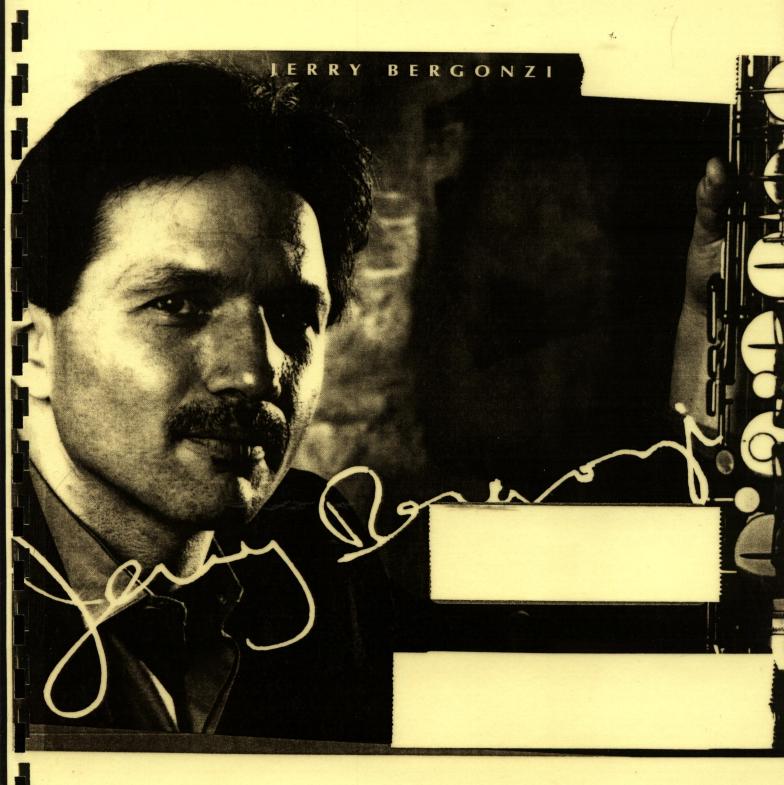
# VOL. 2 «PENTATONICS»



FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS



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CD-	Track Listing	
	oduction	
1	Pentatonic Scales	
2		
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4	Chords and Pentatonics	
	Progression 1: (Minor 7th Cycle)	
	Progression 2: (Major 7th Cycle)	
	• Progression 3: (Say It Again)	
5	Improvising: Developing Flexibility with Pentatonics	
6		
2.00	Progression 4: (Minor 6th Cycle)	
	Progression 5: (Dominant 7th Cycle)	
	Progression 6: (Dominant altered Cycle)	
	• Progression 7: (Minor 7 <sup>5</sup> Cycle)	
	Progression 8: (Minor Blues - 3 Keys)	
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	• Progression 10: (Before It Happens)	
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	• Progression 11: (Inititation)	
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	• Progression 15: (Dominant 7 <sup>69413</sup> Cycle)	
	• Progression 16: (Feel For You)	
11	Whole Tone Pentatonic Scales	
	• Progression 17: (Hardly Ever)	
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	Progression 18: (Poly-Pentatonics)	-
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## INSIDE IMPROVISATION SERIES

# VOL. 2 «PENTATONICS»

BY JERRY BERGONZI.





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Jerry Bergonzi: Tenor Saxophone

Renato Chicco: Piano

Dave Santoro: Bass

Adam Nussbaum: Drums

Recorded and mixed at PBS Studio, Westwood, MA, September 8th and 12th, 1993

Recording engineer: Peter Kontrimas

Produced by Jerry Bergonzi

Executive Producer: Hans Gruber

Jerry Bergonzi plays and endorses Selmer Saxophones, Sugal Mouthpieces, Rico Reeds, Shure Microphones.

# CD-Track Listing

# PLAY-ALONG TRACKS

TRACK	CHORD PROGRESSION	C CONCERT: PAGE NO.	ø. B♭: PAGE NO.	E♭: PAGE NO.
1 ;	Tuning Notes			
2	Minor 7th Cycle	29	29	30
3	Major 7th Cycle	30	31	31
4	Say It Again	32-35-60	33-36-61	34-37-62
5	Minor 6th Cycle	57	57	57
6	Dominant 7th Cycle	58	58	58
7	Dominant altered Cycle	59	59	59
8	Minor 7 <sup>b5</sup> Cycle	63	63	63
9	Minor Blues - 3 Keys	64	65 .	66
10	Major Blues - 3 Keys	67	68 .	69
11	Before It Happens	70	70 .	71
12	Inititation	76	77 ·	78
13	Inititation - Bridge Cycle A and B	81	82 .	83
14	Major 15 Cycle	89	89 .	89
15	Splurge			
16	Domiñant 7 <sup>19413</sup> Cycle			
17	Feel For You			
18	Hardly Ever			
19	Poly-Pentatonics	124	124 .	124

# **DEMONSTRATION TRACKS**

- 20 Minor 7th Pentatonics
- 21 Minor 6th Pentatonics
- 22 Minor 765 Pentatonics
- 23 Minor 6 Pentatonics
- 24 Whole Tone Pentatonics
- 25 Poly-Pentatonics
- 26 Mixing up the Pentatonics (take 1)
- 27 Mixing up the Pentatonics (take 2)

# Introduction

PENTATONICS, is the second book in the series called "Inside Improvisation". This book provides a practical yet creative approach to assimilating pentatonics into your melodic musical reservoir. I was inspired to put this system into a book format because having taught this method over the years it has proven to be tremendously successful.

I've often been asked by students, "Who plays strictly pentatonics?" I can't think of anyone who only plays pentatonics but many of the modern players have pentatonics at their command and melodic disposal. Of course, listening to the great players who use pentatonics is an invaluable lesson in learning how to employ them in a musical way.

The accompanying play-along recording has been designed for use in conjunction with the text. There are 18 play-along tracks (tunes or practice progressions) as well as seven demonstration tracks. Piano players can eliminate the piano track by turning off the right channel of the amplifier, bass players can turn down the left channel.

This is a method book designed for all instruments. Its goal is to outline a system toward mastering pentatonics and to show different creative ways to convert pentatonic scales into melodies and music.

# Chapter 1: Pentatonic Scales

Pentatonic scales are five-note scales. There are many different pentatonic scales and this book will discuss a good number of them.

To begin with we will consider the most basic and most consonant of the pentatonic scales. The following notes spell a C major pentatonic scale.

#### EXAMPLE 1.1



This scale can also be called by its relative minor name; A minor pentatonic.

#### Example 1.2



These notes are derived by stacking fifths beginning with either the note C or the note A.

#### EXAMPLE 1.3



These notes in any order can be called A minor or C major. Some musicians prefer to call pentatonic scales by their major name and others prefer the minor name.

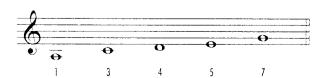
If the scale is viewed as C major, the numbers for the pentatonic notes would be:

### EXAMPLE 1.4



If the scale is viewed as A minor, the numbers would then be:

#### Example 1.5



To memorize and become accustomed to playing these pentatonic scales play the following lines in all keys. These four very common pentatonic lines should be played the full range of your instrument.

## EXAMPLE 1.6



Here is a different way to construct the same grouping of notes. For example, beginning with F major or D minor pentatonic:

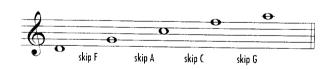
# Example 1.7



(Even though some of the intervals between the notes of the pentatonic scale are larger than a second I will call moving from one note to the next in the scale a <code>>step<</code>) So for the D minor pentatonic scale start with D and step up to F, step up to G, step up to A, step up to C and so on.

The same scale written out as follows uses what I'll call >skip<. That is starting on D, skip up to G, skip up to F, skip up to A:

#### Example 1.8



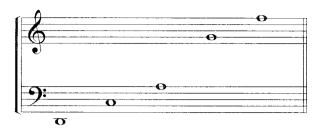
A double skip would look like this:

# Example 1.9



A triple skip would look like this:

#### EXAMPLE 1.10



Using skips and steps provides us with a way to construct many pentatonic lines as it gives us a means to hear and analyze these different pentatonic lines.

To help memorize the different pentatonic scales play the remaining notes in the scale starting on the given note. First go through the memorizing quiz and play the notes descending and then repeat the exercise with the notes ascending.

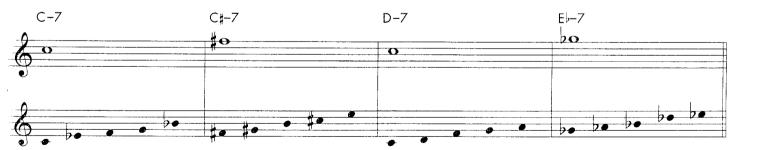
For example; the descending notes would be:

### EXAMPLE 1.11



The ascending notes would be:

## Example 1.12



Note that from here on I will refer to the pentatonic scales by their minor name.

	MEMORIZI	NG QUIZ			
C-7	C#-7	D-7	E♭-7	E-7	F-7
	#0	0	20	Θ.	
	,		70		0
F#−7	G-7	G#−7	A-7	Bb-7	<sup>⁴</sup> B <i>−</i> 7
	0	- Θ	0	Pe	O
C-7	C#-7	D-7	FI 7		
<u></u>	C <sub>  </sub> -/	U-/	Eb-7	E-7	F-7
70		0	ÞΘ	0	70
F#-7	G-7	G#− <i>7</i>	A-7	B <i>⊳</i> −7	B-7
	0-	Θ	О	20	-О
<b>■</b> C-7	C# 7	D-7	F 7		
4	C#-7	U-/	E♭-7	E-7	F-7
<b>9</b> •	#0	0	70	- 0	
F#-7	G-7	G#-7 # <b>••</b>	A-7	B♭-7 •	B-7
C-7	C#-7	D-7		eratur e ( a.)	F 7
<b>A</b>	C#-/	υ-/ 	Eb-7	E₹	F-7
1	0		Þo		90
F#-7	G-7	G#-7	A-7	B♭-7	B-7
	Þo	О	0	70	0
C-7	C#-7	D-7	E♭-7	E-7	F-7
20	4	0		Θ	
	e e		Þo		20
F:-7	G-7	G#−7 # <b>Ω</b>	A-7	B♭-7	B-7
	0	П	0		

# Chapter 2: Creating Pentatonic Lines

Having completed Chapter 1 you will have played a pentatonic line starting from every degree in the pentatonic scale.

By using skips and steps there are many different formulas that can be created. The following is an example of one formula: From whatever the starting note is in a given pentatonic go down skip, to down step, to up skip, to down step.

↓ SKIP ↓ STEP ↑ SKIP ↓ STEP

Using a C minor pentatonic and starting on the >C< that formula would look like this:

#### Example 2.1



Here is that same formula starting on the note >G<:

#### EXAMPLE 2.2



Here is that same formula starting on the note >Eb<:

#### EXAMPLE 2.3



Here is that same formula starting on the note >Bb<:

### EXAMPLE 2.4



Here is that same formula starting on the note >F<:

EXAMPLE 2.5



Here is the entire line written out:

EXAMPLE 2.6



Notice that it takes five consecutive four-note groupings before the line starts repeating from the original note again.

