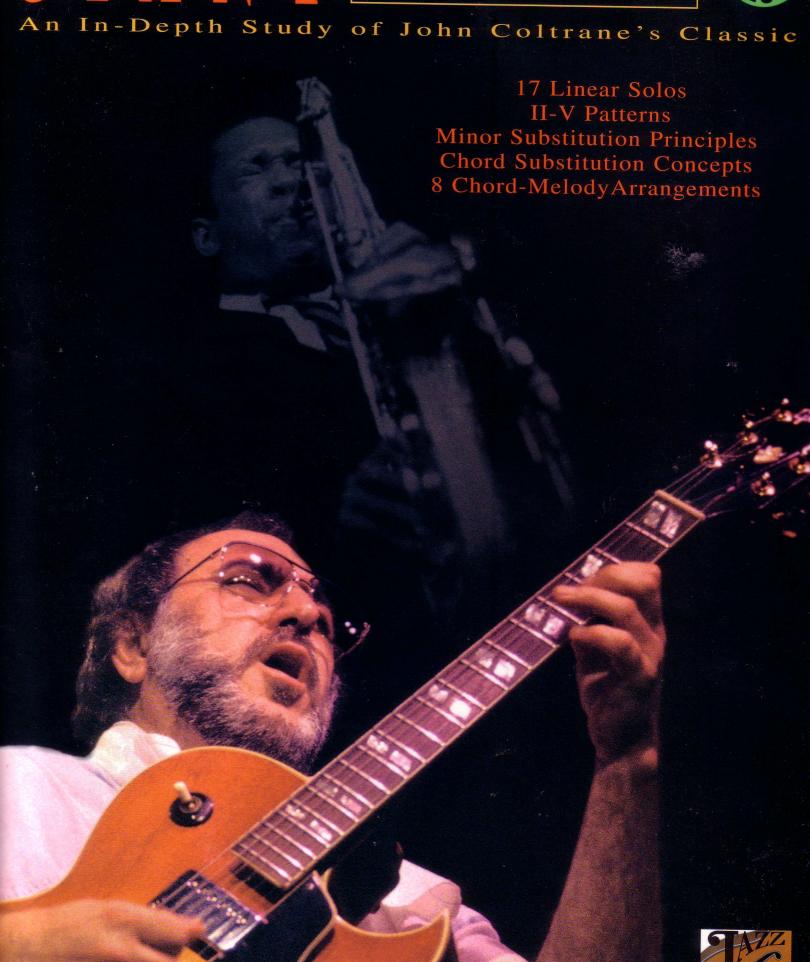
JOE DIORIO An In-Depth Study of John Coltrane's Classic



GIANTSTEPS JOE DIORIO

An In-Depth Study of John Coltrane's Classic

Project Manager: AARON STANG Editors: COLGAN BRYAN & DALE TURNER Rhythm Guitar: RON BERMAN Recording Engineer: TOBY WEISS

Design: DEBBIE LIPTON

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INTRODUCTION

It was my great privilege to see John Coltrane play with his quartet several times in my life. These experiences changed my life; for to be in the presence of such a creative force one does not remain the same. At that time I did not understand his music but I intuitively felt "here is a musician of great importance." I can't claim to understand his music fully today, but the more I listen to it, and as the years have gone by, I can at least grasp part of it. This is enough to inspire me to try harder in my quest and to venture into areas that are new and fresh. I consider John Coltrane to be the most important creative jazz musician of this century. I humbly dedicate this book to his memory.

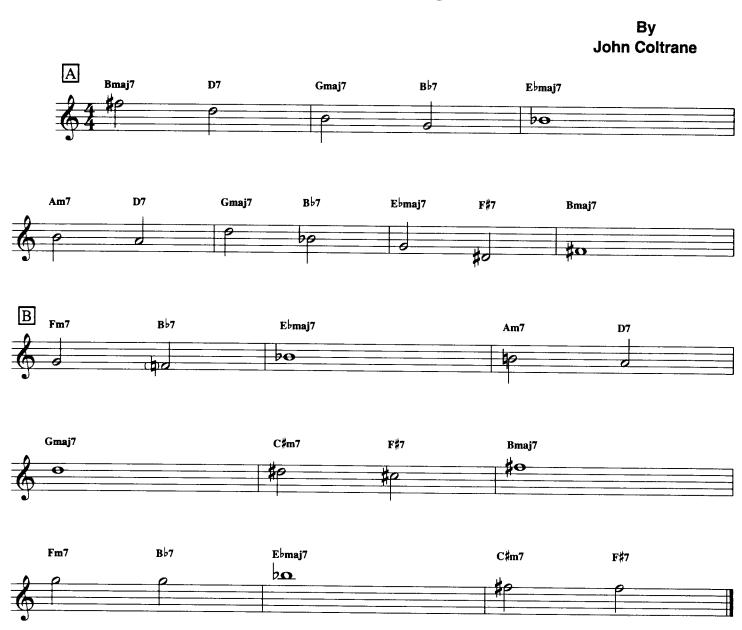
Joe Diorio

ADDITIONAL ii V I CHORD PATTERNS42

"Giant Steps" Lead Sheet

John Coltrane's composition *Giant Steps* is without a doubt the most challenging jazz chord progression of the late 20th Century. This piece has challenged and petrified countless jazz musicians since its recording in 1960. I have run into great players who have come up with endless excuses for refusing to play it. I avoided it for years until I did what Coltrane did—I started to practice it. This led me to writing my own solos. Only then did the tune begin to yield its complex nature. Soak up the melody. Be able to quote it at any time during your solo. Collect as many ideas, licks and phrases and apply them until you are able to quote them at will. Invent your own solos. Good luck!

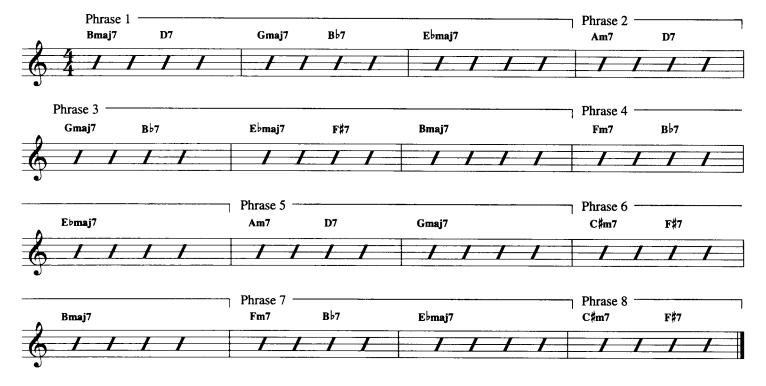
GIANT STEPS



HOW TO MEMORIZE "GIANT STEPS"

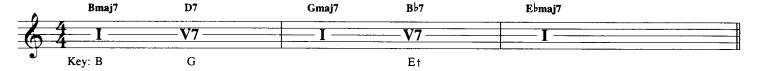
It is always easier to approach a challenging song like *Giant Steps*, by breaking it down into separate phrases.

Giant Steps is a sixteen bar progression that can be divided into eight phrases:



- · Phrase 1 measures 1 through 3
- Phrase 2 measure 4 as a transitional measure to the key of G
- Phrase 3 measures 5 through 7, which are the same as Phrase 1, a major 3rd down
- Phrase 4 measures 8 and 9 as a ii-V-I in El-
- Phrase 5 measures 10 and 11 as a ii-V-l in G (same as Phrase 4, a major 3rd up)
- Phrase 6 measures 12 and 13 as a ii-V-I in B (same as Phrase 5, a major 3rd up)
- Phrase 7 measures 14 and 15 as a ii-V-I in El (same as Phrase 6, a major 3rd up)
- Phrase 8 measure 16 as a transitional measure leading to the top

Since this tune changes key so often, it is tempting to just break it down and organize it according to where the changes occur. While this would make technical sense, it does not make musical sense. Take Phrase 1 for example:



These three measures contain three different tonal centers starting with B and modulating to G and E_b, respectively. In spite of these changes, the flow of the progression will make more sense if you approach these three measures as a single phrase. Naturally, the same thing applies to Phrase 3 for the same reason.

As you learn the examples throughout this book, you should organize and memorize the licks according to this outline. As you become more comfortable with the progression you will start to view combinations of the groups as a singular ideas. After a while, the entire tune will blend together and the changes will fade into the background. This is a sure sign that you got it!

Single-Note Solos SOLO 1

The patterns in measures 1, 2, 4 and 5 are similar to horn patterns characteristic of Coltrane. Another Coltrane signature, unison sequences, occurs in measures 7, 10, 12 and 14. Notice, from measure 8 to the end, the repetitive patterns and the usage of unisons, 4ths and 5ths.



