JAZZ IMPROVISATION

for Saxophone

by Lennie Niehaus

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Cm7
C Minor Chord with Minor Seventh: Root - Minor Third - Perfect Fifth - Minor Seventh...C-Eb-G-Bb. (As was stated above, the small [m] applies to the third [Eb], not the Seventh, because the Seventh is automatically a Minor Seventh).

C07
This is a chord which is based on four notes which are one and a half tones apart: Root - Minor Third - Diminished Fifth - Double Flatted Seventh (or Major Sixth)...C-Eb-Gb-Bbb (or A♭).

C7
A Augmented Chord with Seventh: Root - Major Third - Augmented Fifth - Minor Seventh...C-E-G♯-Bb.

CMaj7
Since the letter [C] denotes a Major Chord, the letters [Maj] apply to the Seventh: Root - Major Third - Perfect Fifth - Major Seventh...C-E-G-B.

CmMaj7
C Minor Chord with a Major Seventh. (The small [m] applies to the Third, the letters [Maj] apply to the Seventh): Root - Minor Third - Perfect Fifth - Major Seventh...C-E♭-G-B.
Cmaj7  C Diminished Chord with a Major Seventh: Root - Minor Third - Diminished Fifth - Major Seventh...C-Eb-Gb-B.

Cmaj7

C+ Maj7  C Augmented Chord with a Major Seventh: Root - Major Third - Augmented Fifth - Major Seventh...C-E-G#-B.

C+ Maj7

Cm7[-5]  C Minor Seventh with a Flatted Fifth: Root - Minor Third - Flatted Fifth. (Small [-] means note is flat) and Minor Seventh...C-Eb-Gb-Bb.

Cm7[-5]
SEVENTH CHORDS
(C MAJOR)

Memorize the following seventh chords and their scales. The scales are all in the key of [C] Major.

C Maj 7

F Maj 7

Em 7

Am 7

Memorize the following seventh chords and their scales. The scales are all in the key of [C] Major.
EXAMPLES OF IMPROVISATION ON INDIVIDUAL CHORDS IN THE KEY OF C MAJOR USING THE CORRECT SCALES OF EACH CHORD.

[F] F MAJOR CHORD, F-A-C, BUT ALSO THE 6TH - [D]
AND THE MAJOR SEVENTH - [E] MAY BE ADDED.

[+] Notice the use of B\#, not Bb, because it is in the key of [C].
EXAMPLES OF IMPROVISATION ON DIFFERENT CHORD COMBINATIONS.

(KEY OF C MAJOR)

G7

C

Dm7

G7

C Maj 7

Em7

Am7

Dm7

G7

C Maj 7

F

Em7

Dm7

G7 [9th]

C [9th]
SOLO #1
(C MAJOR)

Moderately

C

Em7
Dm7
G7
C
Em7

Am7

G7

C
F
Em7
Dm7

Em7
Dm7
G7
C
Em7

Am7

G7

C
SEVENTH CHORDS

(G MAJOR)

G Maj 7
Am7

Bm7
C Maj 7
D7

Em7
F#m7[-5]
G Maj 7

Memorize the following seventh chords and their scales.

(Key of G Major)

G Maj 7
Am7

Bm7
C Maj 7

D7

Em7
F#m7[-5]

G Maj 7
EXAMPLES OF IMPROVISATION USING CHORDS WITH
NOTES, NOT IN THE SCALE OF THE KEY.

In the example above, the A7 in bars three and four calls for a Major Third [C#].

In the example above, bar two [E7] calls for G# and bars three and four [A7] calls for C#. 
CHORD AND SCALE STUDY

(G MAJOR)
SOLO #2
(G MAJOR)

Moderate Swing Tempo

G

Am7

Bm7

G7

C

Am7

D7

G

G

Em7

Am7

Am7

D7

Bm7

E7

Am7

D7

G

Am7

Bm7

G7

C

Am7

D7

G

A7

Am7

D7

G
SEVENTH CHORDS

(F MAJOR)

Memorize the following seventh chords and their scales.
(Key of F Major)
WHEN OCCASIONAL TEMPORARY MODULATIONS OCCUR, THE SCALES SHOULD BE IN THE NEW KEYS. THE FOLLOWING IS TEMPORARY MODULATIONS TO [C] AND [G].
BLUE NOTES ARE THE MINOR THIRD, FLATTED FIFTH AND THE MINOR SEVENTH OF A CHORD. HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF TWELVE BAR BLUES PROGRESSION FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES. ([*] means BLUE NOTE)
SOLO #3
(F MAJOR)

Moderate Swing Tempo
Memorize the following seventh chords and their scales.