From this one formula we can derive eight formulas:

Example 2.7

Formula 1	A	↓ Skip	В	↓ Step	C	↑ SKIP	D	↓ Step
Formula 2	В	↓ Step	C	↑ SKIP	D	↓ Step	A	↓ Skip
FORMULA 3	С	↑ Skip	D	↓ Step	Α	↓ Skip	В	↓ Step
FORMULA 4	D	↓ Step	Α	↓ Skip	В	↓ Step	C -	↑ Skip

By reversing the direction of the arrows these lines become ascending lines:

Example 2.8

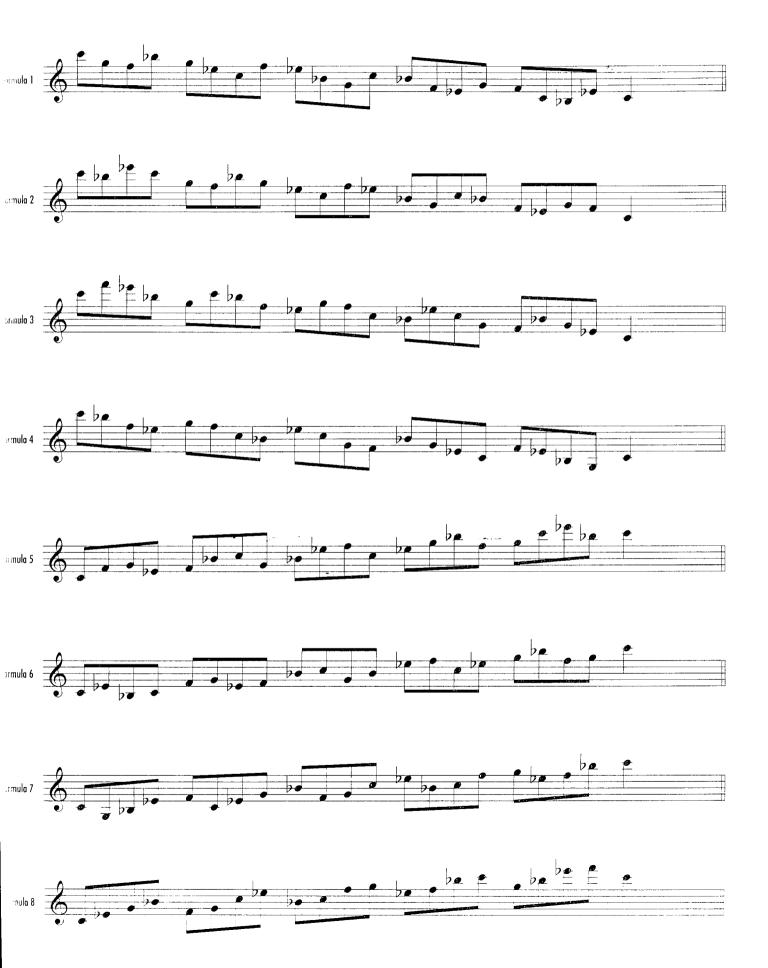
FORMULA 5	A	↑ SKIP	В	↑ Step	C	↓Sкір	D	↑ Step
Formula 6	В	↑ S <sub>TEP</sub>	С	↓ Sкip	D	↑ Step	A	↑ Skip
Formula 7	C	↓ Skip	D	↑ STEP	Α	↑ SKIP	В	1 Step
Formula 8	D	↑ STEP	Α	↑ Ѕкір	В	↑ Step	С	↓ Skip

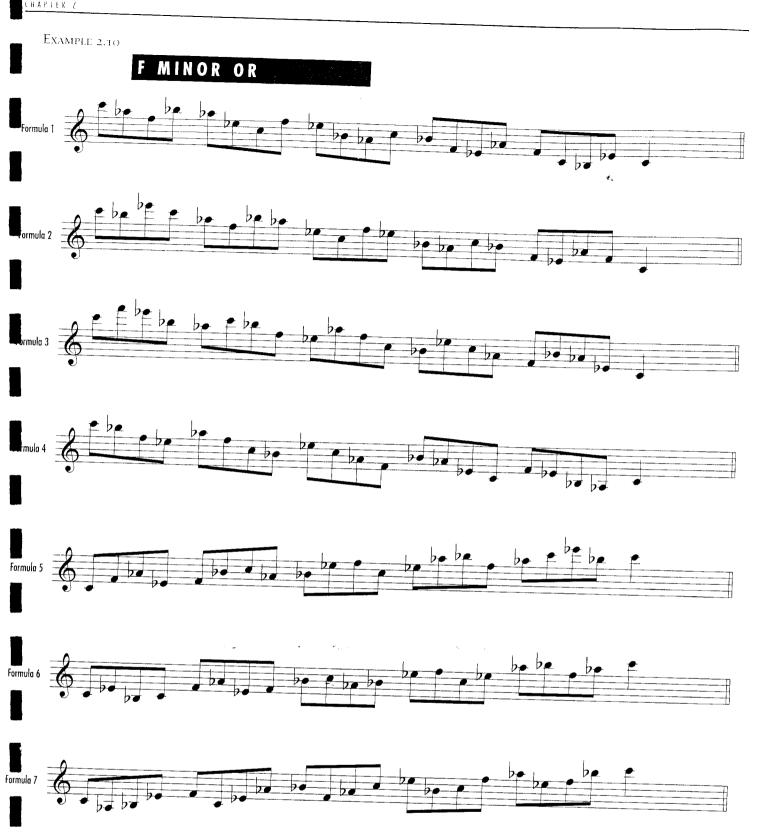
Here are those eight formulas on C minor or Eb major:

Notice again that there are five four-note groupings before getting back to the starting note. Also, notice that with formulas 1-4 that the first note of each four note grouping is the same and that they descend by skip. (That is  $\neg C \in to \neg G \in to \neg E \models to \neg B \models to \neg F \in to \neg E \models to \neg E \models$ 

### Example 2.9

# C MINOR OR





Notice that the only difference between F minor and C minor is one note, the Aba in F minor (or Ab major) replaces the AGa in C minor (or Eb major). Also notice that you don't have to start these lines on the root of the chord. You can start

them anywhere on your instrument as long as you can play them for two octaves without octave adjustments.