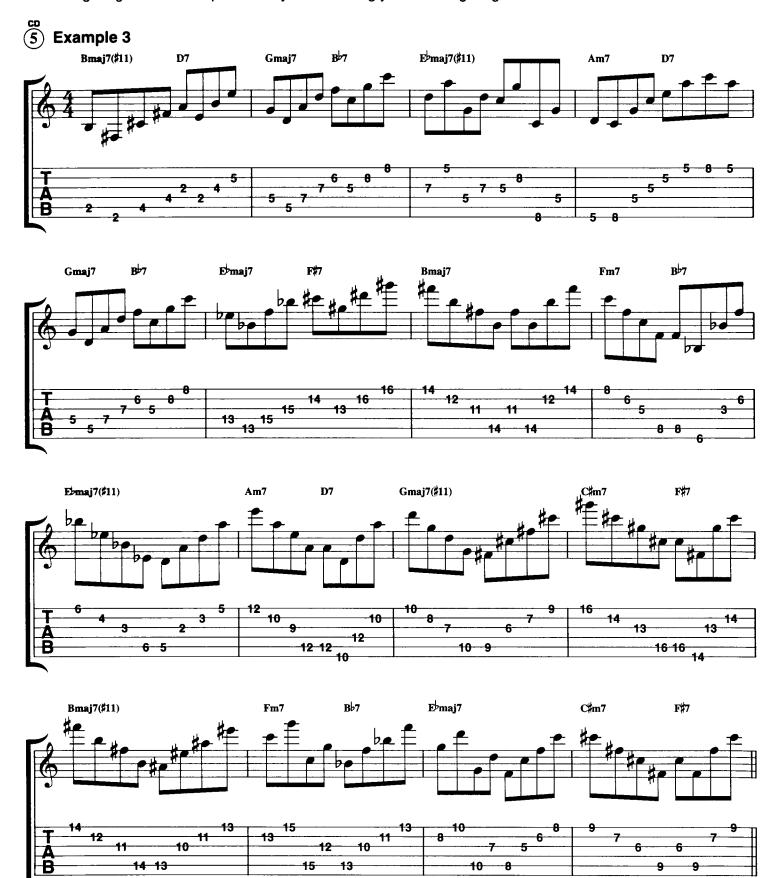
SOLO 2 Variation of Solo 1

Solo 2 is a variation of Solo 1 with many of the patterns either brought up or down an octave. Note the absence of unisons throughout and the incorporation of octaves in measures 7, 10 and 12. There are still new ideas throughout this solo.



SOLO₃

This solo demonstrates how a motif can carry us a long way. This is a very important lesson. Look for the many repetitive motifs throughout. The first six measures are a mixture of 4th and 5th patterns. The rest of the solo is mainly 5ths. In order to understand these patterns, use the fingerings in the example before you start using your own fingerings.



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SOLO 4

Motifs help to make up the body of Solo 4. This solo sounds tighter because it doesn't jump around large intervals.



SOLO 5

This solo is a great study in 5ths. Again, notice the repetitive motifs.

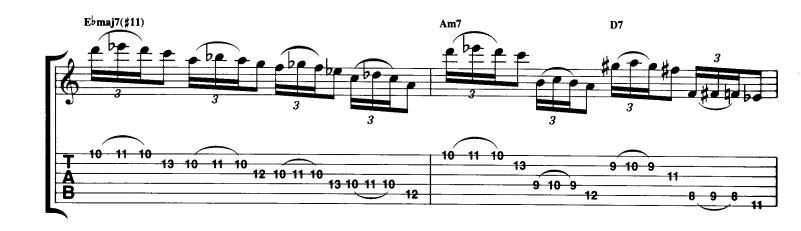


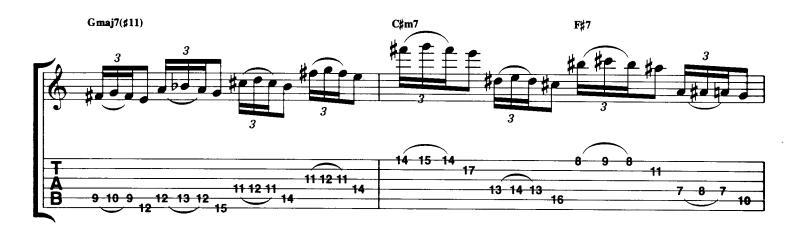
SOLO 6: Triplet Study

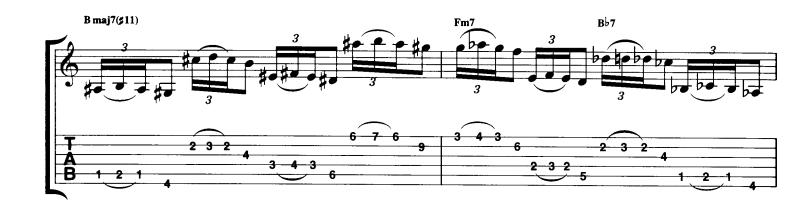
Solos 6, 7 and 8

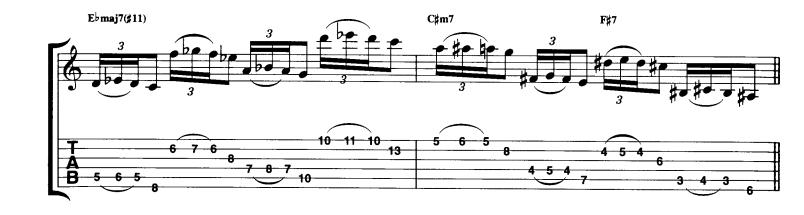
These solos are basically the same solo made up of 16th-note triplets. The difference is that while Solos 7 and 8 use the same notes, they are dispersed into different registers. For a smooth, legato feel, pick the first note of each triplet and play the following notes with a hammer-on and a pull-off.





