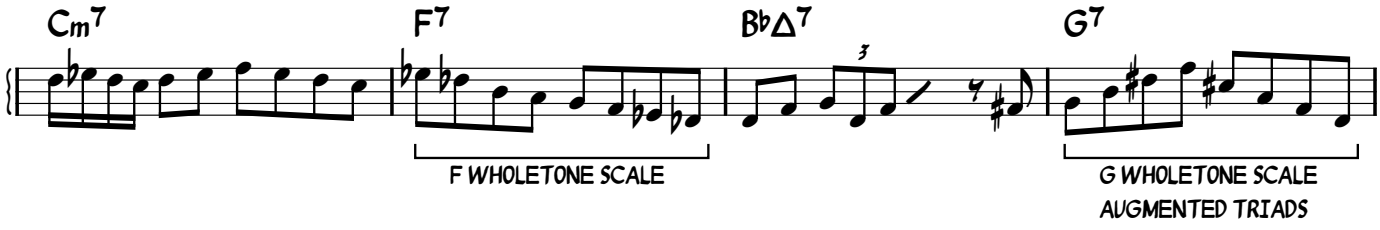
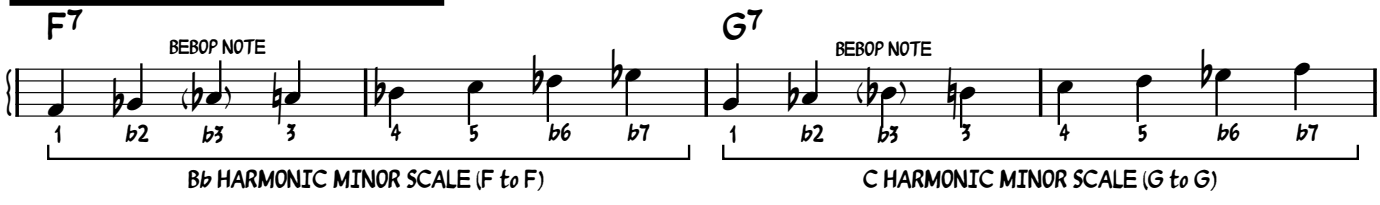
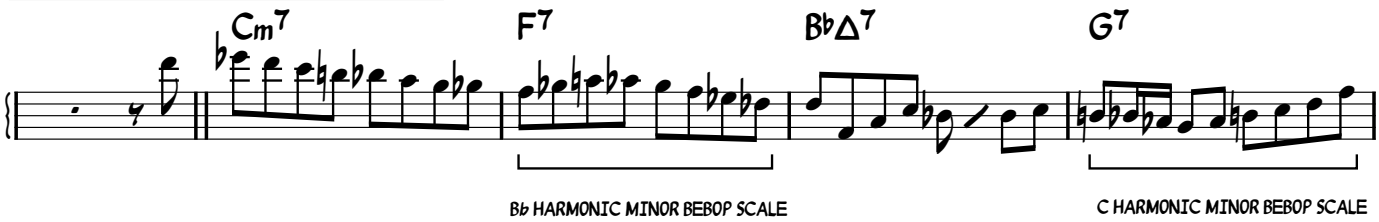