\_ |



# E MINOR OR











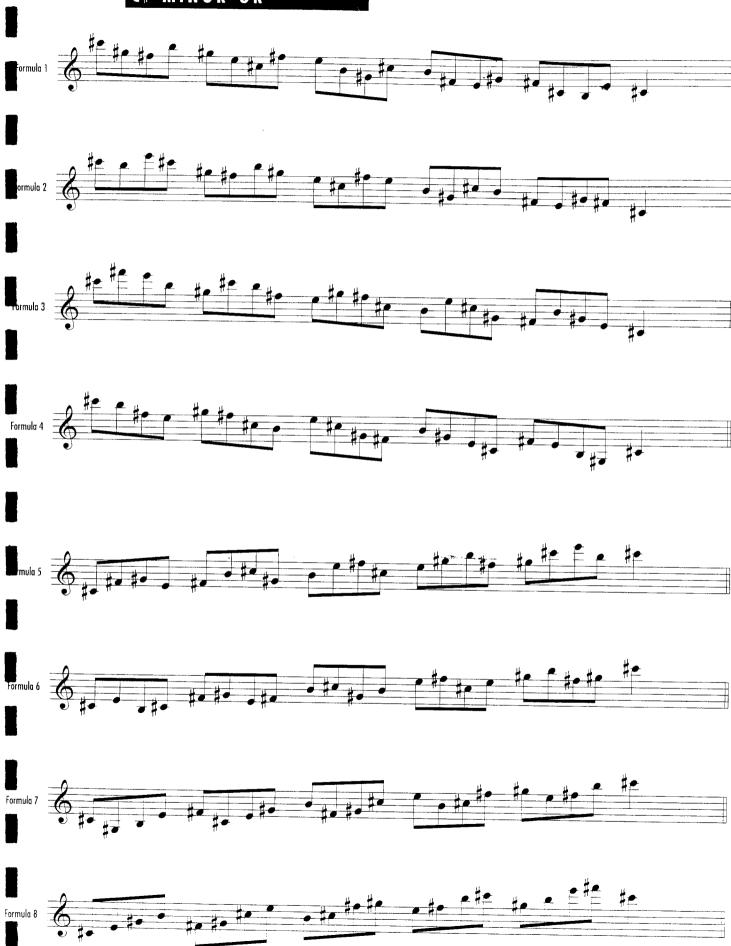




# G# MINOR OR



# C# MINOR OR

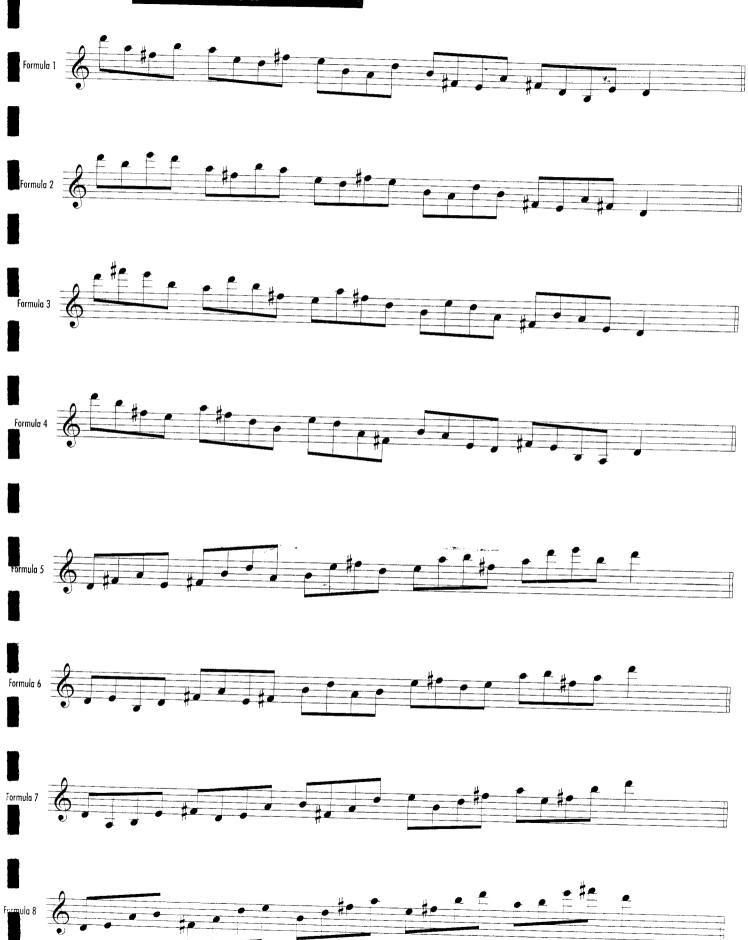


# F# MINOR OR



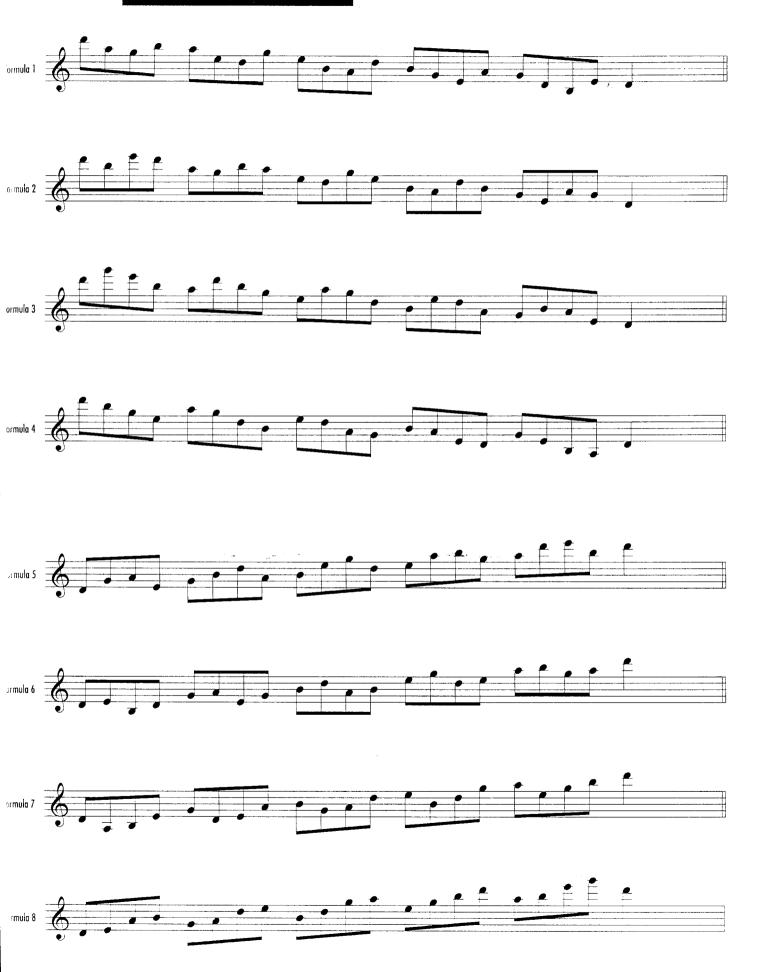
Example 2.16

# B MINOR OF

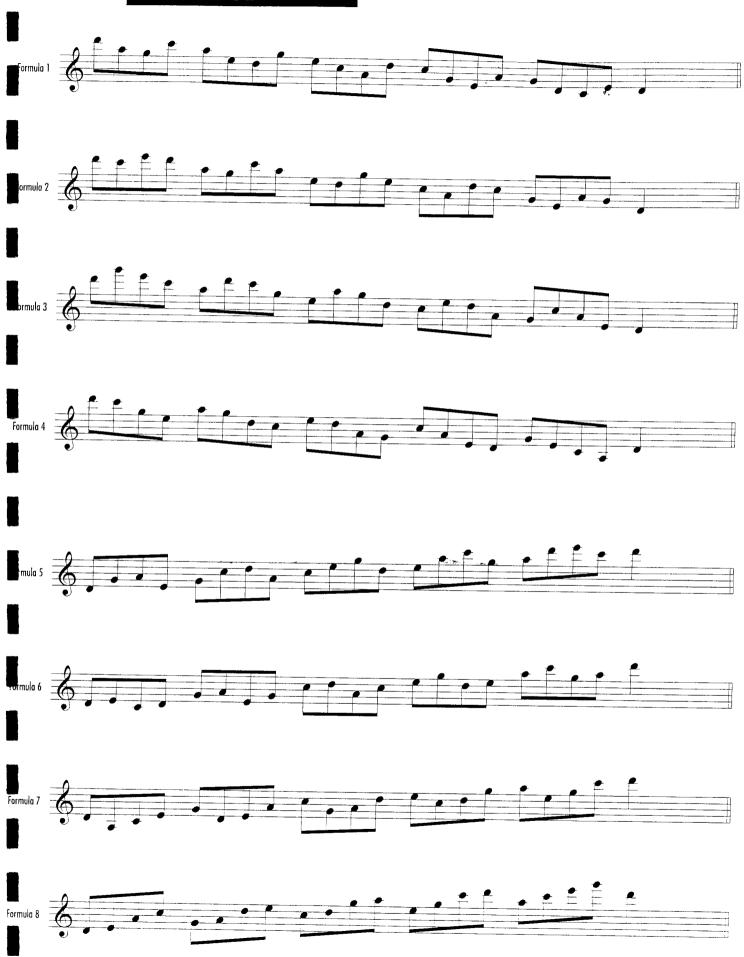


2

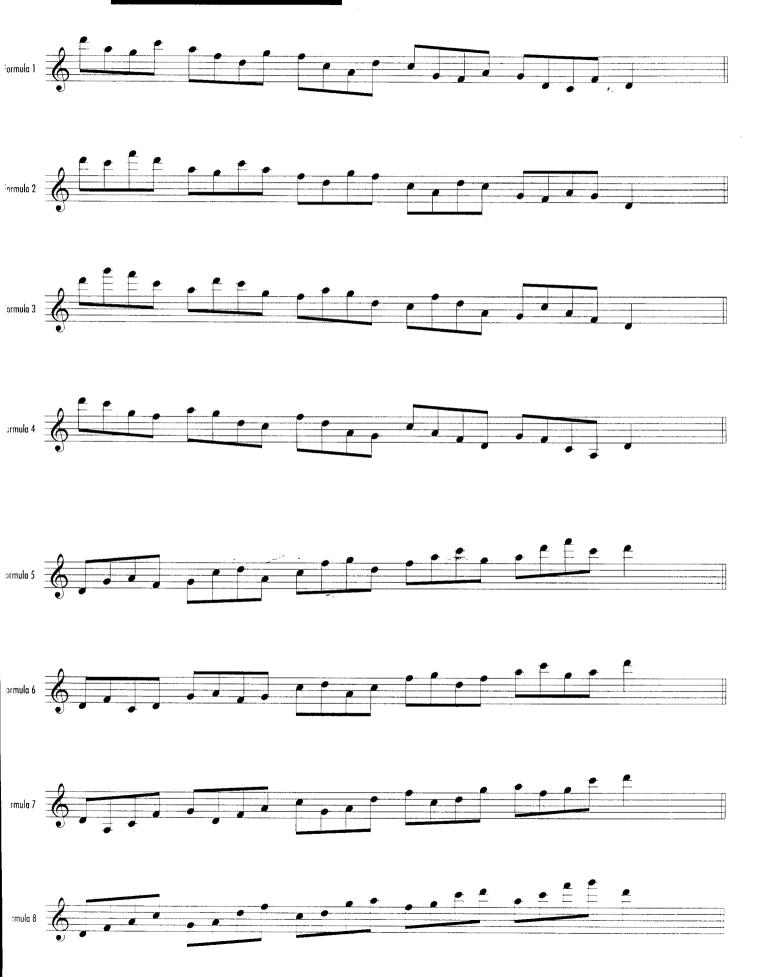
# E MINOR OR



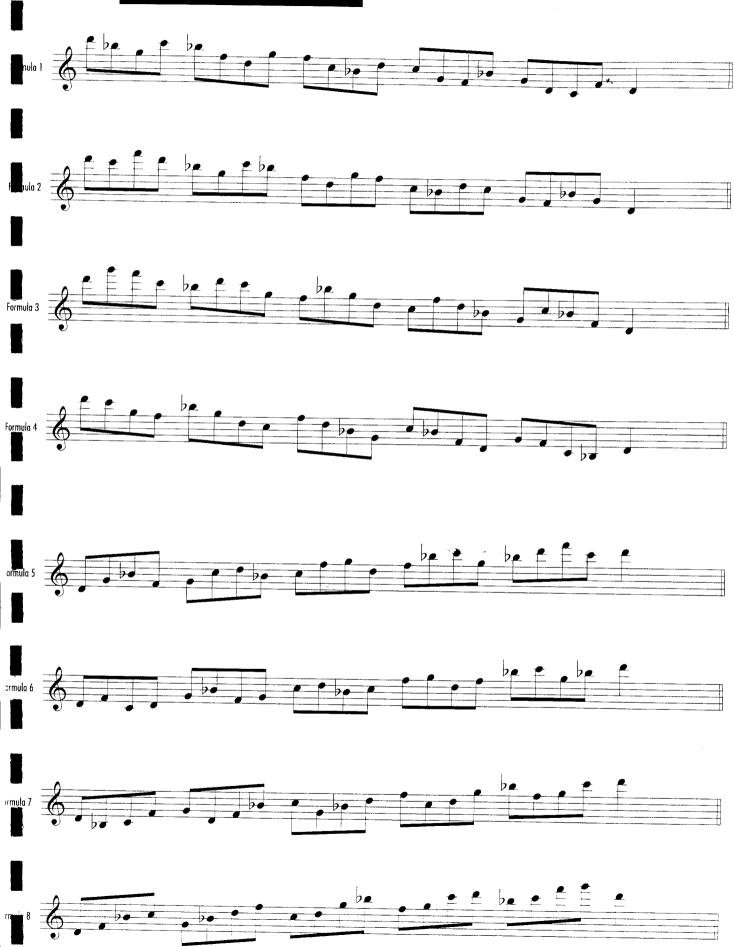
# A MINOR OF



# D MINOR OR







# Chapter 3: Rhythmic Variation

Once you are able to play all eight lines in all keys try improvising in each key mixing up the pentatonic notes by using random skips and steps. Also try using double and triple skips. Think of the shape or scontour of your line.

Here are some examples:

- 1. First try playing the line on the next page as all eighth notes.
- 2. Play each line with the following rhythmic pattern:

### EXAMPLE 3.1A



3. Play each line with the following rhythmic pattern:

## Example 3.1B



4. Play each line with the following rhythmic pattern:

### Example 3.1C



5. Try playing the lines using rests and syncopations.

#### EXAMPLE 3.1D



The reason there are no stems on the notes is because these lines can be played using many different rhythms. be be be 

# Chapter 4: Chords And Pentatonics

The following is a C minor 7 (or Eb major 7) pentatonic scale. What chords will this scale fit over?

### EXAMPLE 4.1



Of course, the scale can be played over C minor 7 or Eb major 7. But it can also be used over F minor 7 or Ab major 7, and Bb minor 7 or Db major 7, and also A7 altered or Eb7. There are other chords that this scale will fit over as well but these are the primary ones.

Try improvising on the following progression.

# ▶ TRACK 2: PROGRESSION 1 - MINOR 7TH CYCLE (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)







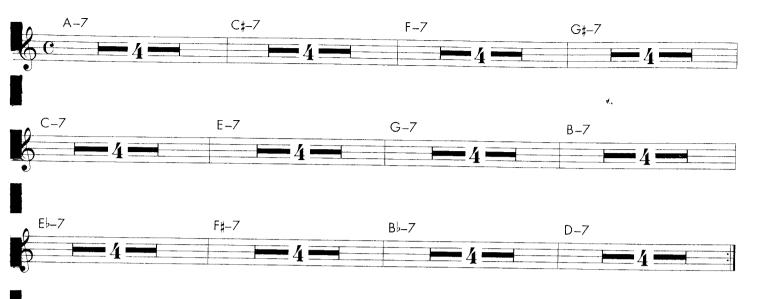
# ▶ TRACK 2: PROGRESSION I - MINOR 7TH CYCLE (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)







# ▶ TRACK 2: PROGRESSION 1 - MINOR 7TH CYCLE (E♭ INSTRUMENTS)



After trying the primary pentatonic that fits each chord, go up a fifth from the root of the chord and try that pentatonic. For example, on the C minor 7 chord play G minor 7 pentatonic. The difference is that the note D in the G minor 7 scale replaces the note Eb in the C minor 7 scale and the D is the ninth of C minor 7.

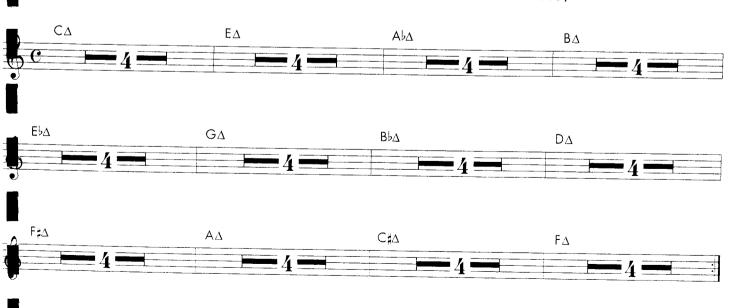
Next try the pentatonic scale a major second from the chord root. For example, on the C minor 7 chord play D minor 7 pentatonic.

So for each Dorian or II-7 chord we can use three pentatonic scales. Over a C minor 7 chord you can play C minor pentatonic, G minor pentatonic, or D minor pentatonic.

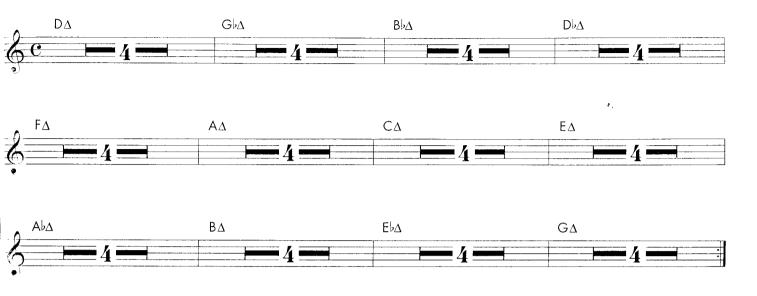
This holds true for the majors as well. Over a major 7 chord you can play the primary pentatonic or the one up a fifth or the one up a second from the root. Example:  $C\Delta$  could use A–7, E–7 and B–7 or  $C\Delta$ ,  $G\Delta$  and  $D\Delta$ .

Practice with the following progression.

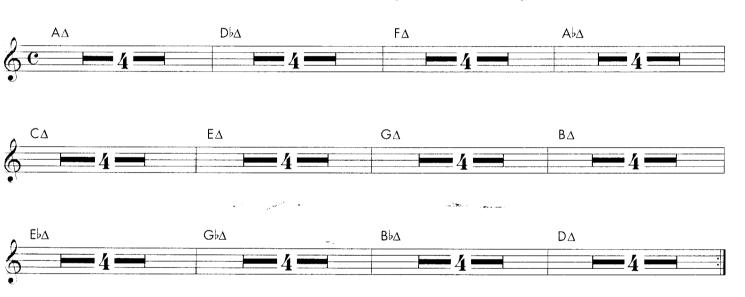
# ▶ TRACK 3: PROGRESSION 2 - MAJOR 7TH CYCLE (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



# ▶ TRACK 3: PROGRESSION 2 - MAJOR 7TH CYCLE (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)



# ▶ TRACK 3: PROGRESSION 2 - MAJOR 7TH CYCLE (Eb INSTRUMENTS)



Going up a fifth or up a second won't work over minor  $7^{b5}$  or dominant 7 chords. There are other pentatonics that fit these chords.

Try playing on the chord sequence of Progression 1 or Progression 2 and altering the duration of each chord change to eight bars apiece, two bars apiece and then one bar per chord change.

Try playing the pentatonics to the following progression. Written above the staff are the pentatonic scales you could use. For now we are using a G minor 7 pentatonic to fit over a D minor  $7^{b5}$  but there are other pentatonics that will be suitable for these chords and we will address them in later chapters. Also, over some of the dominant chords you will see the choice of two scales. One scale is the regular diatonic sinsides sounding one and the other gives a smore spicys altered sound.