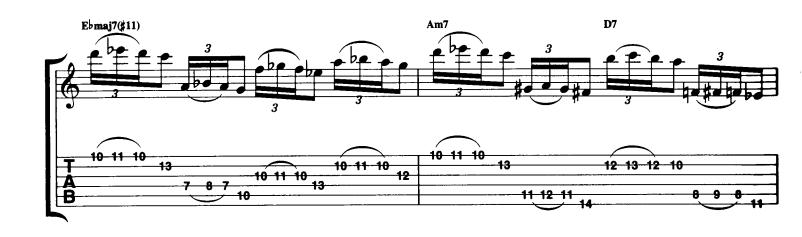


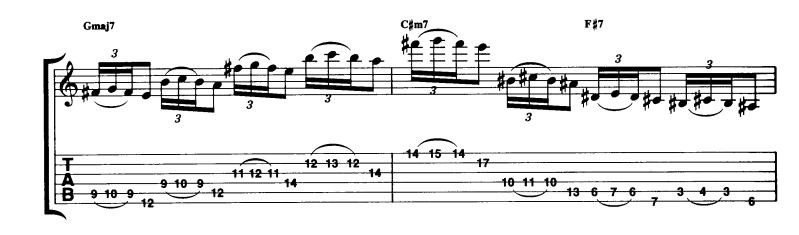


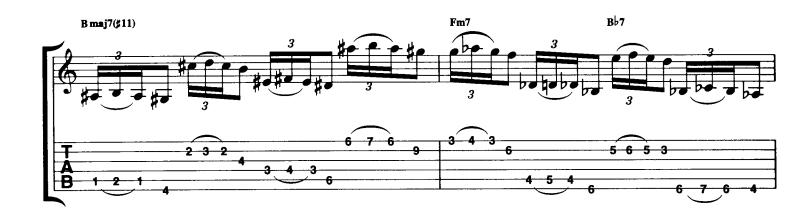


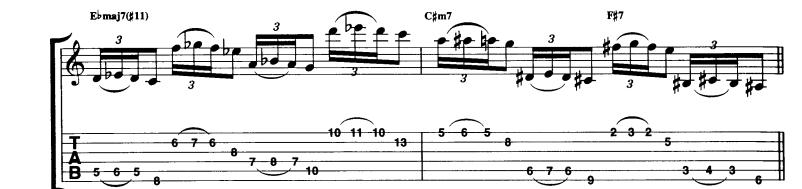
SOLO 7: Triplet Study





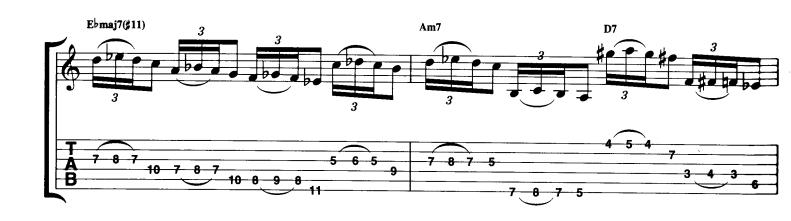


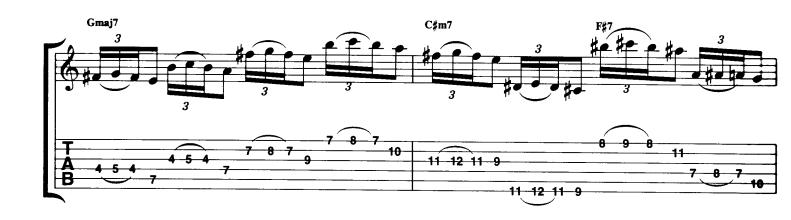


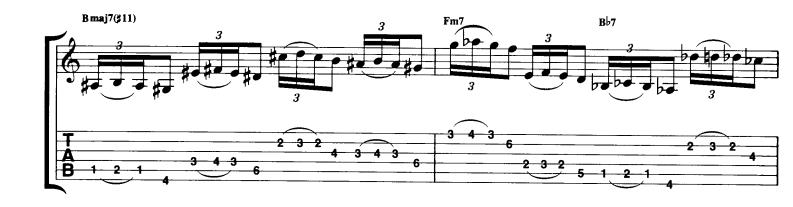


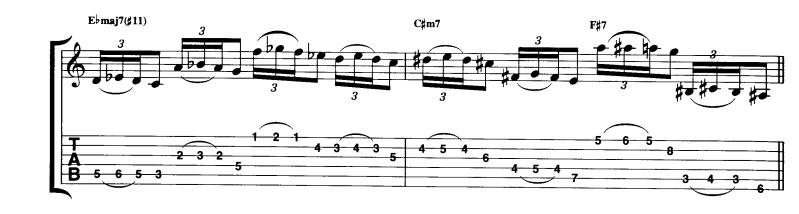
SOLO 8: Triplet Study





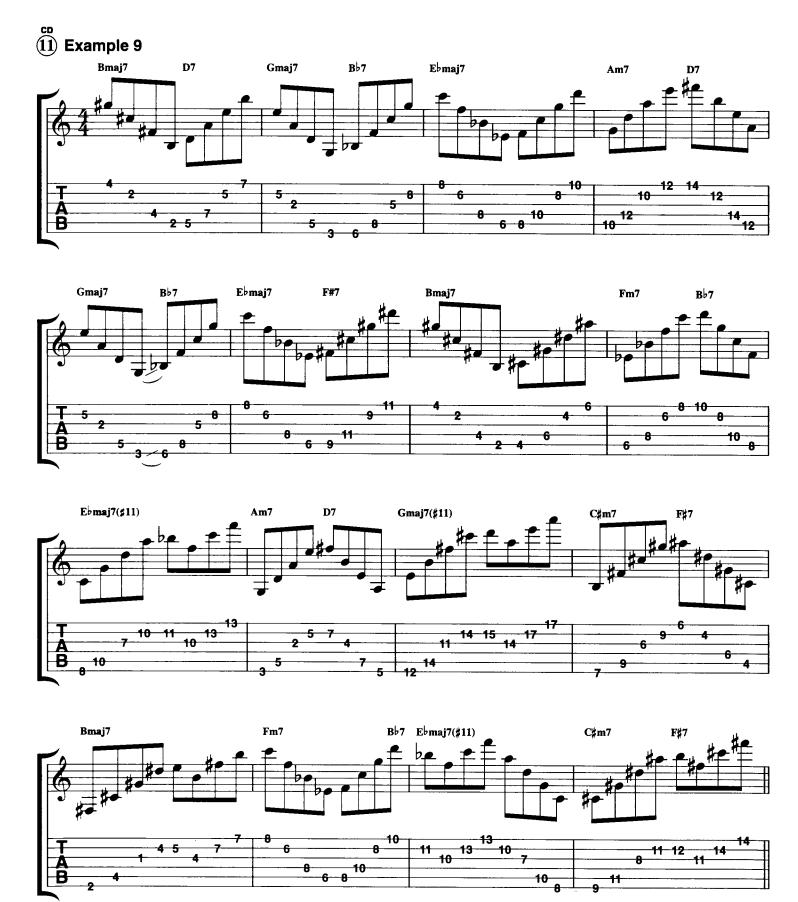






SOLO 9

Like Solo 5, this solo is a study in 5ths. In addition to alternate picking, try picking this study using only downstrokes.



SOLO 10: Variation of Solos with Unisons

This solo combines 5ths with unison sequences characteristic to Coltrane. Pay strict attention to the fingering of the unisons.



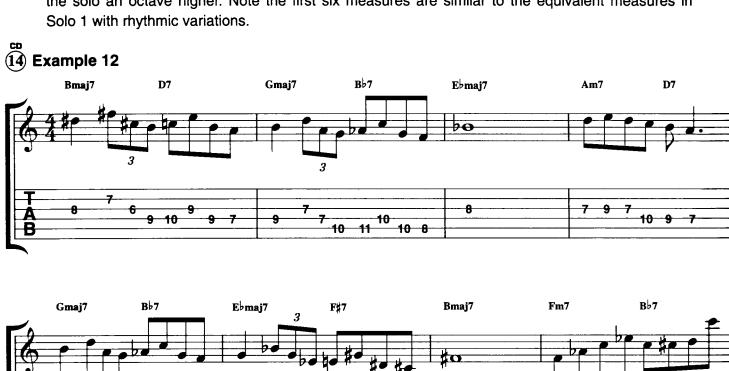
SOLO 11

This is another demonstration of how far a single idea can take you. Solo 11 utilizes one "shape" that is transposed to fit the harmony. While made up of 4ths and 5ths, this solo doesn't sound as "wide" as some of the previous solos. The symmetry of the melodic shape is very effective when played at a moderate to fast tempo.

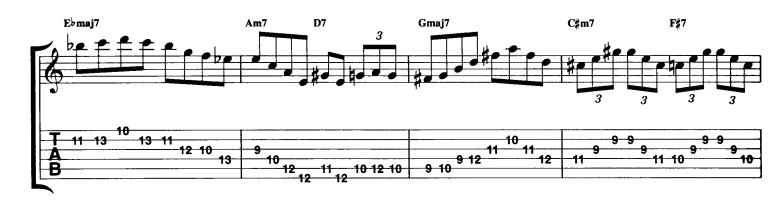


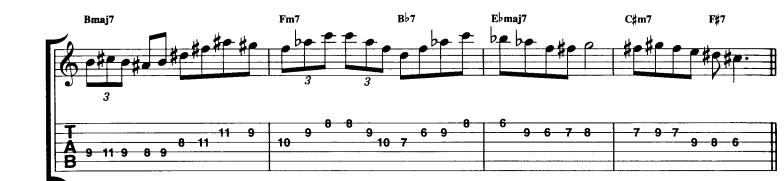
SOLO 12: Be-Bop Style

Solos 12 and 13 demonstrate the effectiveness of introducing rhythmic patterns that break away from the eighth-note line. This is the first example that introduces some rhythmic patterns reminiscent of the Be-bop era, but it still maintains the contemporary style. Experiment with playing the solo an octave higher. Note the first six measures are similar to the equivalent measures in Solo 1 with rhythmic variations.



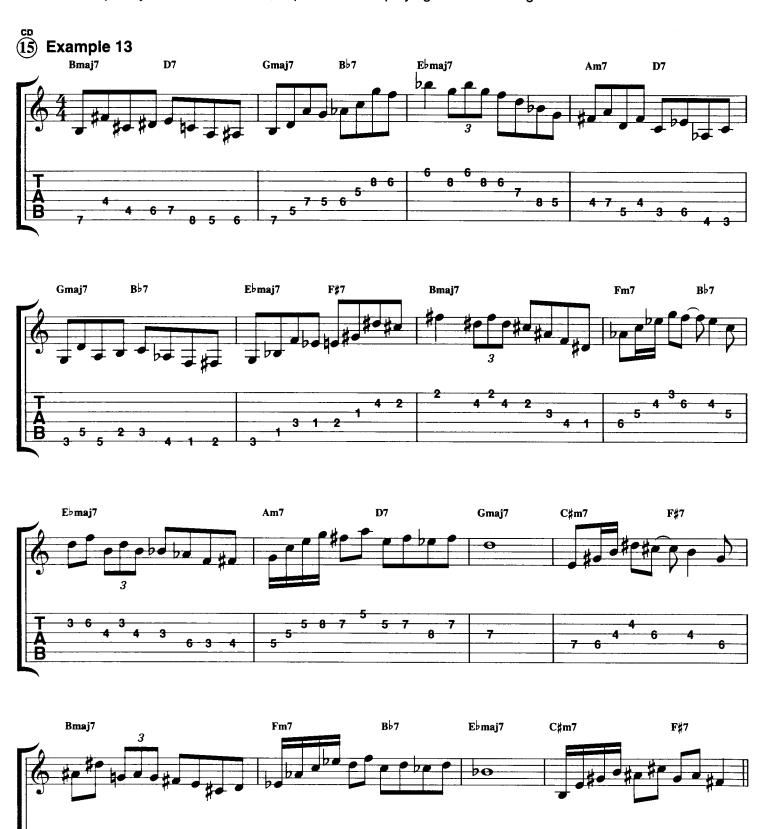






SOLO 13

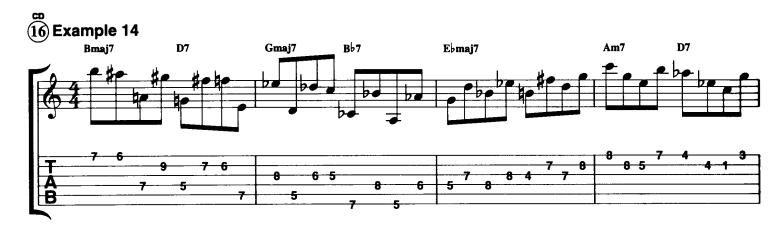
This solo introduces more rhythmic variations while still maintaining the blend of Be-bop and contemporary lines. Like Solo 12, experiment with playing it an octave higher.

