

Seventh-Chords/Inversions: Exercise 3

(Improvising over the Diatonic "Circle-of-Fifths")

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The image displays six systems of piano accompaniment for Exercise 3. Each system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The chords are indicated by labels above the treble clef staff, and the bass clef staff contains the corresponding chord voicings. The systems are numbered 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21.

System 1: Fmaj7, Bbmaj7, Em7b5, Am7

System 5: Dm7, Gm7, C7, Fmaj7

System 9: Bbmaj7, Ebmaj7, Am7b5, Dm7

System 13: Gm7, Cm7, F7, Bbmaj7

System 17: Ebmaj7, Abmaj7, Dm7b5, Gm7

System 21: Cm7, Fm7, Bb7, Ebmaj7

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25 $A\flat$ maj7 $D\flat$ maj7 $Gm7\flat5$ $Cm7$

29 $Fm7$ $B\flat m7$ $E\flat7$ $A\flat$ maj7

33 $D\flat$ maj7 $G\flat$ maj7 $Cm7\flat5$ $Fm7$

37 $B\flat m7$ $E\flat m7$ $A\flat7$ $D\flat$ maj7

41 $G\flat$ maj7 $C\flat$ maj7 $Fm7\flat5$ $B\flat m7$

45 $E\flat m7$ $A\flat m7$ $D\flat7$ $G\flat$ maj7

49 G maj7 C maj7 $F\sharp m7\flat5$ $Bm7$

53 Em7 Am7 D7 Gmaj7

57 Dmaj7 Gmaj7 C#m7b5 F#m7b5

61 Bm7 Em7 A7 Dmaj7

65 Amaj7 Dmaj7 G#m7b5 C#m7

69 F#m7 Bm7 E7 Amaj7

73 Emaj7 Amaj7 D#m7b5 G#m7

77 C#m7 F#m7 B7 Emaj7

81 Bmaj7 Emaj7 A#m7b5 D#m7

85 G#m7 C#m7 F#7 Bmaj7

PRACTICE TIPS: This is the Diatonic Circle of Fifths exercise from my first book, **Improvising and Arranging on the Keyboard** (Prentice-Hall, 1981). Each 8-measure section displays the seven 7th chords for the key named in the first measure. The chord changes give you the chord-tones (Passive) for each measure. Improvise a melodic line using those tones and other scale-tones (Active) in your melodic improvs. Play your own melodic material at different rhythms and starting points in the measures. As you can see, the HARMONIC RHYTHM of the chord changes is straight whole notes. It should be fairly easy to create riffs and melodies with contrasting rhythms.

LEARNING POINTS:

- Develop smooth voice-leading in left-hand 7th chords.
- Memorize the voicings. They are standard modern voicings
- Develop an "ear-sense" for appropriate melodic notes over the chords using PASSIVE (chord-tone) and ACTIVE (Non chord-tone) melodic choices.

FINAL THOUGHT: VIP!!! This kind of improvising will start you on a path to learn skills that literally "can't be taught!" They can be LEARNED. Hopefully, creative practice with this exercise can be helpful on that journey.
JimO, 2022