(Key of D Major)
THE CHORD COMBINATION MOST COMMONLY FOUND IN MOST TUNES IS THE II7-V7-I. THIS IS THE MINOR SEVENTH CHORD BASED ON THE SECOND DEGREE OF THE SCALE TO THE SEVENTH CHORD BASED ON THE FIFTH DEGREE OF THE SCALE TO THE TONIC WHICH IS THE CHORD BASED ON THE FIRST DEGREE OF THE SCALE. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF II7-V7-I.

(1602/2000) (KEY OF C MAJOR)
(KEY OF F MAJOR)
SEVENTH CHORDS

(Bb MAJOR)

Memorize the following seventh chords and their scales.
(Key of Bb Major)
SOLO #5
(Bb MAJOR)

Moderate Swing Tempo

Bb

Cm7

Dm7

G7

Cm7

F7

Dm7

G7

Cm7

F7

Bb

Cm7

Dm7

G7

Cm7

F7

Bb

D7

G7

C7

F7

Bb

Cm7

Dm7

Dm7

G7

Cm7

F7

Bb Maj 7
The following is an exercise demonstrating the Major 7th Chord in all twelve keys. Play it slowly at first and gradually develop speed.
THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXERCISE DEMONSTRATING THE [7TH] CHORD IN ALL TWELVE KEYS. PLAY IT SLOWLY AT FIRST AND GRADUALLY DEVELOP SPEED.
SEVENTH CHORDS

(A MAJOR)

A Maj 7  Bm7  C#m7

D Maj 7  E7  F#m7

G#m7[-5]  A Maj 7

Memorize the following seventh chords and their scales.

(Key of A Major)

(Continued on next page)
CHORD AND SCALE STUDY

(A MAJOR)

A Maj 7

Bm7

C#m7

D Maj 7

E7

F#m7

G#m7[-5]

A Maj 7

D Maj 7  C#m7  Bm7  A Maj 7  G#m7[-5]  F#m7  E7  D Maj 7

E7

A Maj 7 [9th]
SEVENTH CHORDS

(Eb MAJOR)

Memorize the following seventh chords and their scales.

(Key of Eb Major)
CHORD AND SCALE STUDY

(EB MAJOR)
SOLO #7

(Eb MAJOR)

Eb Maj 7  Dm7[-5]  Cm7  Bb7  Ab Maj 7  Ab Maj 7

Gm7  C7  Fm7  Bb7  Eb  Cm7  Bb7  Ab Maj 7

G7  F7  Bb7

Eb Maj 7  Dm7[-5]  Cm7  Bb7  Ab Maj 7

Eb  Eb7  Ab Maj 7  Bb7

Gm7  C7  Fm7  Eb  C7

Fm7  Bb7  Eb  D°7

Eb°7  Eb°7  F°7  Eb°7  Eb°7
IN ORDER TO GIVE CONTINUITY TO ONES IMPROVISING, THE PLAYER SHOULD STRIVE TO PLAY LITTLE IDEAS AND DEVELOP THEM. THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES DEMONSTRATE A BASIC IDEA, AND SHOW HOW THEY ARE RE-USED AND DEVELOPED IN THE 12 BAR CHORUS.

