

HOW TO SOLO OVER AUTUMN LEAVES WITH CHORD TONES

1. Learn the 4 notes of each chord by heart:

Dm⁷



G⁷



Cmaj⁷



Bm⁷(b⁵)



E⁷

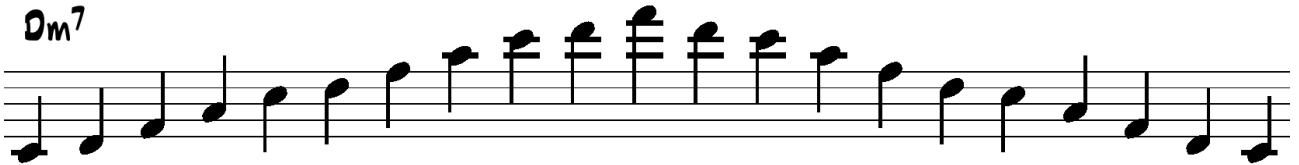


A^m⁷

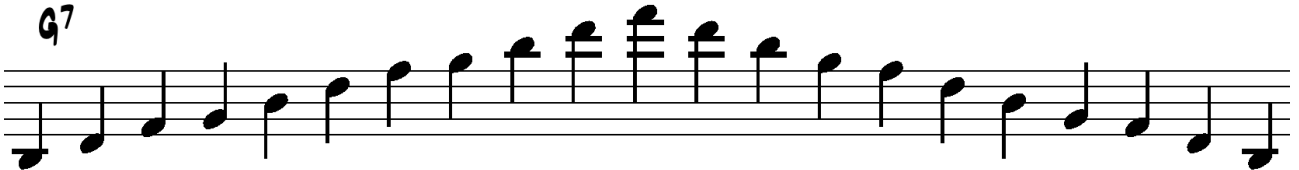


2. Learn each chord throughout the range of your instrument:

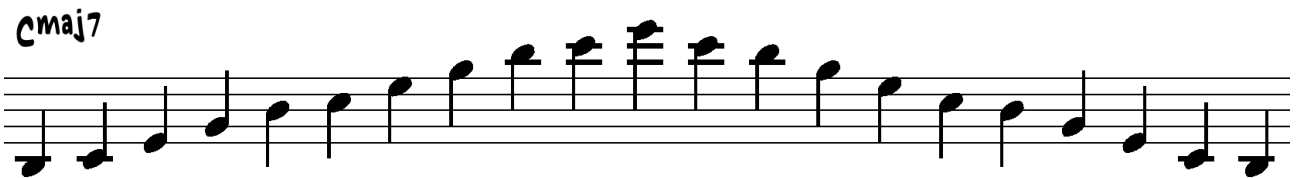
Dm⁷



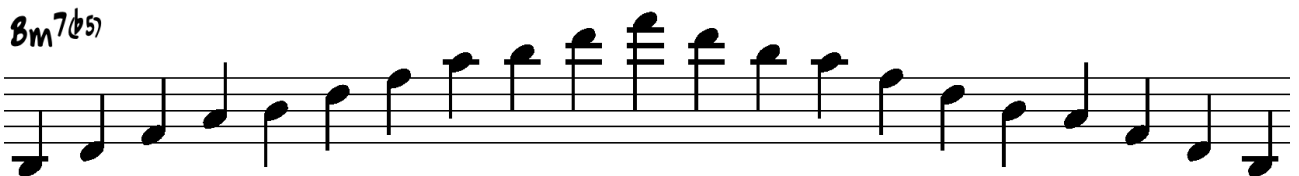
G⁷



Cmaj⁷



Bm⁷(b⁵)



E⁷

Am⁷

The image shows two musical staves. The first staff is labeled 'E⁷' and contains a sequence of chords: E7, F#7, G7, A7, B7, C#7, D7, E7, F#7, G7, A7, B7, C#7, D7, E7. The second staff is labeled 'Am⁷' and contains a sequence of chords: Am7, Bm7, C7, D7, Em7, Fm7, G7, Am7, Bm7, C7, D7, Em7, Fm7, G7, Am7.

3. Connect the chords to the two II-V-I progressions. Play first only the root¹, then root & third and so forth. Do this until you can play both progressions by heart.

Major II-V-I progression

Dm⁷ G⁷ Cmaj⁷ %

The image shows a musical staff with four measures. The first measure is labeled 'Dm⁷', the second 'G⁷', and the third 'Cmaj⁷'. The fourth measure contains a double bar line with a repeat sign (%). The notes in the first three measures are: D, F, A, C; G, B, D, F; C, E, G, B.

Minor ii-V-i progression

Bm⁷(b⁹) E⁷ Am⁷ %

The image shows a musical staff with four measures. The first measure is labeled 'Bm⁷(b⁹)', the second 'E⁷', and the third 'Am⁷'. The fourth measure contains a double bar line with a repeat sign (%). The notes in the first three measures are: B, D, F, A, B; E, G#, B, D; A, C, E, G.

¹ the root is the first note of the chord

4. Learn the harmony of the whole song by heart. Start again with the root only, then add the third and so forth (lead sheet on the next page). I recommend using a play-along from that step onwards.

5. If you can do step 3 without thinking nor peaking at the lead sheet, you're ready to improvise! Start by improvising with the root of each chord, then add the second note and so forth. You can also mix it up and use f.e. the root and the fifth as 2 notes to improvise with.

6. After you mastered step 5, you can now play a solo using the chord tones of each chord throughout the range of your instrument (see step 2).

Some tips for improvising:

- leave space to maintain control when practicing
- try to vary the length of your phrases and the length of the space in-between (1 bar, 2 bars, 1/2 bar, etc.) to keep it interesting
- Do you want to improve fast? Then practice without a play-along, so you can stop and correct yourself when you play something you didn't intend to play

AUTUMN LEAVES

JOSEPH KOSMA

A

4/4

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7

1 2 3 4

5

Bm7(b5) E7 Am7

5 6 7 8

B

9

Bm7(b5) E7 Am7

9 10 11 12

13

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7

13 14 15 16

C

17

Bm7(b5) E7 Am7

17 18 19 20

21

Bm7(b5) E7 Am7

21 22 23 24