# ▶ TRACK 4: PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



# ▶ TRACK 4: PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)

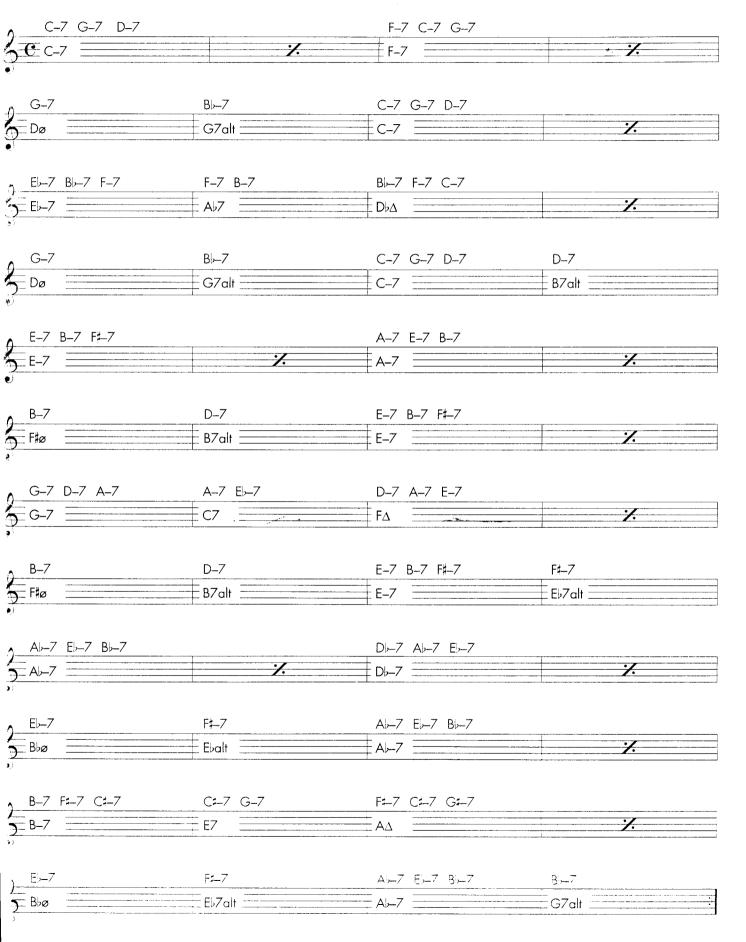


# **▶ TRACK 4:** PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (E♭ INSTRUMENTS)

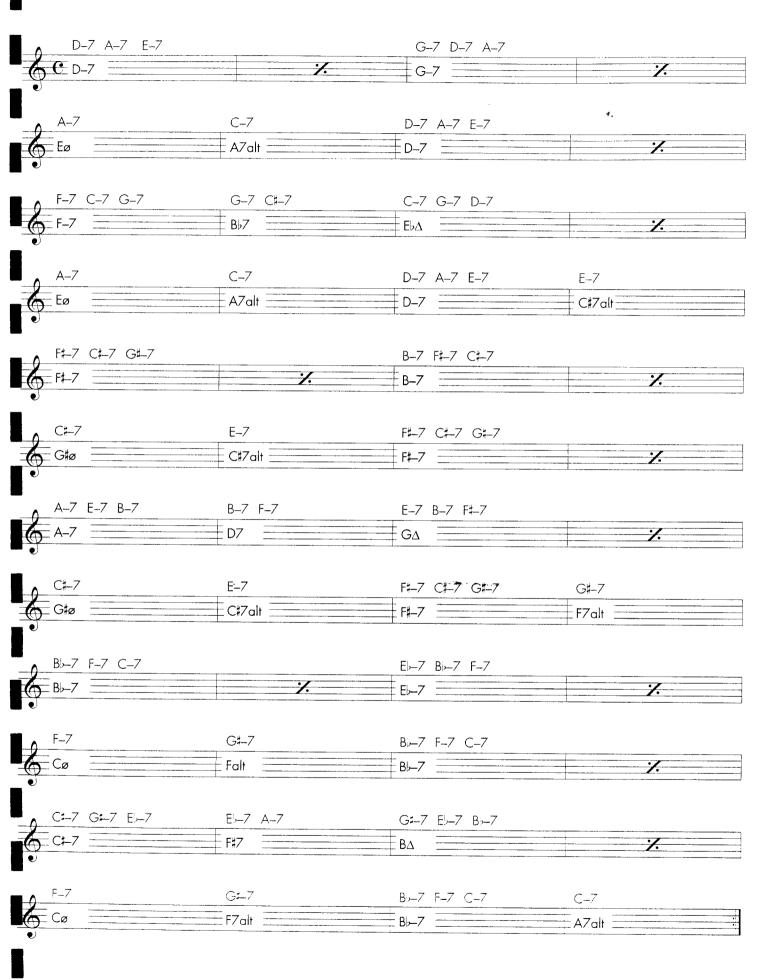


Once you have played through this tune many times and feel comfortable try using the pentatonic scales up a fifth on all the minor 7 and major 7 chords. Then try using the pentatonic up a second on all the minor 7 and major 7 chords.

# ▶ TRACK 4: PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)

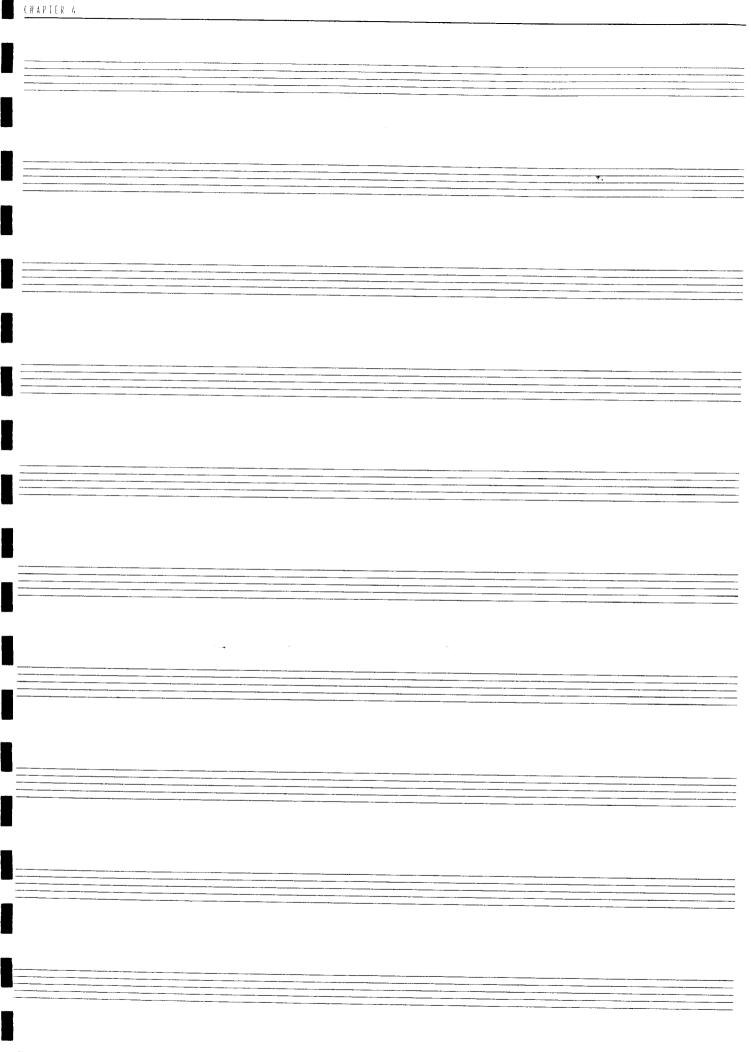


# **▶ TRACK 4:** PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)



# ▶ TRACK 4: PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (E♭ INSTRUMENTS)



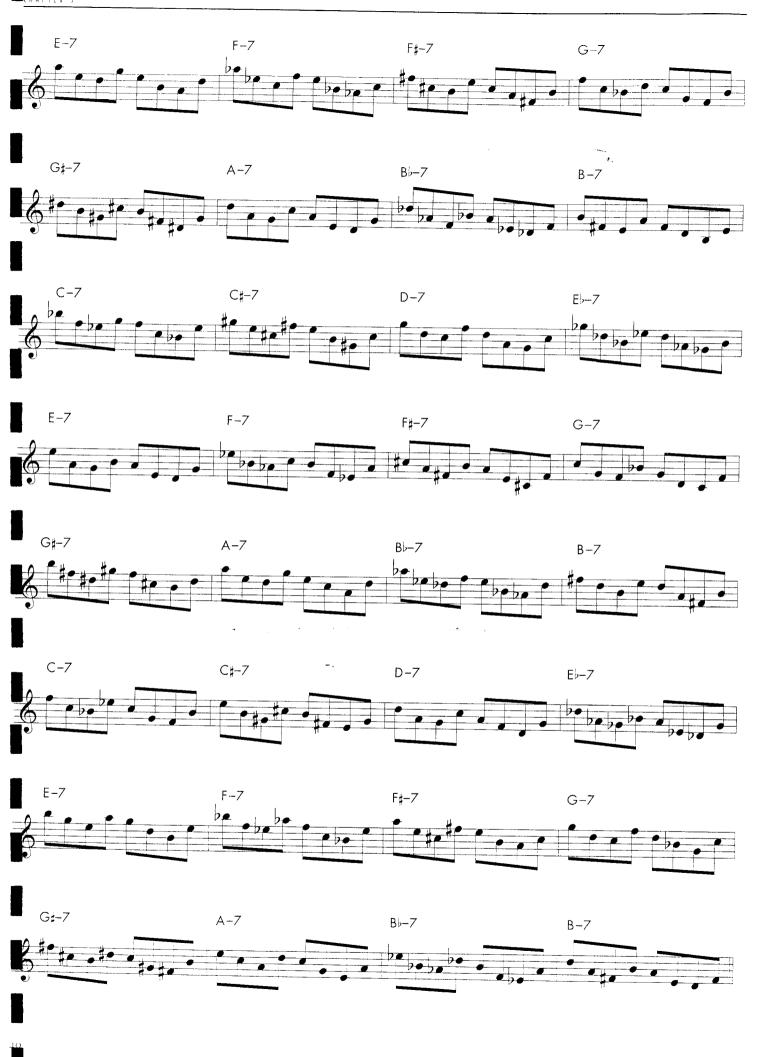


# Chapter 5: Improvising-Developing Flexibility With Pentatonics

What follows are some exercises to help your flexibility with playing pentatonics. This is Formula 1 descending. Make octave ajustments whenever they are convenient.

Example 5.1A

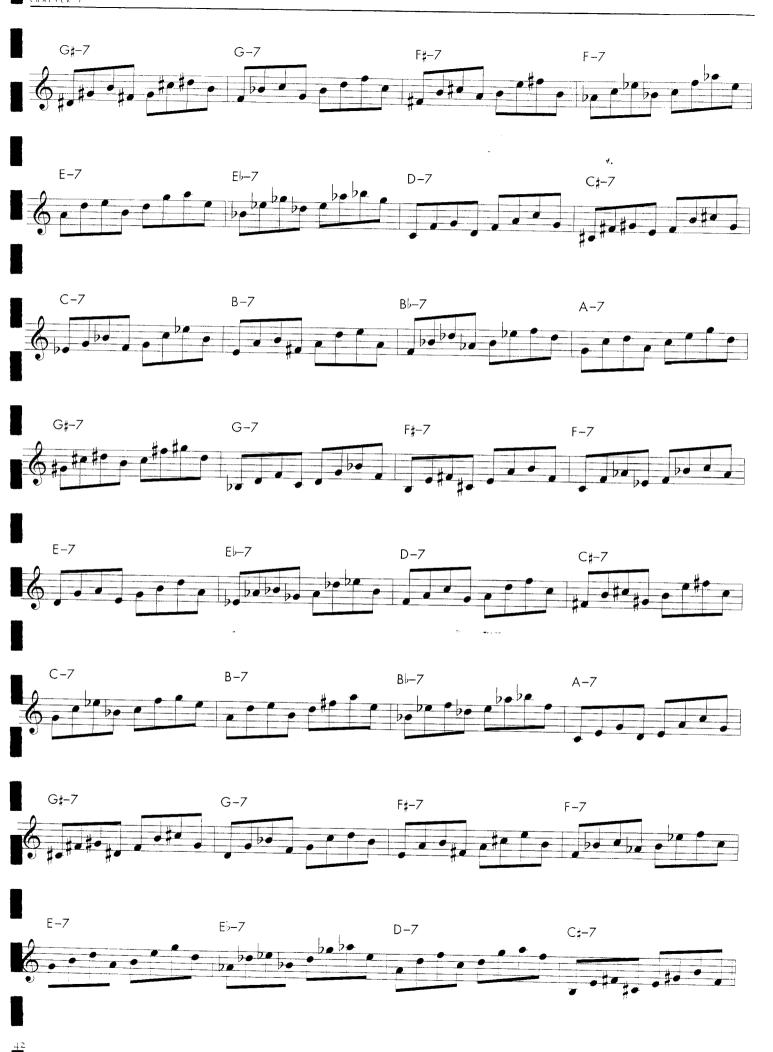




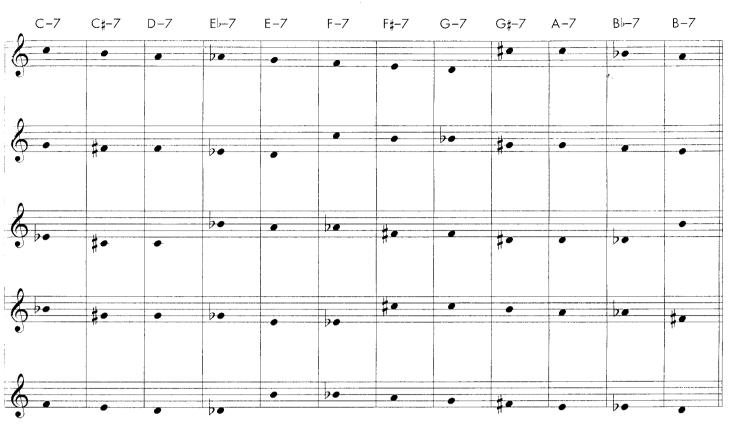
This is Formula 1 ascending. Make octave ajustments whenever they are convenient.