(C MAJOR)

---

Moderate Swing Tempo

---

Basic Idea

---

F7

---

C7

---

Gm7

---

F7

---

C

---

Em7[-5]

---

A7

---

Dm7

---

G7

---

C
Basic Idea

Moderate Swing Tempo

(G MAJOR)

(F MAJOR)
Basic Idea

Moderate Swing Tempo

(D MAJOR)

(Bb MAJOR)
(A MAJOR)

Basic Idea

Moderate Swing Tempo

A        D7        A
A7       D7       Dm6
A        E7
D7         A        D7

(Eb MAJOR)

Moderate Swing Tempo

Em7  A7  Dm7  G7  Cm7  F7
Bbm7  Eb7  Ab7
Eb Maj7  F#m7  B7  Fm7
Bb7  Eb
THE MINOR AND THE MAJOR

Moderate Swing Tempo


Dm7 G7 C Am7 Dm7 G7 C

Bm7[-5] E7 Am F#m7[-5] B7 E7


Am Bm7[-5] Am E7 Am


OUR FIRST WALTZ

C Maj 7   C7   C7   F   C7   F
C         G7   C   C7   F
C Maj 7   A7   D7   G7   C   G7
C7       F   D7   G7
G7   Ab7   G7
C   G7   C   C7   F   C7   F
C Maj 7   D7   G7   C   C7
C Maj 7   D7   G7   C   C7
F   A7   Dm
Dm7   G7
C   C7   F   A7   Dm
IMPROVISED SOLO #3

Moderate Swing Tempo

C  \( ^7 \)  \( ^7 \)  C7  \( ^7 \)  F  \( ^7 \)  Fm  \( ^7 \)

C  \( ^7 \)  \( ^7 \)  D7  \( ^7 \)  Dm7  \( ^7 \)  G7  \( ^7 \)  C

C7  \( ^7 \)  F  \( ^7 \)  Fm  \( ^7 \)

C  \( ^7 \)  \( ^7 \)  D7  \( ^7 \)  Dm7  \( ^7 \)  G7  \( ^7 \)  C

Dm7  \( ^7 \)  G7  \( ^7 \)  C  \( ^7 \)  \( ^7 \)  Dm7  \( ^7 \)  G7  \( ^7 \)  B7

Em  \( ^7 \)  \( ^7 \)  Am  \( ^7 \)  D7  \( ^7 \)  G7  \( ^7 \)

C  \( ^7 \)  \( ^7 \)  C7\(+5\)  \( ^7 \)  F  \( ^7 \)  Fm  \( ^7 \)

C  \( ^7 \)  \( ^7 \)  D7  \( ^7 \)  Dm7  \( ^7 \)  G13\(+9\)  \( ^7 \)  C9 Maj7
IMPROVISED SOLO #7

ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE

Moderate Swing Tempo

Dm    Gm7    C7

Bb    B7    A

Am    Dm7    G7

C    F    B7    E

E    C#7    F#m7    B7    E

D#m7[-5]    G#7    C# Maj 7

A7[-9]    Dm    Gm7    C7

F    Bb    Eb7    Am7

Fm    Gm7    C7

F    Bm7[-5]    A7    Dm
IMPROVISED SOLO #8

Moderate Swing Tempo

Dm  Em7  A7  Dm  Gm7  C7
F  Gm7  C7[-9]  F  Em7[-5]  A7
Dm  Em7  A7  Dm  Gm7  C7
F  Gm7  C7[-9]  F
Am7[-5]  D7  Gm  Gm7[-5]  C7[-9]  F
Am7[-5]  D7  Gm  Gm7[-5]  C7  F  A7
Dm  Em7  A7  Dm  Gm7  C7
F  Gm7  C7  F
Moderate Swing Tempo

IMPROVISED SOLO #9

C
A7
Dm7
G7
Em7
A7
Dm7
G7 [+5]
C
A7
Bb7
A7
Dm7
G7
E7
F#m7
E
F#m7
B7
E
F#m7
B7
E7
A7
D7
G7
C
Eb°7
Dm7
G7
C
G9 [+5]
C Maj 9
Moderate Swing Tempo

IMPROVISED SOLO #11

Em7  A7  D

F#m7  F#  Em7  A7  D

G#m7[-5]  C#7  F#  G#m7  C#7  F#

F#m7[-5]  B7  Em7  A7[-9]  D

B7  Em7  C#7[-5]  F#7  Bm  G#m7[-5]

Em7  A7  D

B7[-9]  Em7
IMPROVISED SOLO #12

Moderate Swing Tempo

Em7 A7 Em7 A7 Em7 A7

D Em7 F#7 D Em7 B7

Em7 A7 Em7 A7 Em7 A7

D D7 G Gm D Am A7 D

E7 A7 Em7 A7

Em7 A7 Em7 A7 Em7 A7 Em7 A7

D D7 G G#7 D A7 D Maj 7
Moderate Swing Tempo

IMPROVISED SOLO #13

A7

Bm7[-5]

