

# Seventh-Chords/Inversions: Exercise 3b

(Stretching out to 2-measure phrases)

JImO

Fmaj7      Bbmaj7      Em7b5      Am7

5      Dm7      Gm7      C7      Fmaj7

**Get the idea?** Now try your own versions of this pattern, or some variation. Notice the rhythms are getting more syncopated. Integrate those rhythms into your own.

9      Bbmaj7      Ebmaj7      Am7b5      Dm7

13      Gm7      Cm7      F7      Bbmaj7

17      Ebmaj7      Abmaj7      Dm7b5      Gm7

21      Cm7      Fm7      Bb7      Ebmaj7

## 2

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