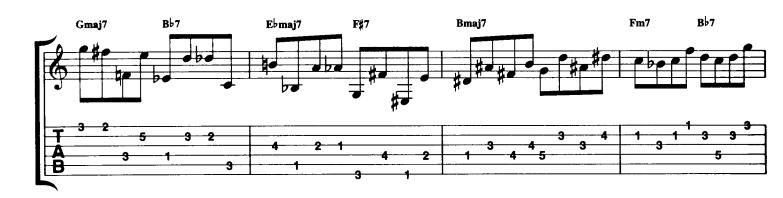


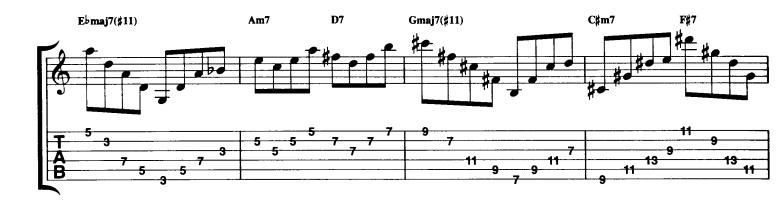
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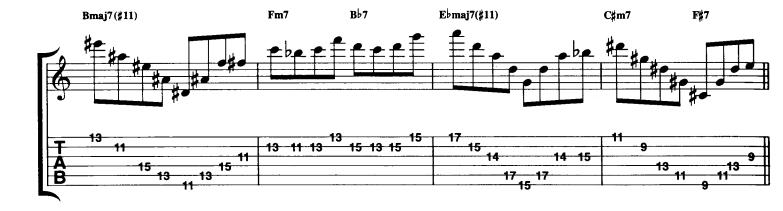
SOLO 14: Introducing Octave Dispersion

Notice that the first two measures and the fifth and sixth measures are strict, descending chromatic scales dispersed throughout the octaves. This technique is known as octave dispersion. Obviously, this creates wide sounding intervals.



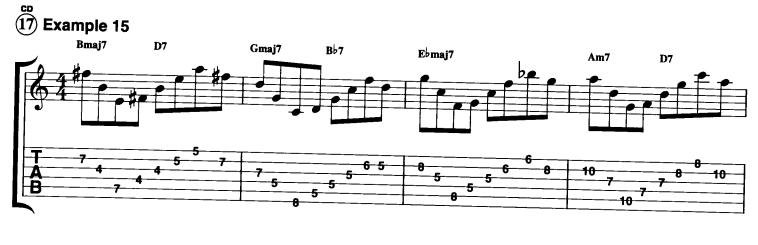


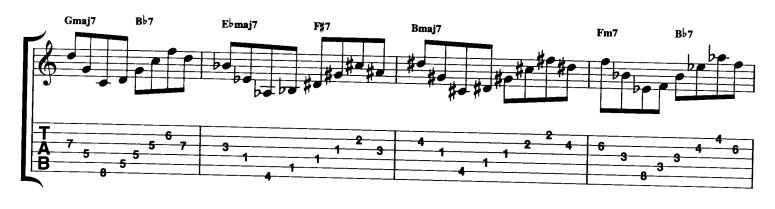


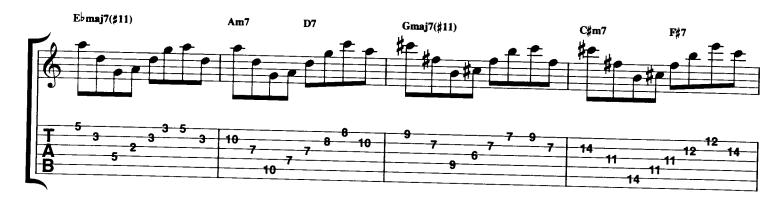


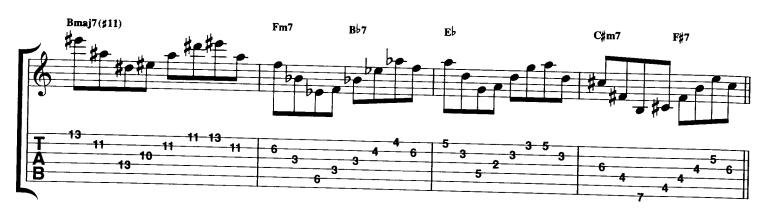
SOLO 15: Study of 4ths and 5ths

Notice how the first three notes, F#, B, E (descending) are the same as the next three ascending notes. The interval from F# up to B is a 4th, but the interval from F# down to B is a 5th. This means that 4ths and 5ths are inversions of each other. Try taking some of your favorite licks and inverting them the same way for an interesting, new angle to an old line.



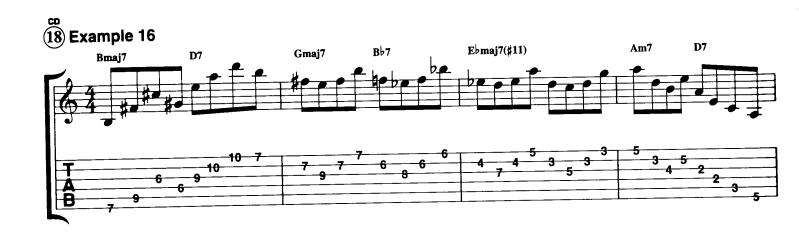


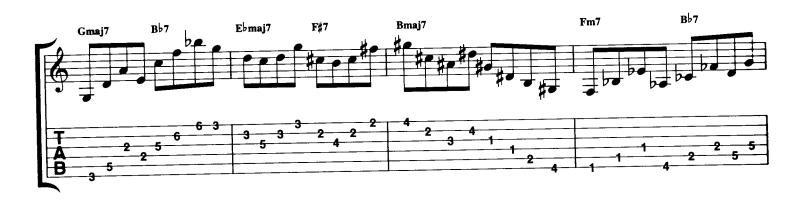


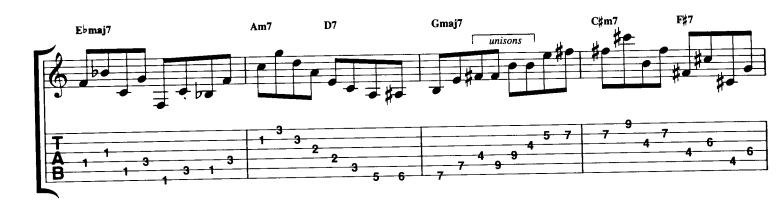


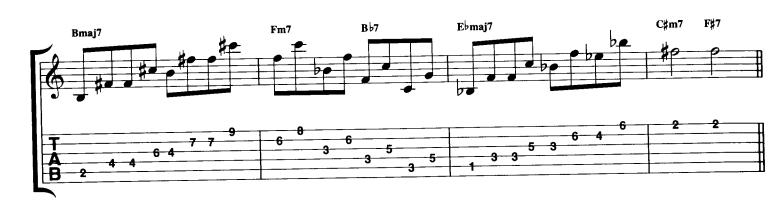
SOLO 16

This solo reiterates many of the previously discussed elements.



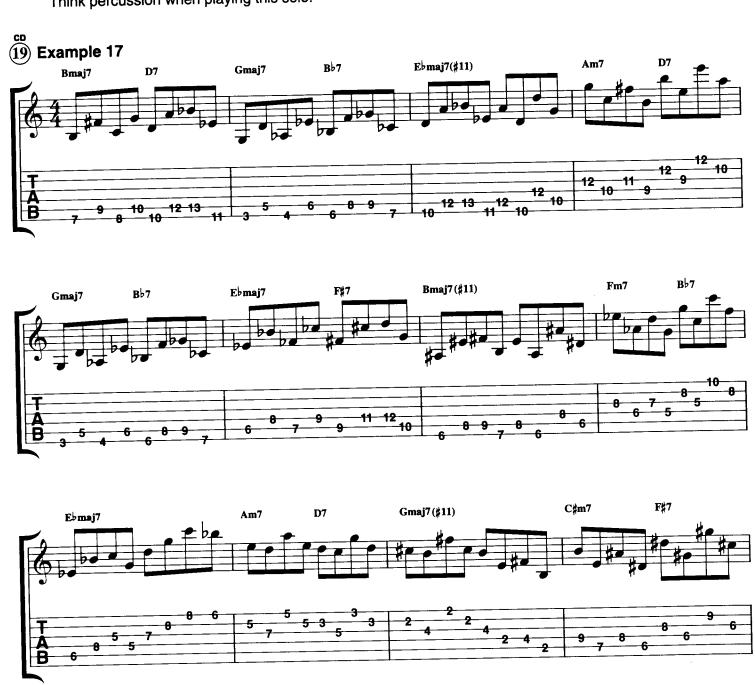


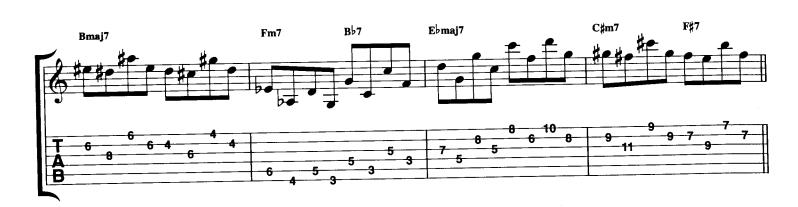




SOLO 17

This solo was inspired by an electric drummer. His bouncing from drum to drum gave me the idea to use the strings as drums resulting in these bouncy ideas crossing adjacent strings throughout. Think percussion when playing this solo.