#### EXAMPLE 5.1B

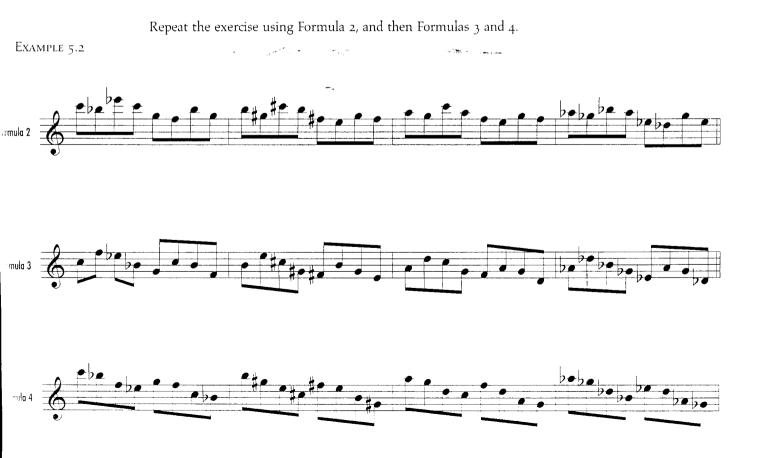




To check your ability to skip and step, see if you can complete the line if given the first note. Begin by just using Formula 1 (descending) as written out in example 5.1.



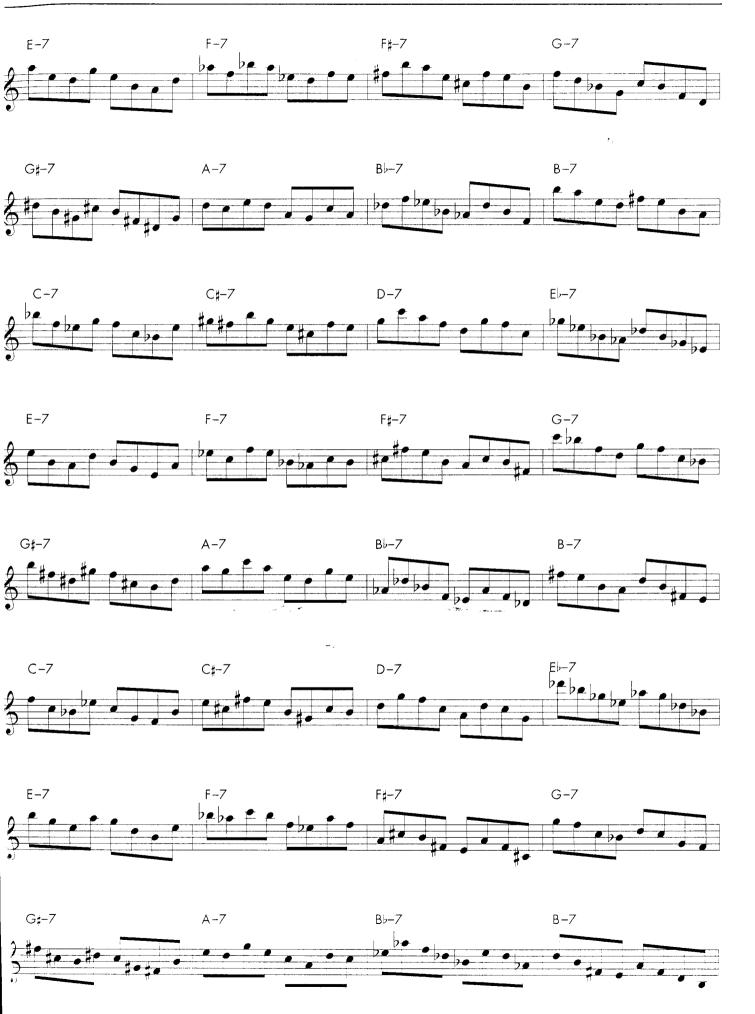
Each line represents one 12-bar chorus. The chord symbols above the first line apply to each of the five choruses.



Now try to use a different formula for each starting note as in the following example.

Example 5.3





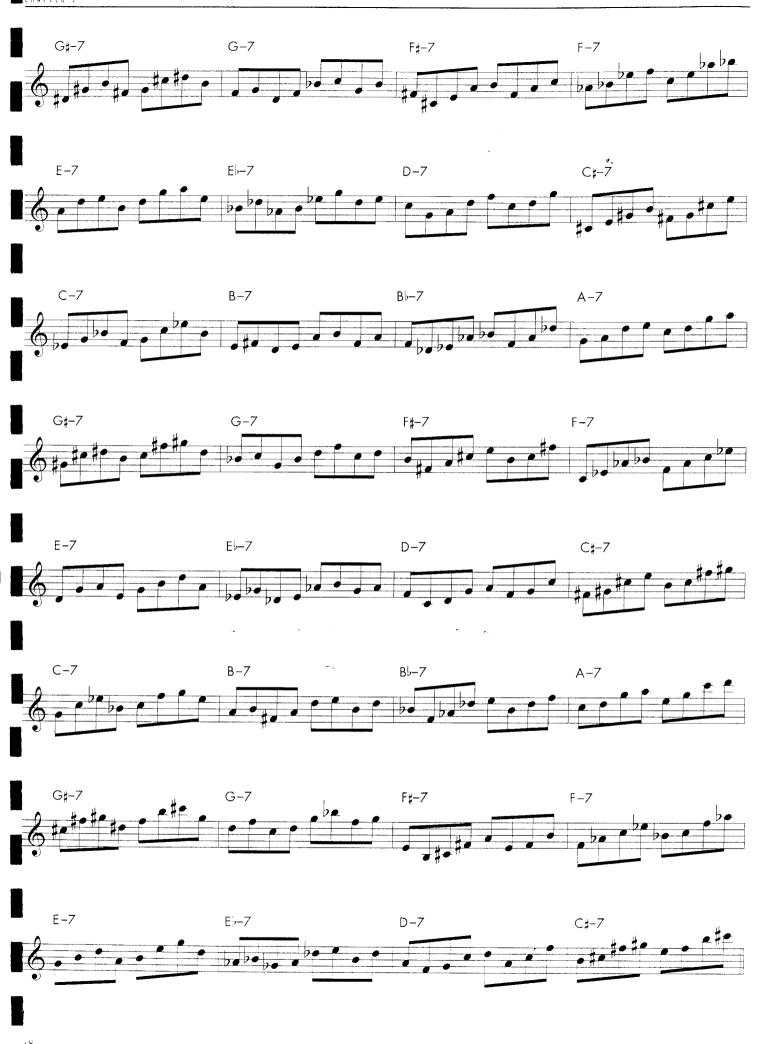
Using any of the ascending formulas try to complete the ascending line from the starting note.

C-7	B-7	B♭–7	A-7	A♭-7	G-7	F#− <i>7</i>	F-7	E-7	E -7	D-7	C#-7
6		70		<b>&gt;</b> •	-		<b>&gt;•</b>	•	<b>D</b> •		
							-		÷.		
9											
(0)	#-	70		20	•	# -	70				
e)	- H							-	- 20-	-	- 10
2				20	•						
(h) •						1	20				
e e						#•			-		
0											#•
<b>Z</b>								+			
			-	70	<b>&gt;</b>	+ •					1
<b>v</b> -									70	-	#.
0											
<b>6</b>		70		<b>&gt;</b> •	•			1	+		
									20		•

Try one ascending formula at a time and then try mixing up the formulas from measure to measure as in the following example.

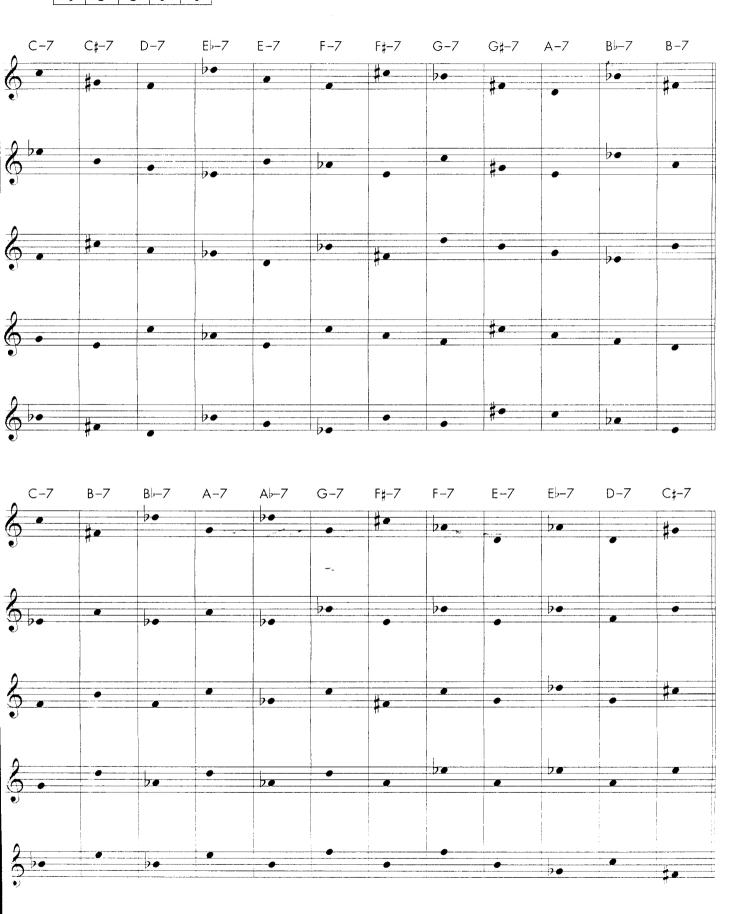
#### Example 5.4





#### MORE STARTING NOTE EXERCISES

## 1 5 3 7 4

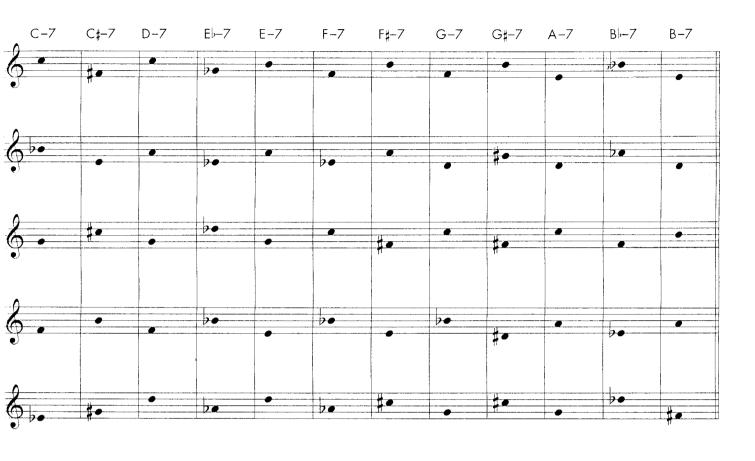


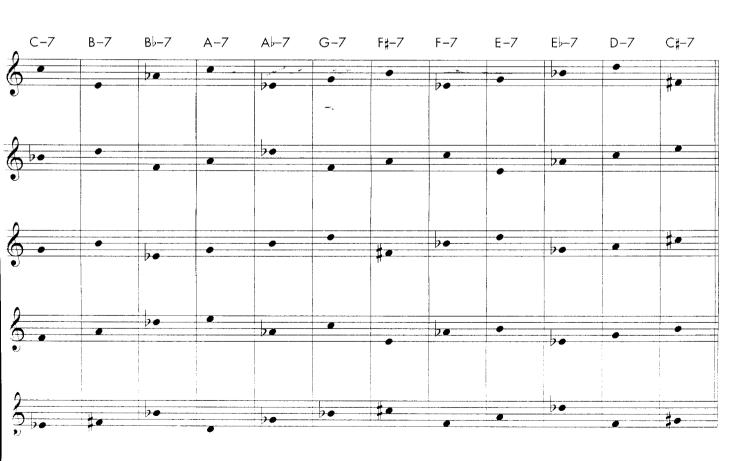
## 1 3 4 5 7

٥	C-7	C#-7	D-7	E -7	E-7	F-7	F#− <i>7</i>	G-7	G#-7	A-7	Bb-7	B-7
6	)		•	>•				-		• .	7.	•
8		#•				7.	#•		#•		<b>)</b>	#•
•				<b></b>					#			
6	>•	#•		7.		<b>)</b>	#*	<b>)</b> •			7.0	•
8	<b>)</b> •	#•		<b>&gt;</b>		7.0			#•	•	>•	
2												
$\odot$	•											

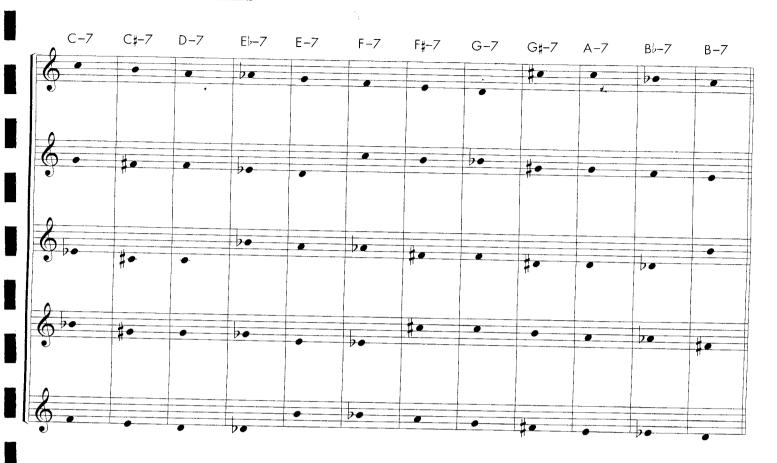


### 1 4 7 3 5





## 1 7 5 4 3





## Chapter 6: The Minor 6 Pentatonic Scale

The next pentatonic scale for us to consider is the minor 6 pentatonic. This scale is used quite often and is as important as the first.

