

Triads and 7th Chords

Triads are very important to improvisation and jazz harmony. Start with triads first before moving on to 7th chords.

Play over the entire range of your instrument with all of the variations. Remember to always go back down!

example 1 - major triads (M3, m3) up in half steps

(etc., up full range of horn then down)

example 2 - major triads (5,3,1) up in half steps

(etc., up full range of horn then down)

example 3 - major triads -up one down the other in half steps

(etc., up full range of horn then down)

The variations are endless, here are a few....

example 4 - 1,5,3 in half steps

example 5 - 5,1,3 in half steps

example 6 - 1,5,3 (octave up)

example 7 - 5,1,3 (octave up)

example 9 - 1,3,5 phrased as jazz 8th notes

Then you can play the triads spaced in whole steps, m3's, 4ths, etc...

example 10 - triads 1,3,5 in whole steps - remember to get the other half of them by starting a half step up from the first one



example 11 - triads 1,3,5 spaced in fourths (will take you through all keys)



Then do all variations with the different spacings. i.e. example 3 in whole steps



Once you are comfortable on major then do minor, diminished and augmented. Remember to do a bunch of variations on each type of triad



After you can do all triads then it is time for 7th chords

example 12 - major 7's up in half steps

example 13 - dominant 7's up in half steps



Use the same variations you did on triads for all 7th chords: major 7, dominant 7, minor 7, half diminished, diminished 7, augmented major 7, augmented dominant 7, minor major 7