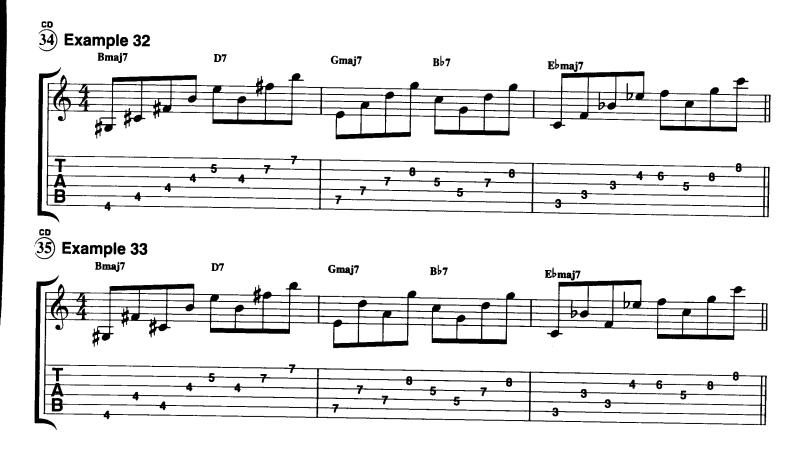
Additional Melodic Patterns PATTERNS FOR THE FIRST THREE MEASURES

The first three measures are the hardest part of this piece. The following sixteen examples demonstrate the advantages of learning them as one phrase instead of a series of separate keys. Transpose these ideas down a major 3rd for measures 5 through 7.



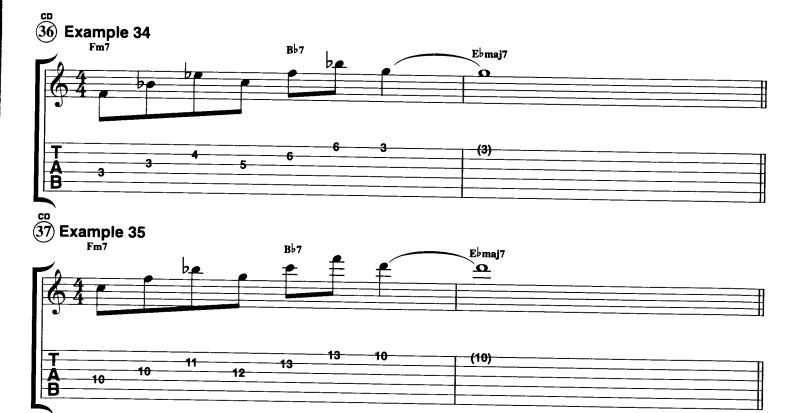


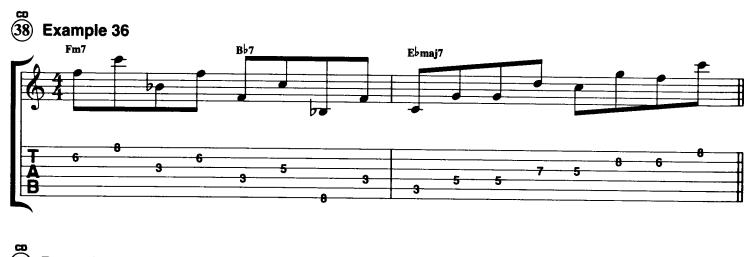




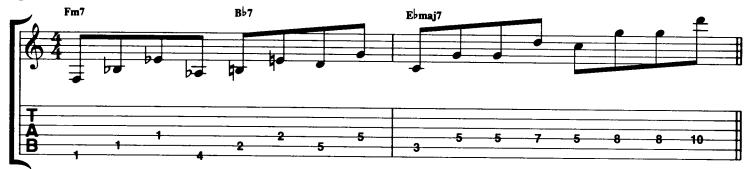
PATTERNS FOR THE II-V7-I

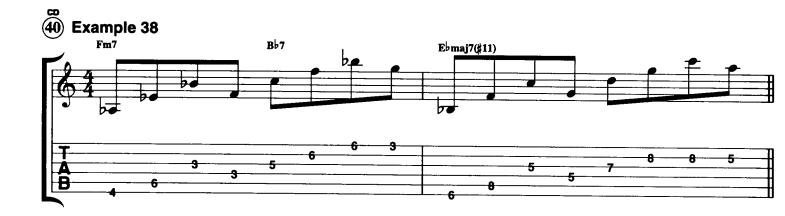
The ii-V7-I progression shows up, whole or in part, ten times within the song. The following six examples will supplement your vocabulary of ii-V7-I ideas. You can automatically plug each example into Phrase 4 of the progression since their tonal center is E^J. Transpose these lines to fit the other ii-V7-I phrases.











Example 39



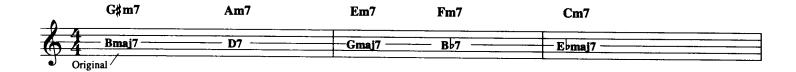
All Minor

By using some basic substitution principles, you can actually play through the entire song using only minor ideas.

If you were to list the notes of a G#m9 chord (G# B D# F# A#) you would discover that you actually have a Bmaj7 with a G# in the bass. This allows you to use G#m7 licks and ideas with a Bmaj7 harmony. You can substitute any major chord with the minor chord down a minor 3rd or up a major 3rd.

If you compare the Am7 (A C E G) to D7 (D F# A C), you will find that Am7 contains the 5th (A) and $^{\dagger} 7$ (C) of the D7. The E and G add a 9th and 11th, respectively, to the D7 chord. This enables you to treat any dominant 7 as a minor chord down a perfect 4th. Another way to approach this is to view any ii-V7 progression as only a ii chord.

After you reduce the entire progression to minor chords, you will end up with the following progression:



Am7	Em7	Fm7	Cm7	C#m7
Am7 D7	— Gmaj7	- Bb7	Ebmaj7 —	F\$7

G #m	Fm7	Gm7	Am7
Bmaj7	Fm7 — Bb7	E-maj7	Am7 — D7

Bm7	C ‡m 7	D ♯m7	
Gmaj7	C#m7 F#7	Bmaj7	

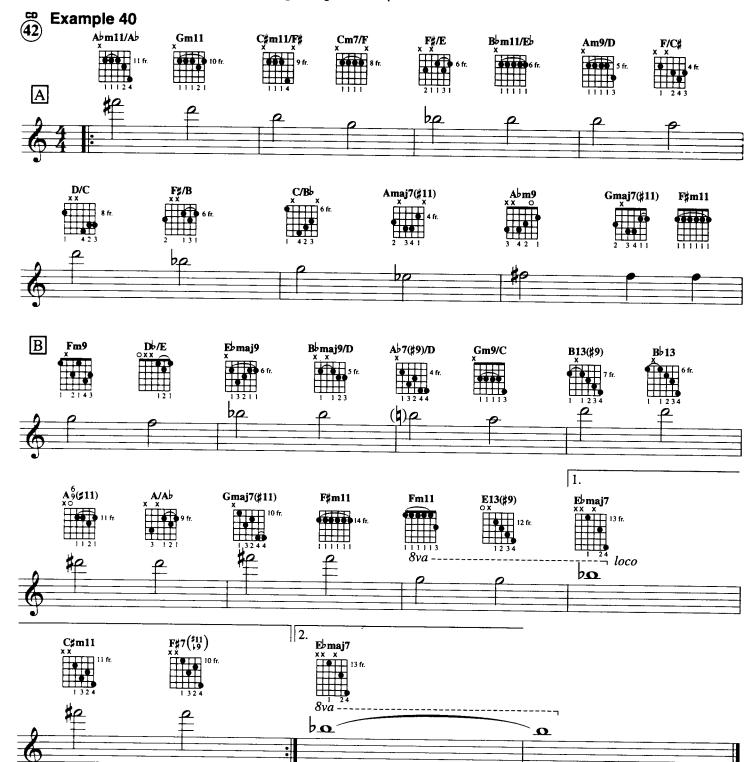
Fm7		Gm7	C‡m7	
-0				
Fm7 —	Вь7 —	E maj7	C#m7 F#7	
	-			

Chord-Melody Solos

Over the years I have written several versions of Giant Steps in chord-melody form. I have included them all. They will give you a diverse amount of harmonic information.