#### Example 6.1



Notice that the 6 replaces the 7 of the minor 7 pentatonic scale. The minor 6 scale fits on different chords than the minor 7 scale. C minor 6 will fit over:

C minor 6	C-6
F dominant 7	F7
A minor 7 <sup>b5</sup>	Aø
B7 altered	B7alt
A7altered	A7alt

And it will also fit over:

Eb major 7 <sup>#11</sup>		EbΔ <sup>#11</sup>
Eb dominant 7 <sup>#11</sup>	<del>-</del>	Eb7 <sup>#11</sup>
D dominant 7 <sup>59</sup> sus		D7 <sup>69</sup> sus
D♭ major 7 <sup>#5</sup>		$Db\Delta^{\sharp 5}$

Notice that only one note changes from the original line on pages 15 - 26. For that reason it's a good idea to get the original lines really under your fingers, then changing one note will not be that difficult. In the following chapters we will continue to alter the original scale by one note.

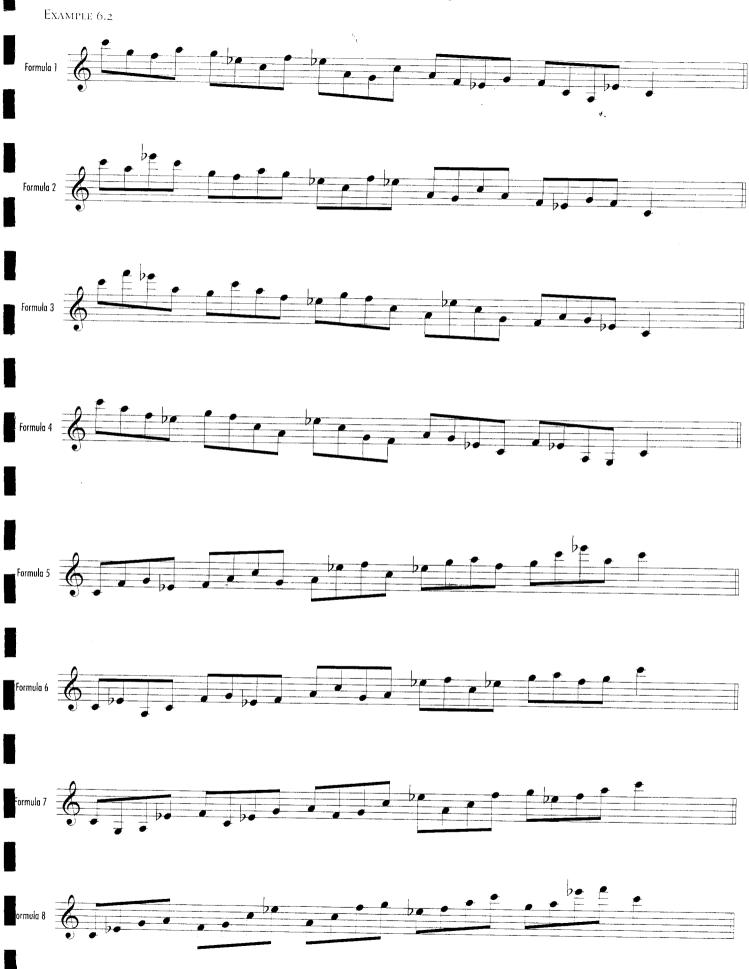
Rather than writing out the eight formulas in every key, see if you can go through the lines and play them just switching the 7 to 6.

Pages 60 - 62 show the use of the minor 6 pentatonic scale over the original chord progression »Say It Again«, first introduced in Chapter 4.

You can also use the minor 6 pentatonic scale over minor and major blues (pages 64 - 69).

The standard chord progression (pages 70 - 71) was derived from the Jerome Kern song *Yesterdays*. Suggested pentatonic scales are shown above the chord symbols.

The C minor 6 pentatonic put to the original eight formulas looks like this:



Practice just improvising with the minor 6 randomly using skips and steps. Then try using the rhythmic devices introduced in Chapter 3.

- 1. Play the exercise on page 58 using all eighth notes. (Again there are no stems on the notes so that you can alter the rhythmic pattern.)
- 2. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

#### Example 6.3A



3. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

#### Example 6.3B



4. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

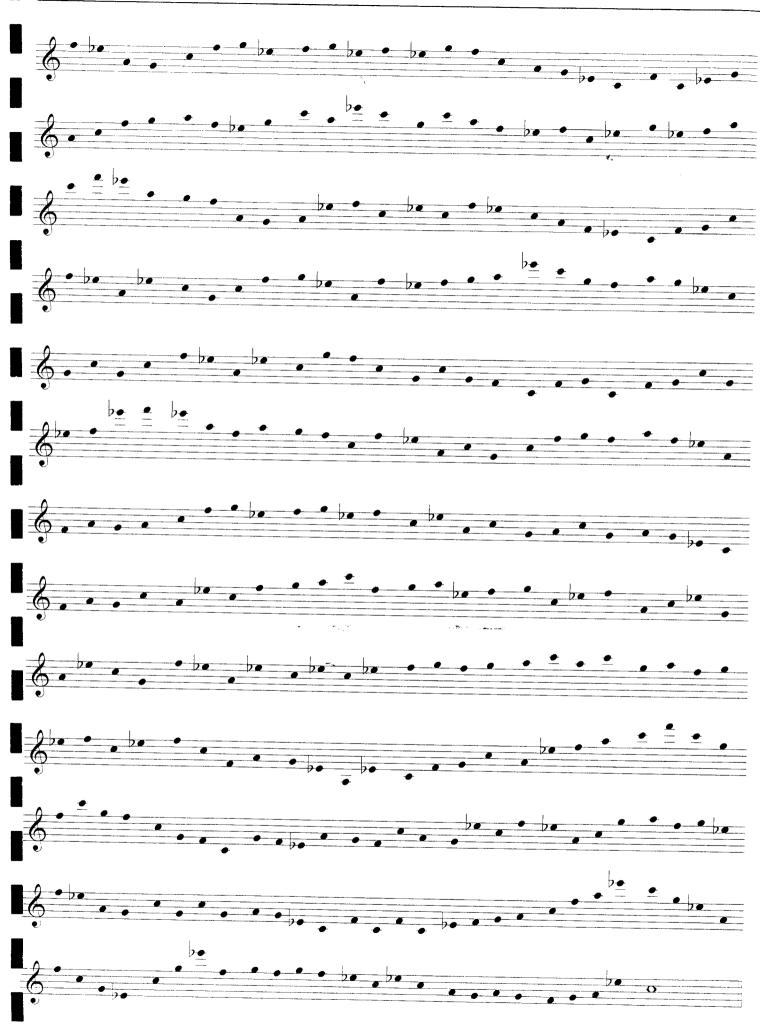
#### Example 6.3C



5. Try playing the exercise using rests and syncopations:

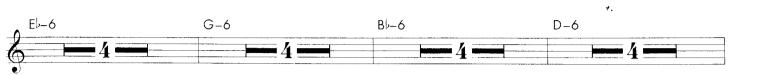
#### Example 6.3D





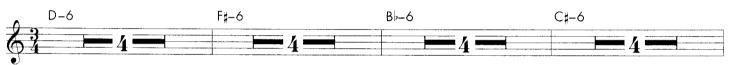
#### ▶ TRACK 5: PROGRESSION 4 - MINOR 6TH CYCLE (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)







#### ▶ TRACK 5: PROGRESSION 4 - MINOR 6TH CYCLE (B INSTRUMENTS)







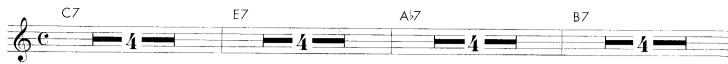
#### ▶ TRACK 5: PROGRESSION 4 - MINOR 6TH CYCLE (EB INSTRUMENTS)



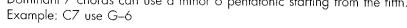




## TRACK 6: PROGRESSION 5 - DOMINANT 7TH CYCLE (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



Dominant 7 chords can use a minor 6 pentatonic starting from the fifth.





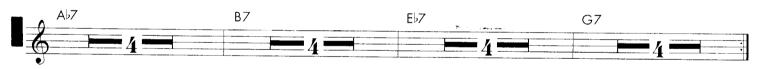


## ▶ TRACK 6: PROGRESSION 5 - DOMINANT 7TH CYCLE (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)



Dominant 7 chords can use a minor 6 pentatonic starting from the fifth. Example: D7 use A-6





## ▶ TRACK 6: PROGRESSION 5 - DOMINANT 7TH CYCLE (Eb INSTRUMENTS)

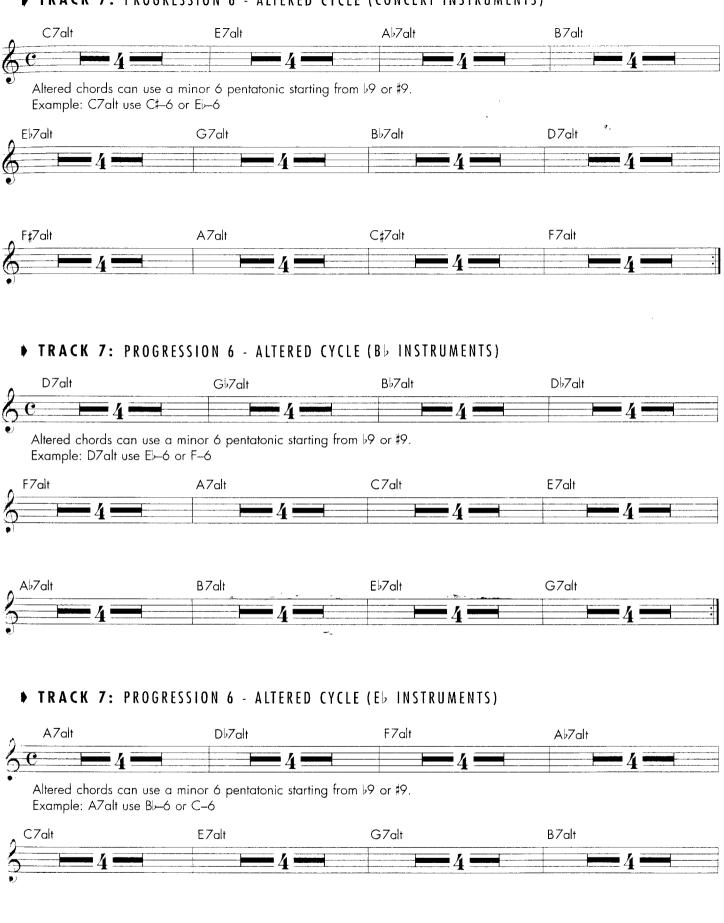


Dominant 7 chords can use a minor 6 pentatonic starting from the fifth. Example: A7 use E-6





#### ▶ TRACK 7: PROGRESSION 6 - ALTERED CYCLE (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



B57alt

E57alt

Gb7alt

D7alt

## ▶ TRACK 4: PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



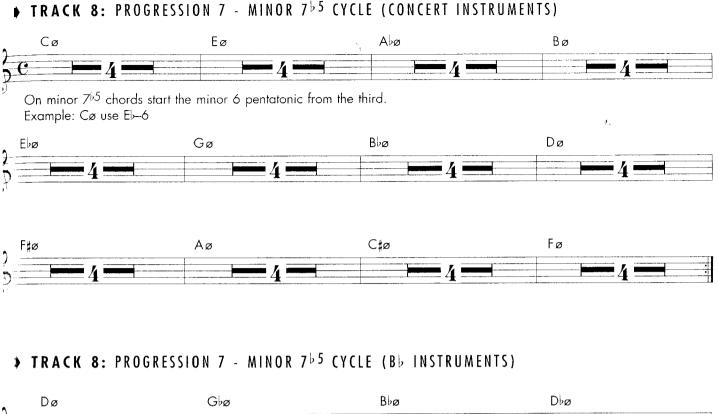
#### **▶ TRACK 4:** PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)

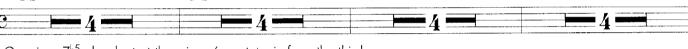


## ▶ TRACK 4: PROGRESSION 3 »SAY IT AGAIN« (E♭ INSTRUMENTS)

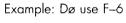


#### ▶ TRACK 8: PROGRESSION 7 - MINOR 7<sup>5</sup> CYCLE (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)





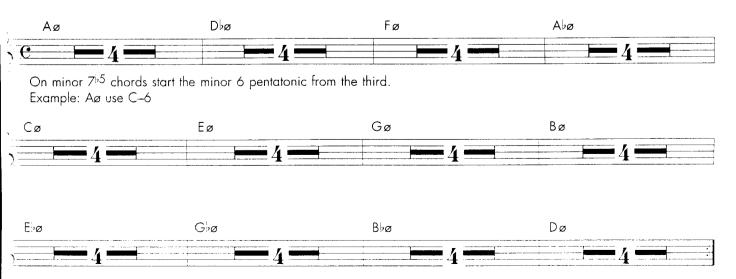
On minor 7<sup>1,5</sup> chords start the minor 6 pentatonic from the third.





