

OUTLINES FOR JAZZ IMPROVISATION:

“Connecting Chords with Linear Harmony” (Houston Pub., distributed by Hal Leonard) examines common lines used by all great jazz artists to connect harmony in jazz improvisation and composition. Harmony is treated as a linear rather than vertical. The book is based on hundreds of examples from great jazz artists that are examined, analyzed and categorized. Graduated exercises, etudes, and ear-training tips help you develop your own voice.

Three basic outlines for connecting chords are shown below.

These patterns recur in hundreds of jazz improvisations and compositions. These patterns sometimes appear unembellished in a bare form as shown, and other times hidden within highly chromatic embellishment.

What to do?

1. Learn the basic patterns in all major and minor keys.
2. Develop some basic ways to elaborate and embellish the outlines.
3. Borrow ideas from great jazz solos and incorporate them in your exercises.
4. Apply specific lines to tunes, composing parts of or complete solos based on the outlines.
5. Buy the book!

Outline No.1 for major ii7 - V7 - Imaj7:

Dm7 G7 Cmaj9

Outline No.2 for major ii7 - V7 - Imaj7:

Dm7 G7 Cmaj9

Outline No.3 for major ii7 - V7 - Imaj7:

Dm7 G7 Cmaj9

Outline No.1 for minor iiø7 - V7 - i:

Dø7 G7^{b9} Cm

Outline No.2 for minor iiø7 - V7 - i:

Dø7 G7^{b9} Cm

Outline No.3 for minor iiø7 - V7 - i:

Dø7 G7^{b9} Cm