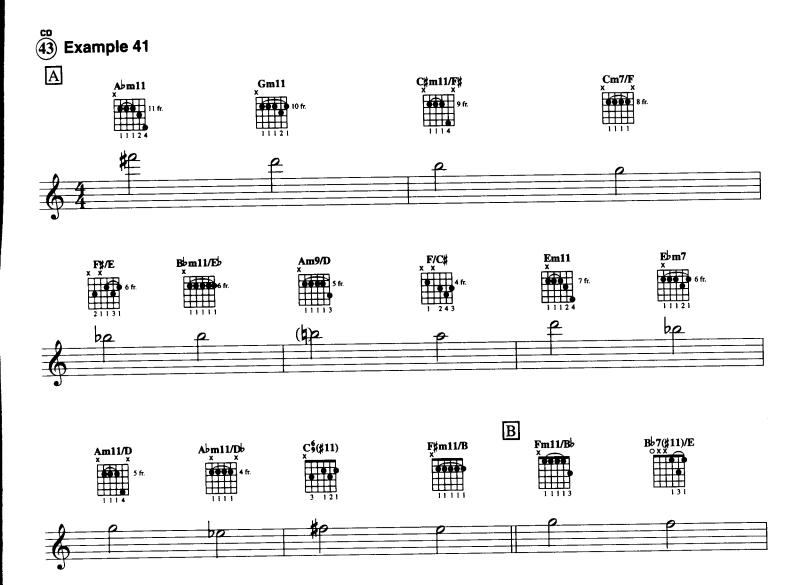
REHARMONIZED WITH CHROMATIC BASS

The chromatic bass-line defined this reharmonized chord solo. The progression starts with the A+m11 chord which functions as the VIm7 of Bmaj7. Once the outer voicings (the melody and the chromatic bass-line) were established, the inner voicings were chosen by ear through voice leading. While the harmony does venture "outside" the original structure, it manages to step back into the original harmony at the beginning of each phrase.



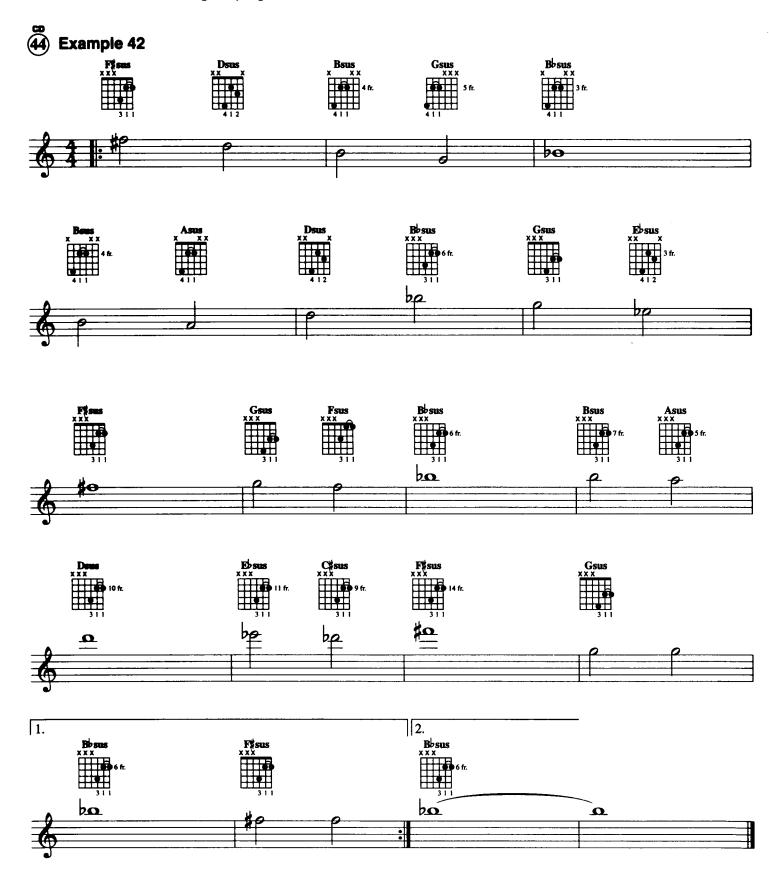
ALTERNATE HARMONIZATION

This variation on the "A" section is the first four measures of the previous solo followed by four measures of alternate changes.



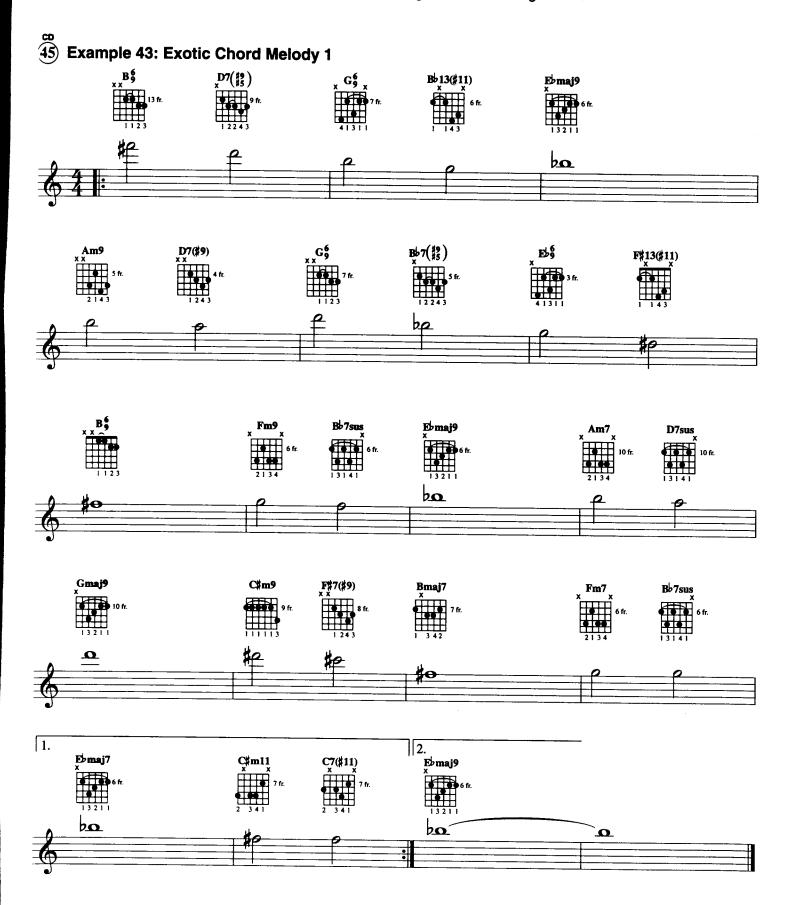
SUSPENDED CHORDS

You can voice every chord with suspended chords to give it an appealing, fresh new sound that deviates from the original progression.



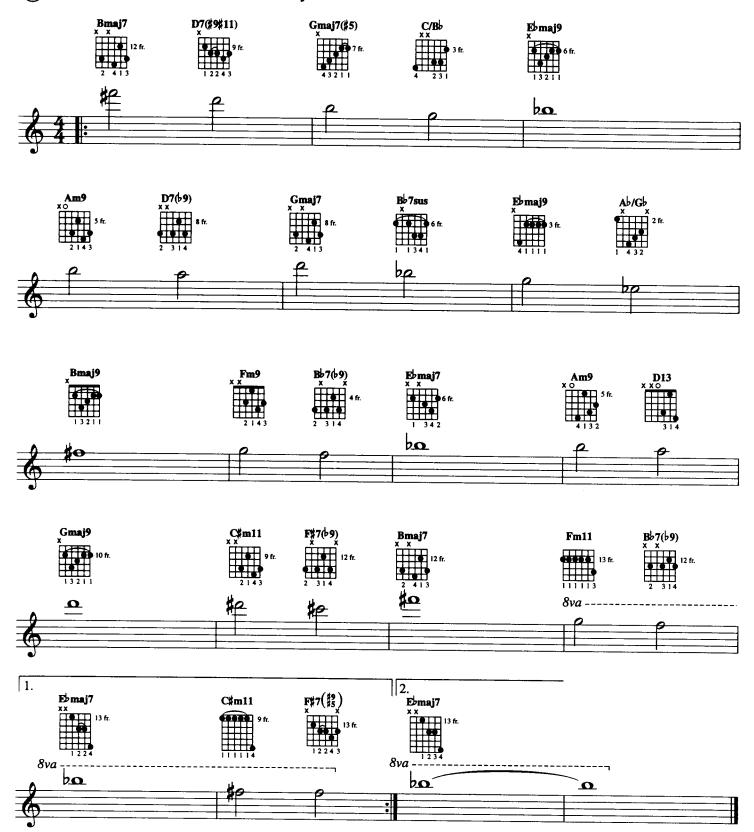
EXOTIC CHORD MELODY 1, 2 AND 3

The following three examples present many new voicings within the context of one progression. Whenever you find new chords that appeal to you, make sure that you work them into your playing as soon as possible by using them in a tune or writing them into an original tune.