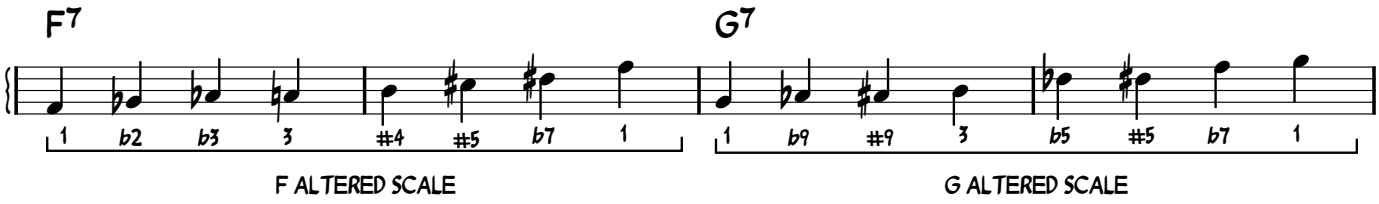
16. Harmonic Minor (Bebop) Scale



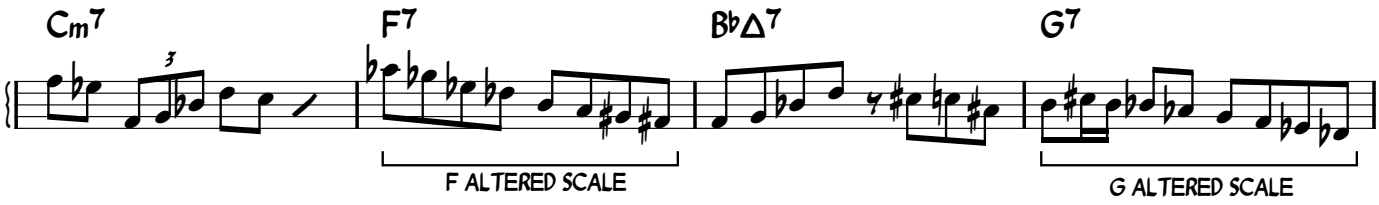
16. Harmonic Minor (Bebop) Scale



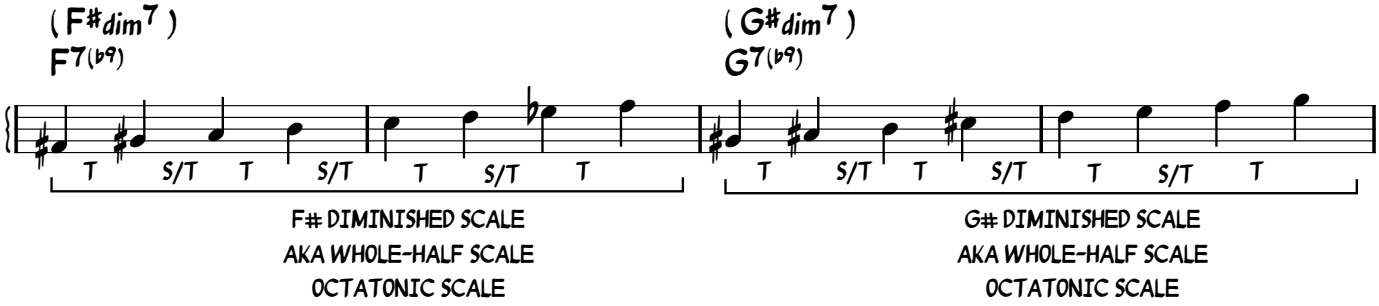
17. Altered Scale



17. Altered Scale

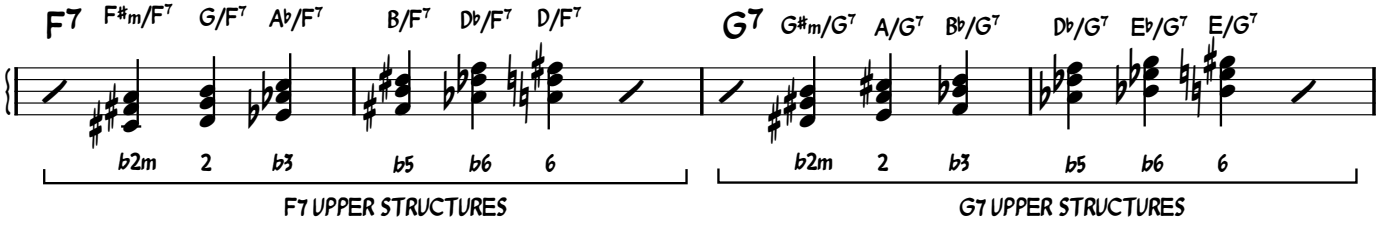


18. Diminished Scale

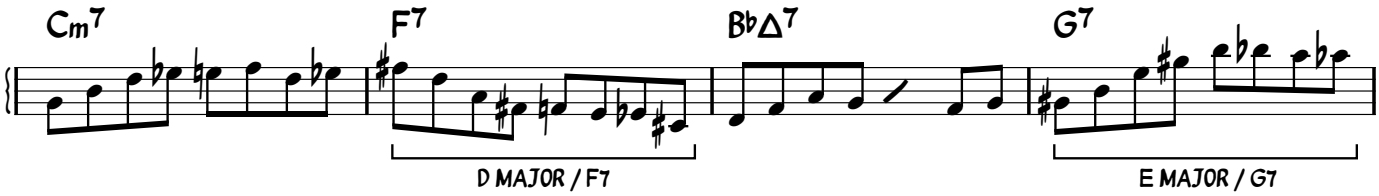