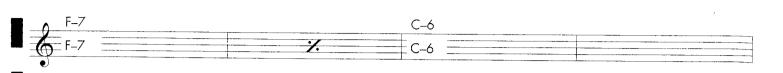


## **▶ TRACK 8:** PROGRESSION 7 - MINOR 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> CYCLE (E1 INSTRUMENTS)



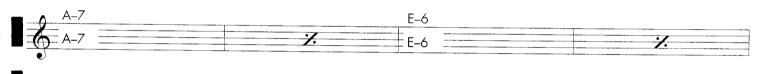
## ▶ TRACK 9: PROGRESSION 8 - MINOR BLUES (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)

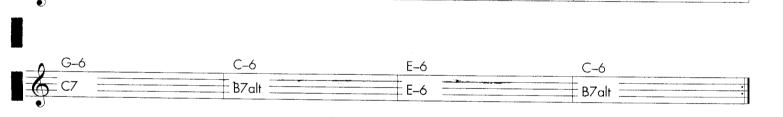












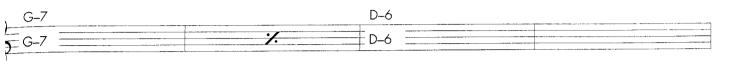






#### ▶ TRACK 9: PROGRESSION 8 - MINOR BLUES (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)



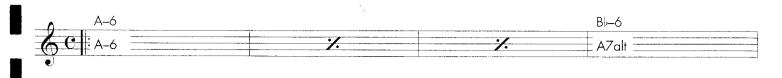


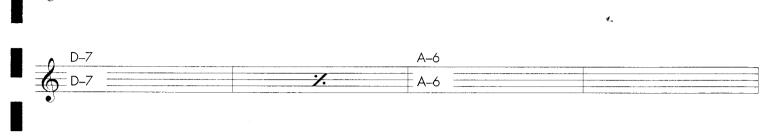




. C <b>≔</b> 6	F#-6	В>6	F:-6	
5 F#7	F7alt	В → 6	F7alt	•

#### ▶ TRACK 9: PROGRESSION 8 - MINOR BLUES (EDINSTRUMENTS)





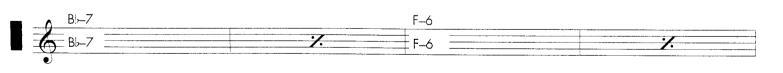




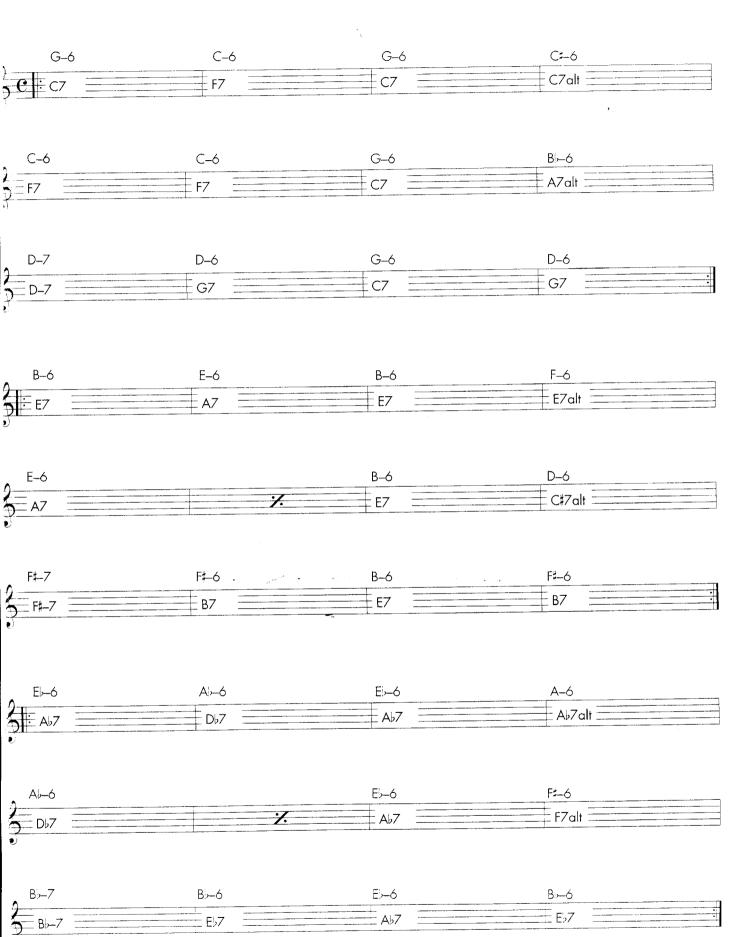




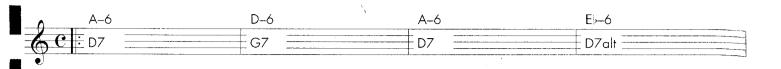




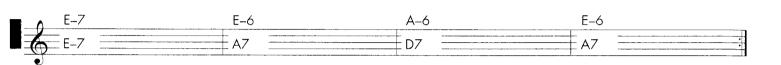
## ▶ TRACK 10: PROGRESSION 9 - MAJOR BLUES (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



#### ▶ TRACK 10: PROGRESSION 9 - MAJOR BLUES (Bb INSTRUMENTS)



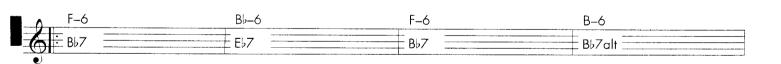




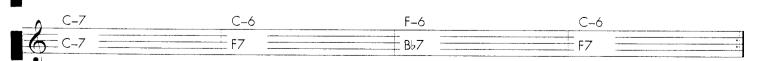




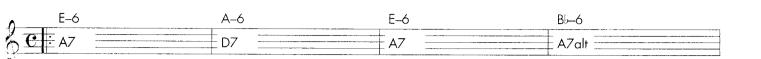


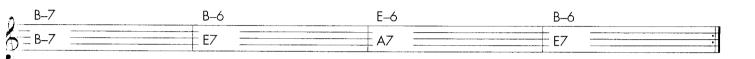


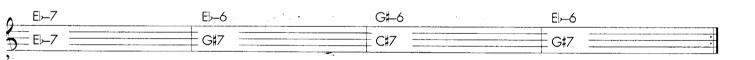


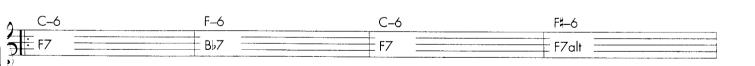


## ▶ TRACK 10: PROGRESSION 9 - MAJOR BLUES (Eb INSTRUMENTS)









## ▶ TRACK 11: PROGRESSION 10 »BEFORE IT HAPPENS« (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)

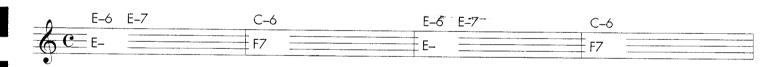


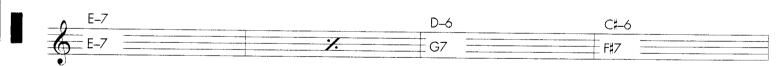






## **▶ TRACK 11:** PROGRESSION 10 »BEFORE IT HAPPENS« (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)









## ▶ TRACK 11: PROGRESSION 10 »BEFORE IT HAPPENS« (E♭ INSTRUMENTS)







A-6	E-7	E6	G-6
<b>D</b> 7	GΔ	C#ø	F#7alt :

Try playing the descending minor 6 pentatonic patterns beginning with these starting notes: (although ascending lines will work as well)



Try playing the ascending minor 6 pentatonic patterns beginning with these starting notes: (Again, the descending lines will work as well)



# Chapter 7: More Patterns For Minor 6 Pentatonics

 $N_{\rm ow}$  consider another pentatonic formula using skips and double skips applied to the minor 6 pentatonic.

 $\uparrow$  Double Skip  $\downarrow$  Skip  $\uparrow$  Double Skip

Because of the size of the intervals and the vast range that this formula covers any octave adjustments are recommended.

#### Example 7.1



Try taking any one of these lines and plaving it in all keys.

Next, consider the lines that result if the arrows of this formula are reversed. DOUBLE SKIP
 ↑ SKIP ↑ Skip DOUBLE SKIP Example 7.2 Formula 6 Formula 7 This next formula describes a line with wide intervals: ↓ SKIP **↓** Skip **↓** Skip ↑ Double Skip Example 7.3



Reverse the arrows:

 $\uparrow$  Skip  $\uparrow$  Skip  $\downarrow$  Double Skip

Example 7.4



# ▶ TRACK 12: PROGRESSION 11 »INITIATION« (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)

(Note the possible use of more than one minor 6 pentatonic on the minor/major 7 chords, the dominant 7 #11's, and the altered chords.)



# ▶ TRACK 12: PROGRESSION 11 »INITIATION« (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)

(Note the possible use of more than one minor 6 pentatonic on the minor/major 7 chords, the dominant  $7 \sharp 11$ 's, and the altered chords.)



## ▶ TRACK 12: PROGRESSION 11 »INITIATION« (E♭ INSTRUMENTS)

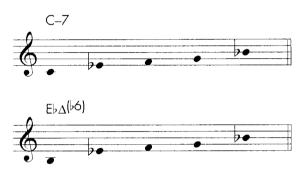
(Note the possible use of more than one minor 6 pentatonic on the minor/major 7 chords, the dominant 7 #11's, and the altered chords.)



# Chapter 8: The Major 6 Pentatonic Scale

Returning to the original pentatonic scale we started with, that is the C minor pentatonic, consider what happens when we change the >C< to a >B<.

#### EXAMPLE 8.1



Since there is no C natural in this scale I'll call it Eb major b6. This pentatonic scale fits the following chords:

Ab minor/major 7		Ab_Δ
G7 altered		G7alt
Db dominant 7 <sup>#11</sup>		Db7#11
F minor 7 <sup>b5</sup> natural 9	<b>-</b> €.,	Fø <sup>‡9</sup>
B major 7 <sup>‡5</sup>		B∆ <sup>#5</sup>

Here is the major  $\flat 6$  pentatonic scale applied to the eight original skip and step formulas: (Note the B natural replaces the C in the formula)

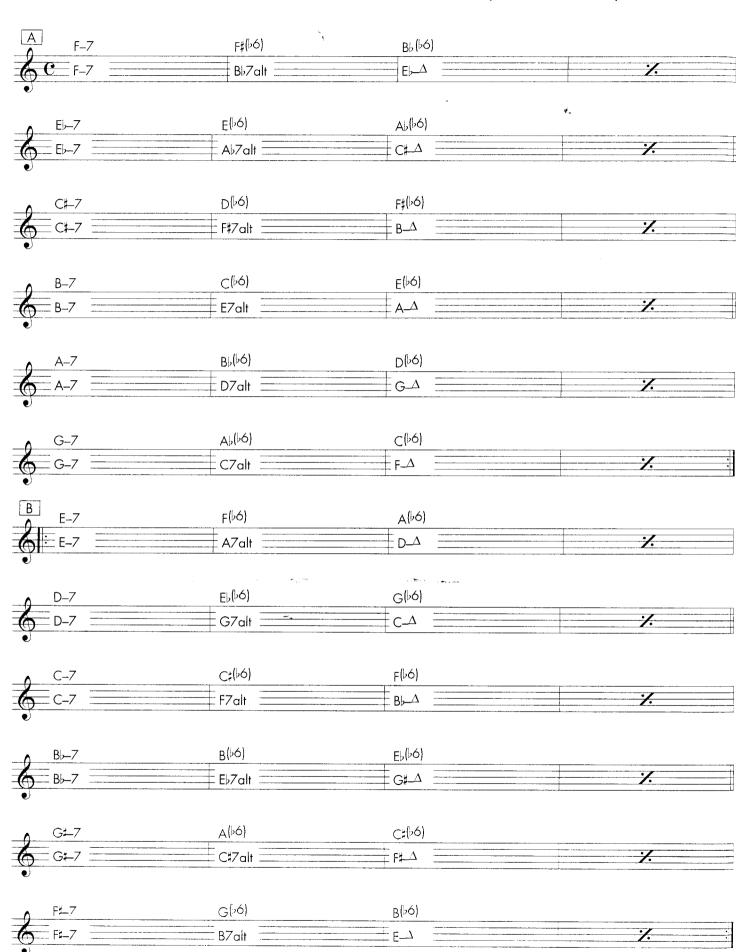


Apply this new pentatonic scale to the following progression.

# ▶ TRACK 13: PROGRESSION 12 »INITIATION« BRIDGE A & B (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



# ▶ TRACK 13: PROGRESSION 12 »INITIATION« BRIDGE A & B (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)



# ▶ TRACK 13: PROGRESSION 12 »INITIATION« BRIDGE A & B (E♭ INSTRUMENTS)



Again, try playing the rhythmic devices introduced in Chapter 3.