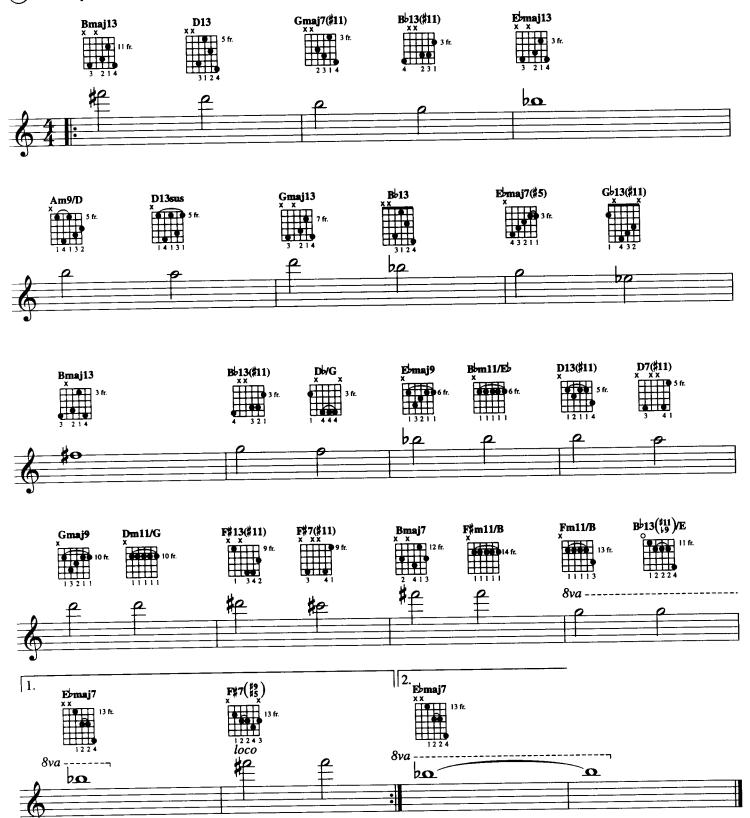


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Example 44: Exotic Chord Melody 2



Example 45: Exotic Chord Melody 3



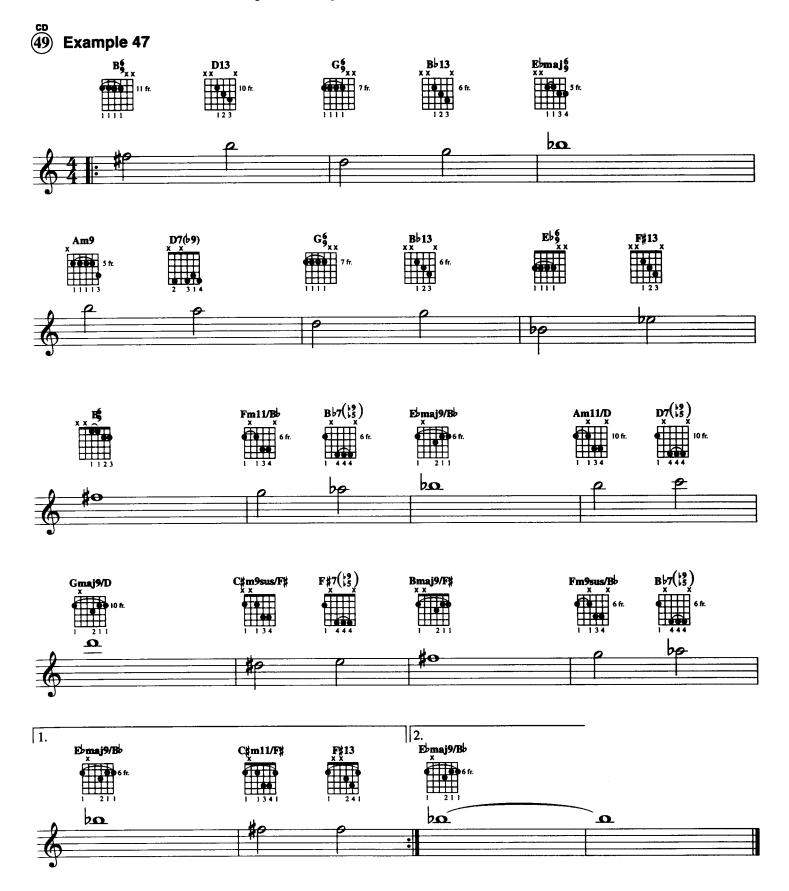
WALKING BASS-LINE WITH MELODY

The bass-line could be thought of as a counter-line or counterpoint in the style of J.S. Bach. Make sure to write one of your own after learning this example.



COMPING SOLO WITH PEDAL POINTS

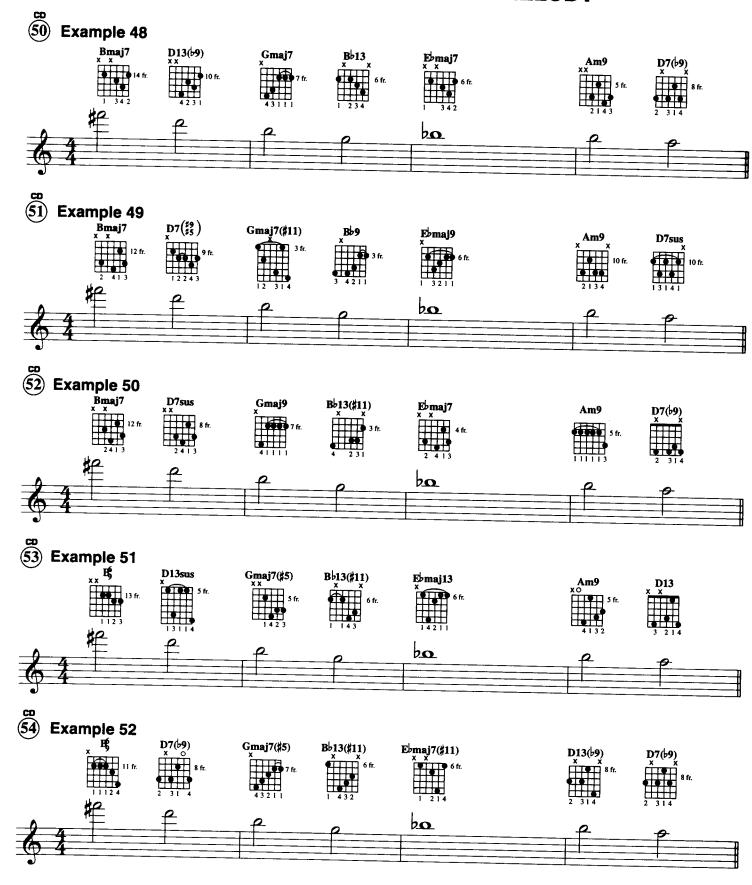
Pedal points are used a great deal in contemporary music. Pedal Points give a feeling of being in one key while the harmony moves underneath. The pedal points start in measure 8 with an entire ii-V7-I progression in E played with a B in the bass. All of the following ii-V7-I progressions that follow use the exact same logic of adding the root of the V7 chord to the bass of the ii and I chords.

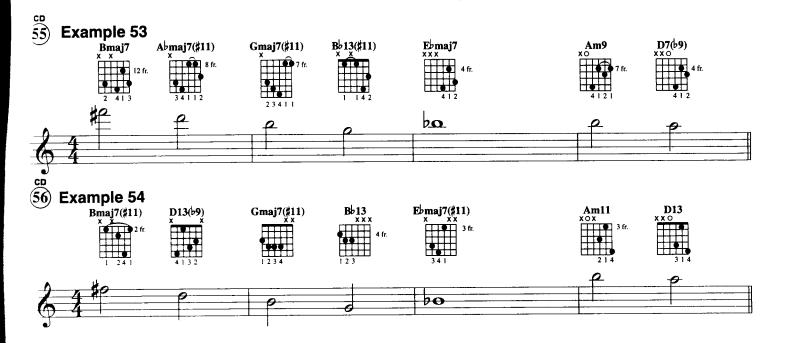


Additional Chord Patterns with Melody

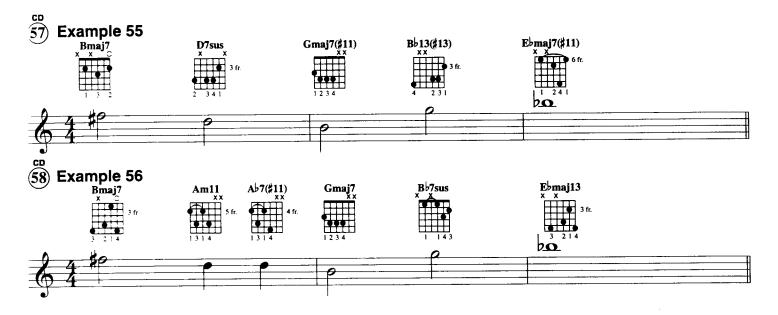
This section presents excerpts of chord melodies designed to increase your chord vocabulary. The qualities range from simple suspended chords to complex altered dominant chords. Take your time and grow.