18. Diminished Scale

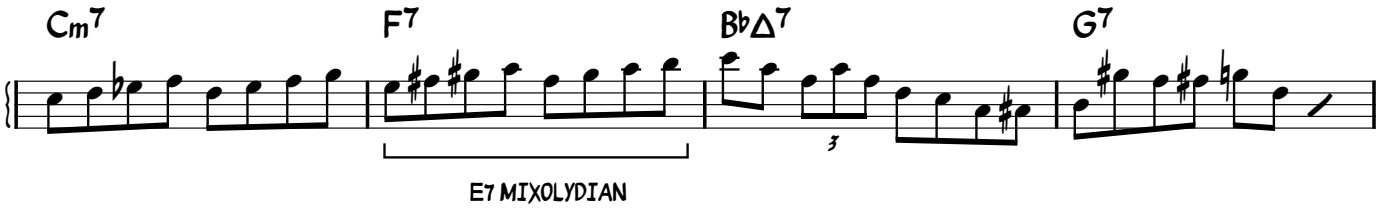
19. Upper-Structure Triads



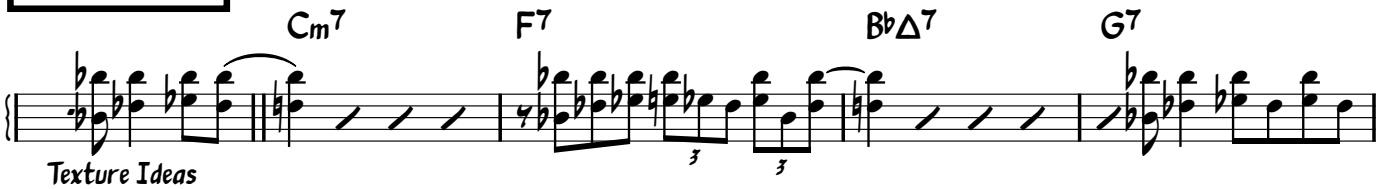
19. Upper-Structure Triads



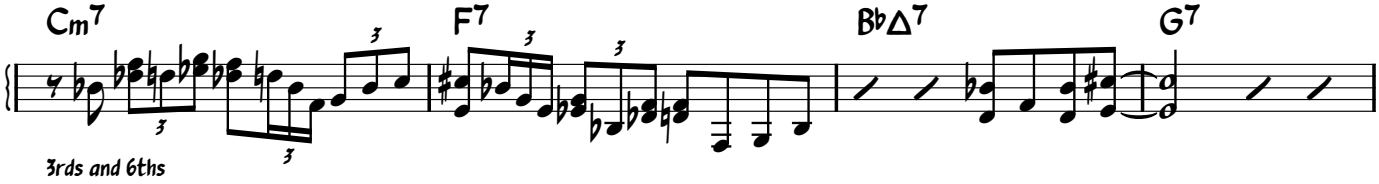
20. Playing Outside



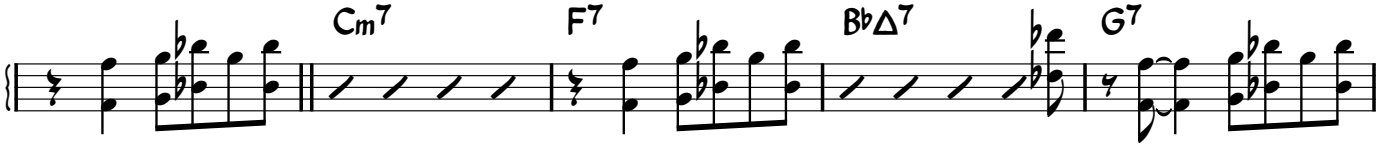
21. Double Stops



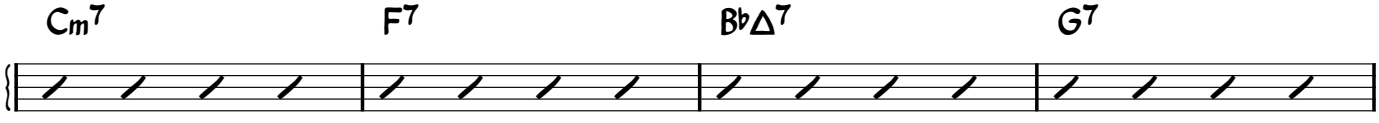
22. Harmonic Intervals



