

Seventh-Chords/Inversions: Exercise 3

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

JImO

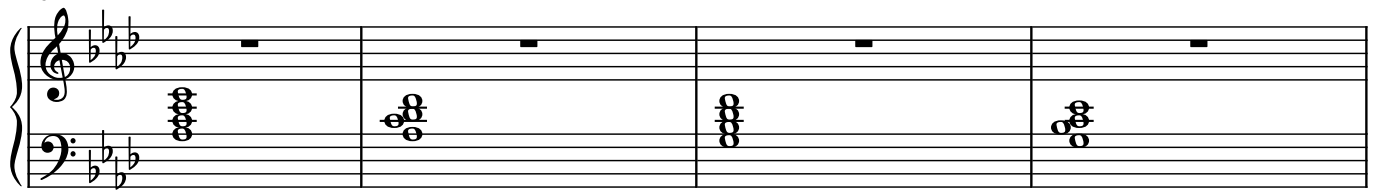
The image displays a piano accompaniment exercise in 4/4 time, consisting of seven systems of four measures each. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The exercise is structured as follows:

- System 1:** Chords are Fmaj7, Bbmaj7, Em7b5, and Am7.
- System 2:** Chords are Dm7, Gm7, C7, and Fmaj7.
- System 3:** Chords are Bbmaj7, Ebmaj7, Am7b5, and Dm7.
- System 4:** Chords are Gm7, Cm7, F7, and Bbmaj7.
- System 5:** Chords are Ebmaj7, Abmaj7, Dm7b5, and Gm7.
- System 6:** Chords are Cm7, Fm7, Bb7, and Ebmaj7.

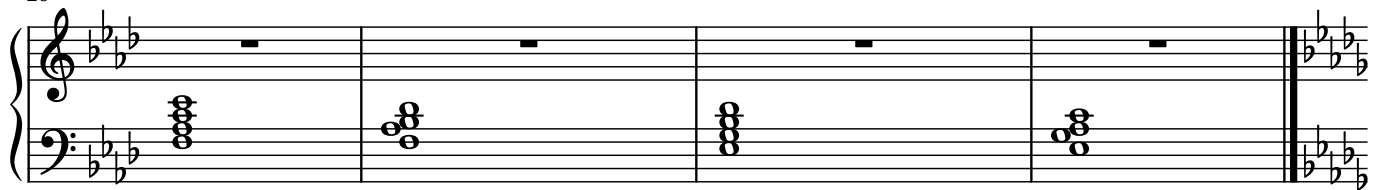
Each system begins with a measure number (5, 9, 13, 17, 21) in the left margin. The notation shows the bass clef with chord voicings in the left hand and a treble clef with rests in the right hand. The exercise concludes with a double bar line at the end of the seventh system.

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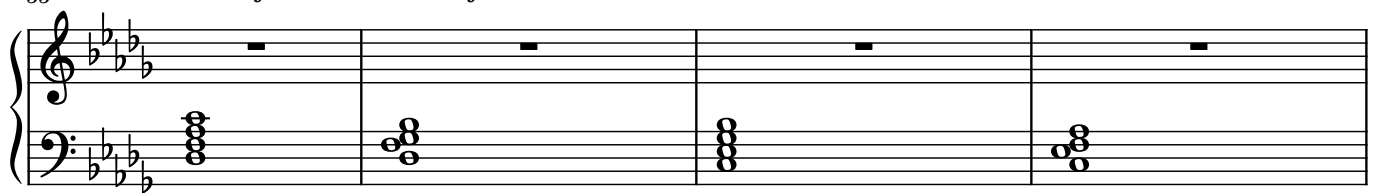
25 A \flat maj7 D \flat maj7 Gm7 \flat 5 Cm7