FOUR-BAR PATTERNS WITH MELODY

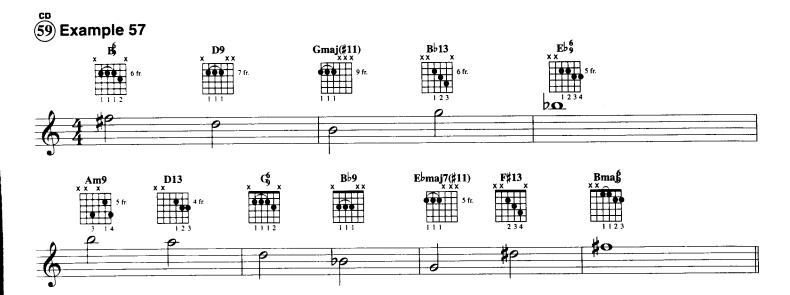




THREE-BAR PATTERNS WITH MELODY

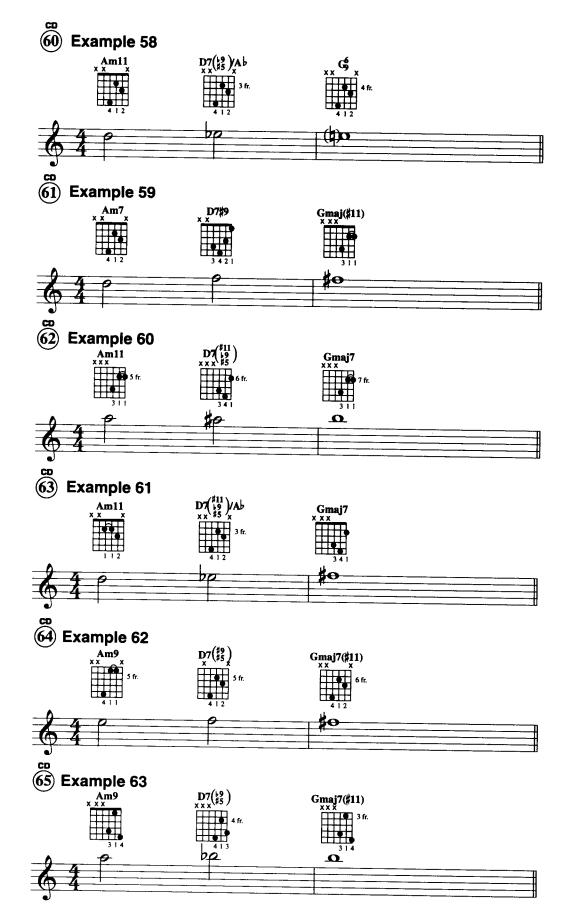


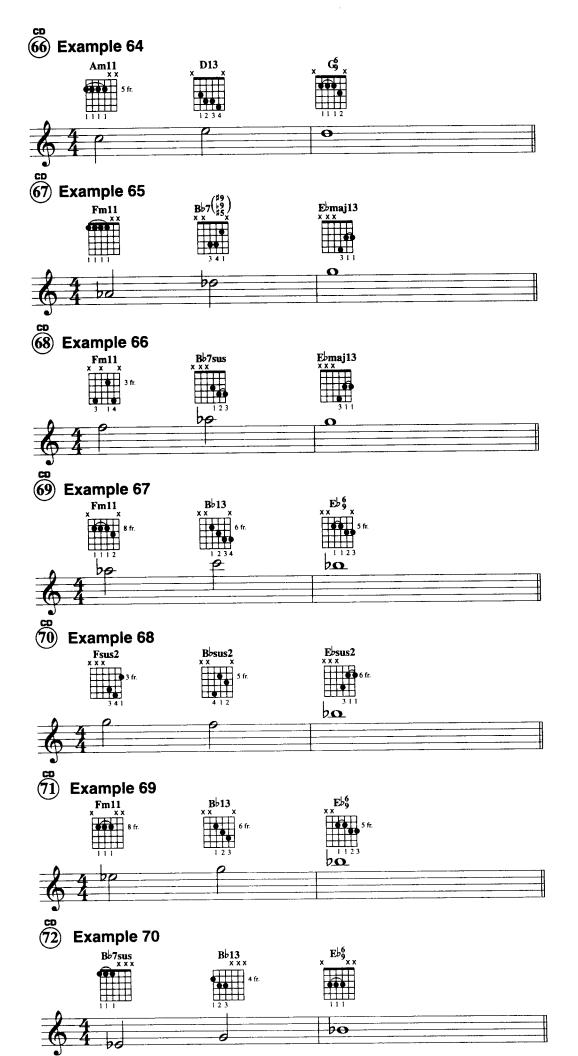
SEVEN-BAR PATTERN WITH MELODY



Additional ii-V7-I Chord Patterns

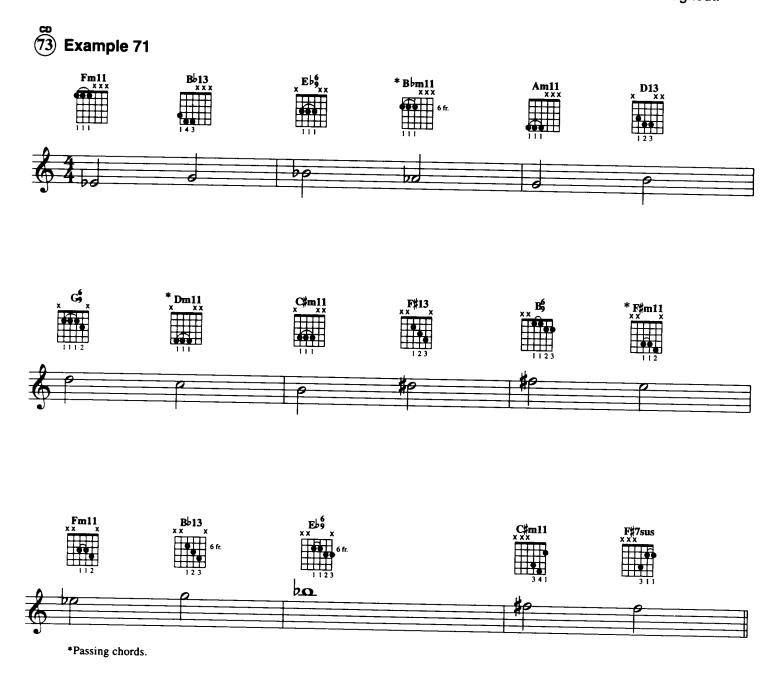
The following thirteen ii V7 I chord voicings are primarily suspended chords. Transpose them to apply them to the remaining ii V7 I progressions in the Bridge. Combining suspended chords to other chord qualities creates a refreshing new sound.





COMPLETE BRIDGE

The Bridge, starting at measure eight of the tune is a series of ii V7 I progressions in the keys of E, G, B, E, (all of them a major 3rd apart) followed by a ii V7 turnaround in B. In order to demonstrate how many harmonic functions one type of chord can imply, suspended chords are used throughout.

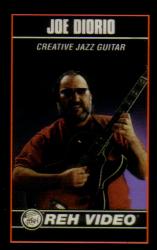




In this book, the legendary **JOE DIORIO** takes you through John Coltrane's classic, and very challenging, improvisation vehicle "Giant Steps." This in-depth study includes 17 single-note solos, II - V patterns, substitution principles for both comping and soloing, and eight complete chord-melody solos utilizing a variety of harmonization techniques.

All of the music examples are contained on the included recording and all music is written in standard notation and tablature.

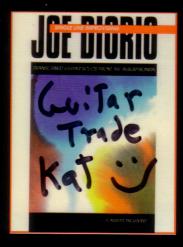
Also Available from **JOE DIORIO**:



CREATIVE JAZZ GUITAR (Video)

by Joe Diorio (REH811)

Explains techniques for making your playing more creative and intuitive. Composing and building solos with motifs along with unique sounding patterns for major and minor II-V-I progressions are demonstrated and explained. (60 min.)

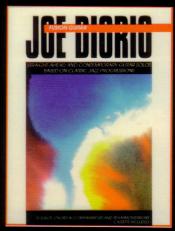


SINGLE LINE IMPROVISING

by Joe Diorio (EL03791)

Consisting of six solos transcribed from the album *Bonita*, *Single Line Improvising* is an opportunity to study this creative genius in many styles, from bossa nova to blues, ballads, bebop, and free jazz.

Includes the album-cassette Bonita.



FUSION GUITAR

By Joe Diorio (EL02787CD)

A "standard" in every jazz guitarist's library, *Fusion Guitar* is a panorama of jazz guitar solos, melodically fusing bebop and contemporary music. The solos are given for each progression, one straight-ahead and one progressive. Includes chord forms, fingerings, and position marking for each solo. CD included.