23. Octaves

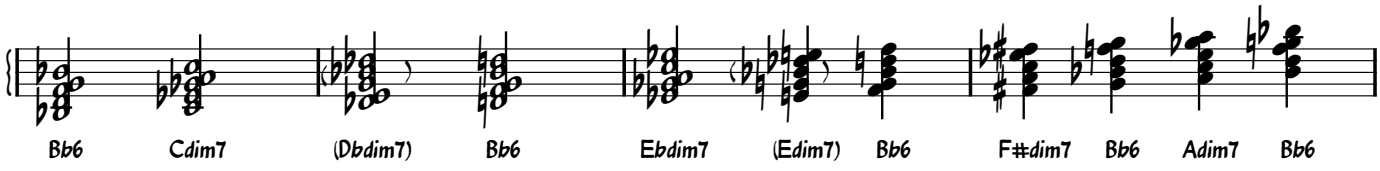


24. Melodic comping



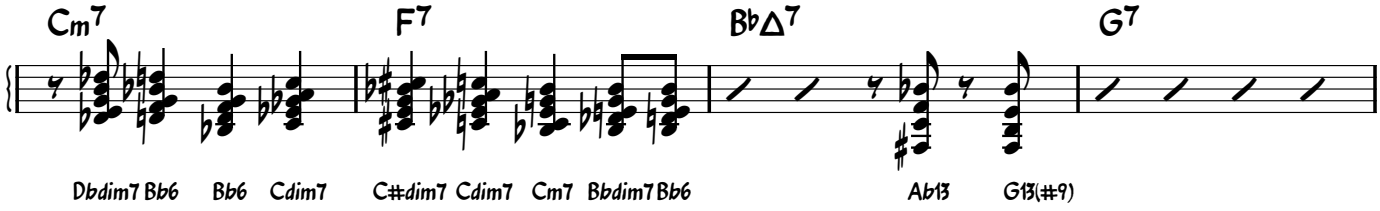
Octaves with notes in middle and played at same time as left hand comp voicing

24. Melodic comping

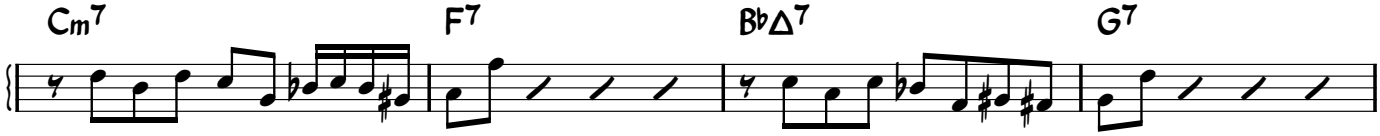


Harmonising scale with alternating Maj6 and Diminished 7th Chords (Barry Harris)