Dm

Am Maj 7

Am7 D7 G

F7

E7

A7

Dm

E7

A
IMPROVISED SOLO #14

Moderate Swing Tempo

A

Am7

B Maj 7

Bb Maj 7

A

Bm7

E7

E7[-9]

A

Dm7

G7

C

Bm7

E7

A

Am7

B Maj 7

Bb Maj 7

A

Bm7

C#7

F#m

D#m7[-5]

G#7

C#m7

F#m7

Bm7

E7

A
Moderate Swing Tempo

IMPROVISED SOLO #15
IMPROVISED SOLO #17

Moderate Swing Tempo

C G7 C G7 F B7 Em7 A7

Dm7 G7 E7 A7 D7 G7

C G7 C C7 F B7 Em7 A7

Dm7 G7 E7 A7 D7 G7 C Gb7

F B7[-5] Em7 A7 Dm7 G7 C C#07

G E7 Am7 G7 Dm7 G7[-9] [+5]

C G7 [+5] C7 F B7 Em7 A7

Dm7 G7 E7 A7 D7 G7 C07 C Maj 7
IMPROVISED SOLO #19

Moderate Swing Tempo

Am7 - D7 - Am7 - D7 - Am7 - D7

C

Am7 - D7 - G

Em7 - A7 - Am7

Am7 - D7 - Am7 - D7

Dm7 - G7 - Dm7 - G7

C - F#m7 - B7 - Em7 - A7

Am7 - D7 - Am7 - D7 - G - Am7 - B7 - Am7
Moderate Swing Tempo

IMPROVISED SOLO #20

E

E7[-9]

A7

Em7

D7

Dm7

G7

B7

Em6

C

B7

Em6

E

C#7[-9]

F#m7

B7[-9]

E

Em7

A7

D

Dm7

G7

Dm7

G7

F#m7[-5]

G#m7

Gm7

C

B7

G7

E

E7[+5]

E Maj 9
Moderate Swing Tempo

IMPROVISED SOLO #21

Ab Maj 7

G7
C

Ab Maj 7

G7[+9]   G7[-9]

C

F#m7[-5]

Fm6

Em7

Eb6

Dm7

G7
C

Ab Maj 7

G7[-9]
[+5]

Ab Maj 7

C

Ab Maj 7

G7
C
IMPROVISED SOLO #22

Moderate Swing Tempo

Dm7

A7

G7

C

Eb°7

Dm7

A7[-9]

G7[-9]

Dm7

G7[-9]

C

G7[-9]

Fm7

G7[-9]
IMPROVISED SOLO #23

Moderate Swing Tempo

E7   Am   Bm7[-5]   E7   Am

Bm7[-5]   E7   Am   A7

Dm

Em7[-5]

A7

D7

E7   Am   Bm7[-5]   B7[-9]

Am   Bm7[-5]   E7   Am

A7[-9]

Dm
IMPROVISED SOLO #24

Moderate Swing Tempo

G - Gm7 - Am7

D7 - G - Gm7

Am7 - D7 - G7

Dm7 - G7 - C - F7

Bm7 - E7 - Am7 - D7[−9] - G

D7 - G - Gm7

Am7 - D7 - G

Gm7 - Am7 - D7
IMPROVISED SOLO #26

Moderate Swing Tempo

D - Bm7 - Em7 - A7

D - F♯m7[-5] - B7 - Em7 - A7

D7 - G - Em7 - A7

D - Em7 - F♯m7 - Em7 - A9

D - Bm7 - Em7 - A7

F♯m7 - B7[-9] - Em7 - A7[-9]

D7 - Am7 - D7 - G - Em7 - A7

D - Em7 - A7 - D - G7 - C7
Swing Tempo

Moderate Swing Tempo

IMPROVISED SOLO #29
Moderate Swing Tempo

DUET #2

[Sheet music image]
Moderately Fast
Moderate Swing Tempo
Moderately Slow Swing

DUET #7

\[\text{Music staff and notes representing the duet's melody and harmony.}\]