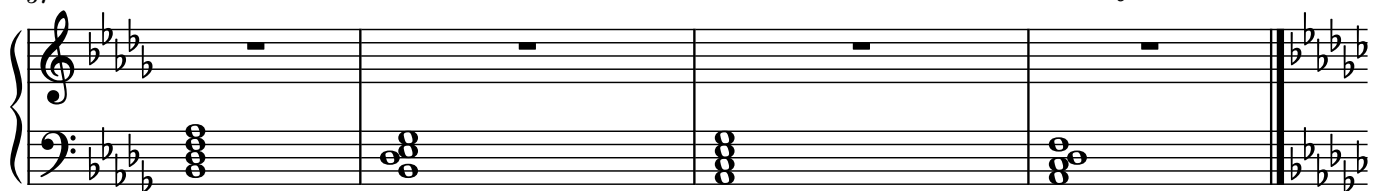
29 Fm7 B \flat m7 E \flat 7 A \flat maj7



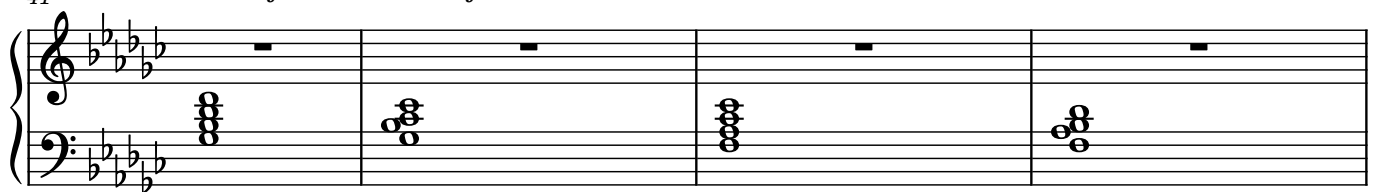
33 D \flat maj7 G \flat maj7 Cm7 \flat 5 Fm7



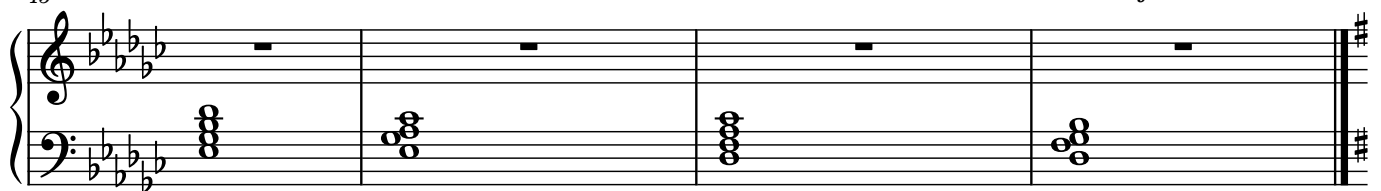
37 B \flat m7 E \flat m7 A \flat 7 D \flat maj7



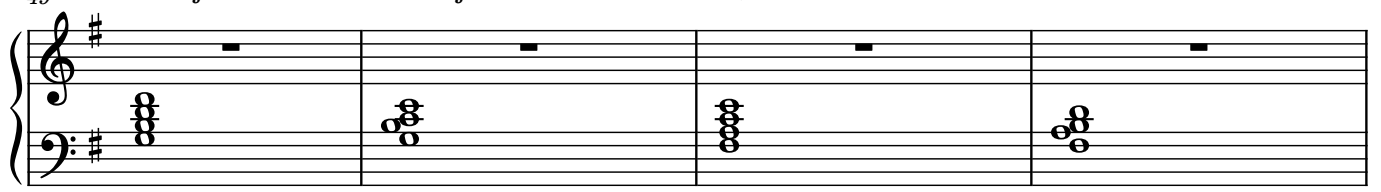
41 G \flat maj7 C \flat maj7 Fm7 \flat 5 B \flat m7



45 E \flat m7 A \flat m7 D \flat 7 G \flat maj7



49 Gmaj7 Cmaj7 F \sharp m7 \flat 5 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 ACTIVE (chord-tone) and PASSIVE (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