24. Melodic comping

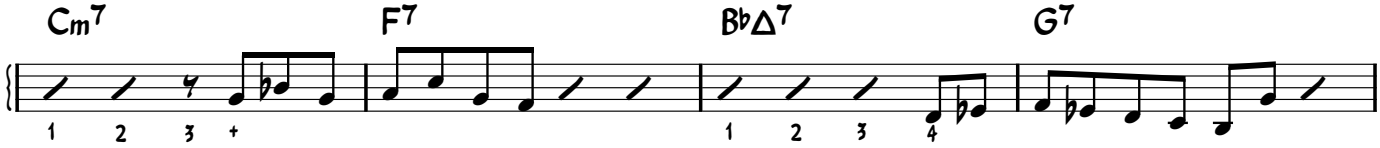


25. Call and Response



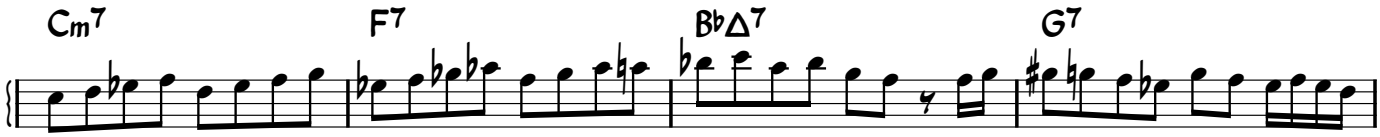
Mindset Ideas

26. Different Starting Points

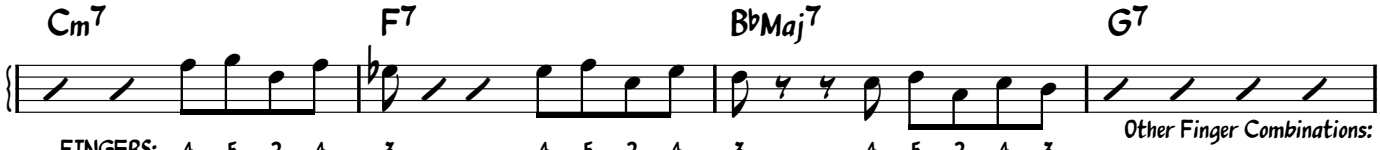


Experiment with starting and finishing phrases on different subdivisions of the bar

27. Sequences



28. Finger Patterns



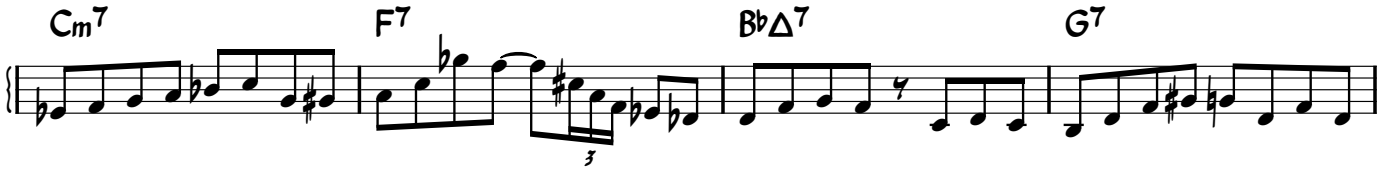
Other Finger Combinations:

3 4 2 1

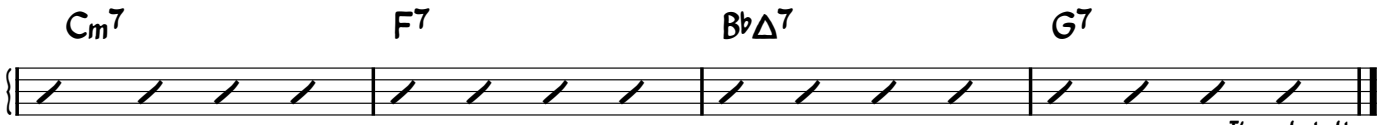
4 3 1 2

2 1 4 2 3

29. Start Every Bar on the 3rd of Chord



30. Quote Melodies



I've got rhythm
Straight no chaser
Oleo
Perdido

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Many thanks for your support and I hope you find these resources useful :)

Lachlan