- 1. Play the exercise on the following page using all eighth notes.
- 2. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

Example 8.3A



3. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

Example 8.3B



4. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

Example 8.3C



5. Try playing the exercise using rests and syncopations.

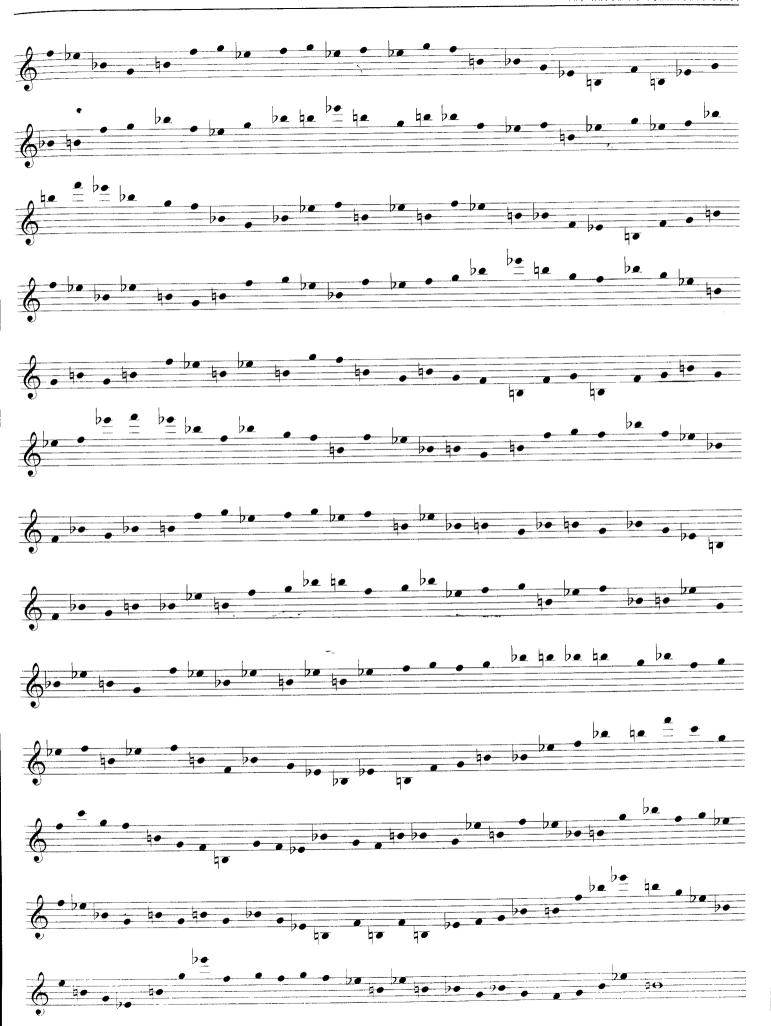


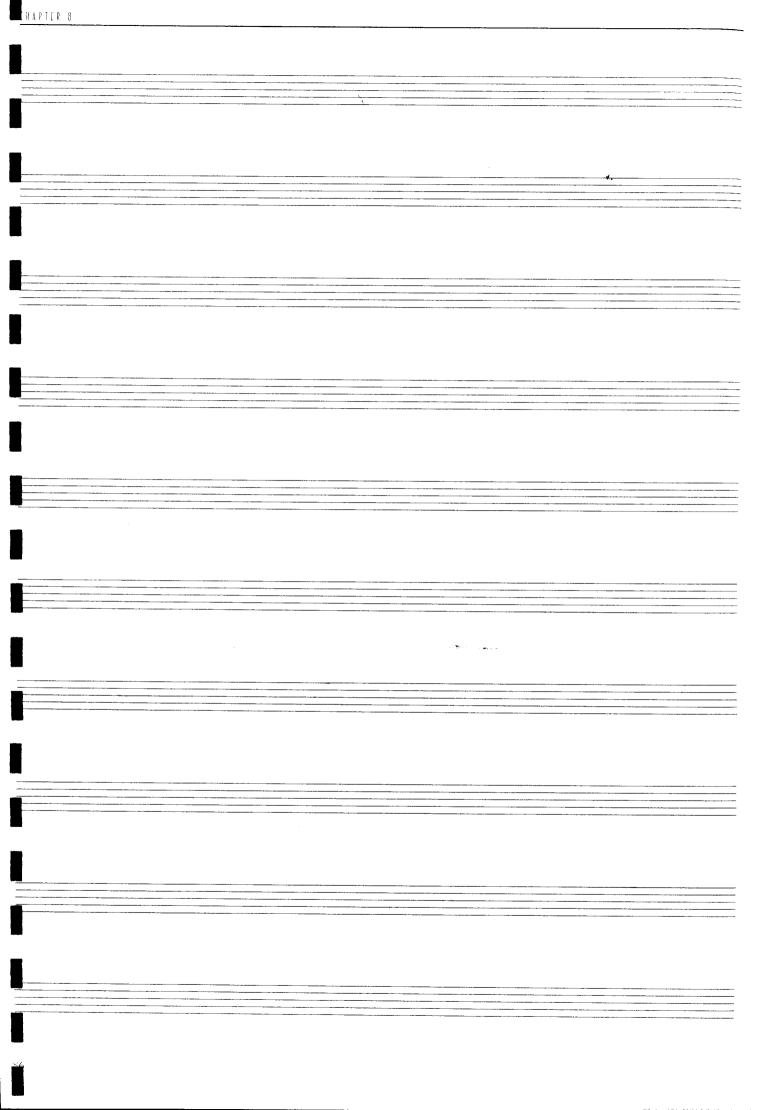


Apply the major 56 pentatonic scale to Progression 11 (track 12) from the last chapter.

Notice on which note of the chord the major 56 pentatonic begins. On the altered chord it begins on the 513, on the minor/major 7 chords it begins on the fifth, on the Lydian 57 chords it begins on the ninth and on the minor 755 chords it begins on the seventh.

Try going back to some of the other progressions and tunes we've used and applying the major b6 pentatonic where it is possible.





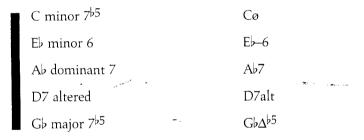
# Chapter 9: The Minor 7 1/5 Pentatonic Scale

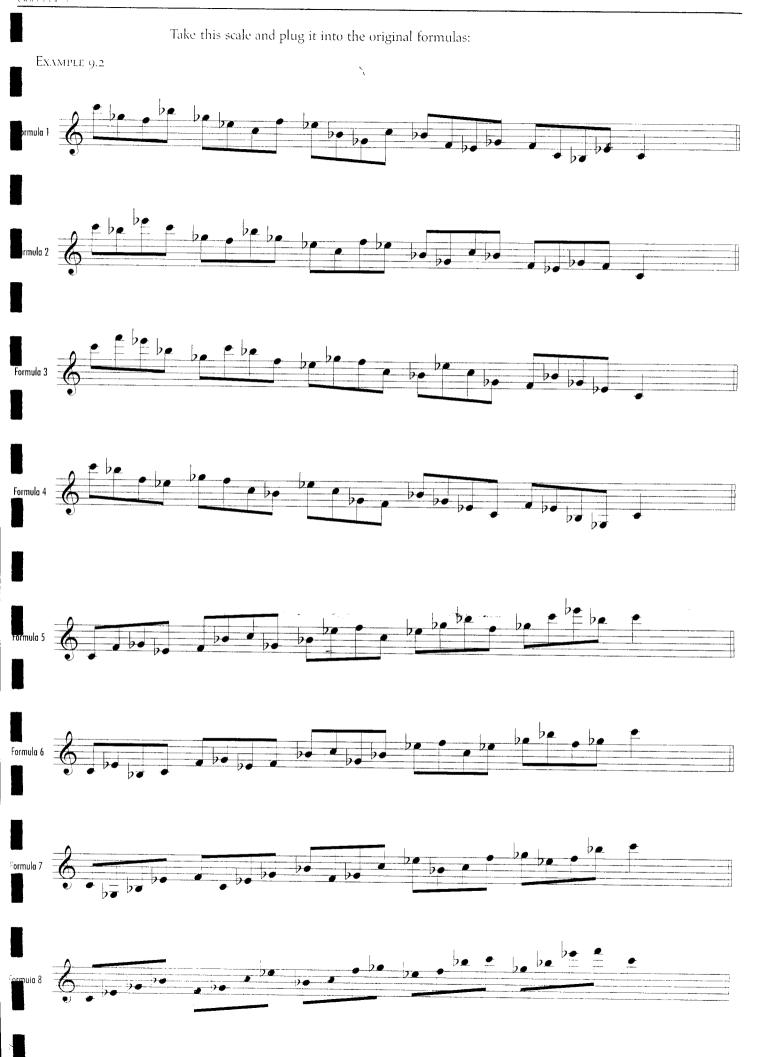
Again consider the original pentatonic scale we started with and make the  $G \subset a \supset G$  .

#### Example 9.1



This scale is called a minor 7 b5 pentatonic. The C minor 7 b5 pentatonic fits over the following chords:



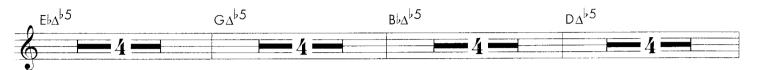


Practice the minor 7  $\flat$ 5 pentatonic scale on the following progressions. The minor 7  $\flat$ 5 pentatonic scale starts on the  $\flat$ 5 of a  $\Delta^{\flat}$ 5 chord. Example:  $C\Delta^{\flat}$ 5 use  $F^{\sharp}$  minor 7  $\flat$ 5.

## ▶ TRACK 14: PROGRESSION 13 - MAJOR 55 CYCLE (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



Play 3 x: 1st x - each chord 4 bars (as notated); 2nd x - each chord 2 bars; 3rd x - each chord 1 bar





## ▶ TRACK 14: PROGRESSION 13 - MAJOR ♭5 CYCLE (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)



Play 3 x: 1st x - each chord 4 bars (as notated); 2nd x - each chord 2 bars; 3rd x - each chord 1 bar



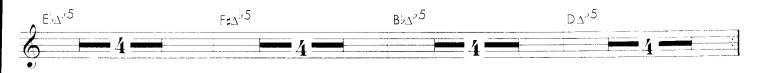


# ▶ TRACK 14: PROGRESSION 13 - MAJOR 55 CYCLE (E5 INSTRUMENTS)



Play 3 x: 1st x - each chord 4 bars (as notated); 2nd x - each chord 2 bars; 3rd x - each chord 1 bar

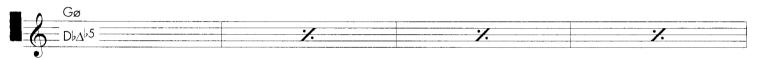




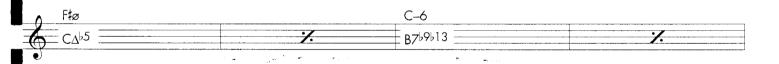
# ▶ TRACK 15: PROGRESSION 14 »SPLURGE« (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)







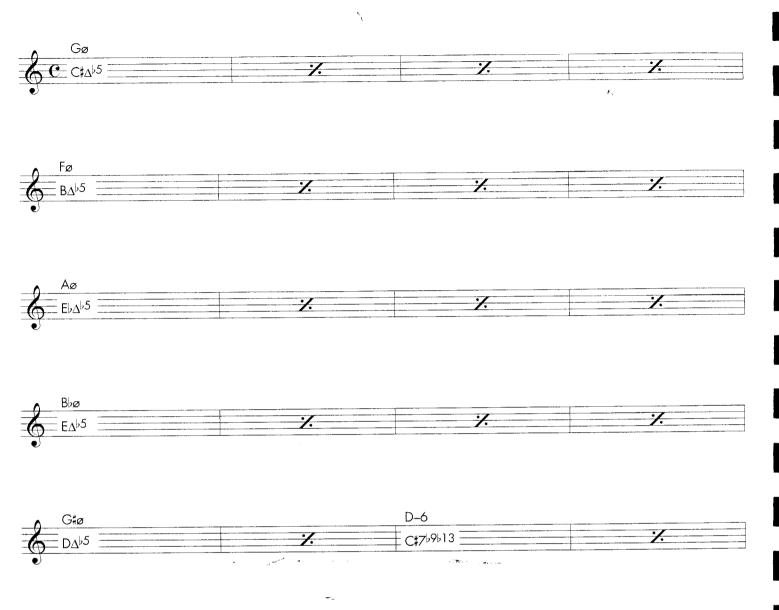


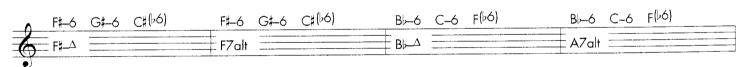


<b></b>	E-6	F#_6	B(1-6)	E6	F#6	B(PQ)	A <b>⊱</b> -6	B♭–6	EP(PQ)	Al-6	Bl <u>~</u> 6	Eh(pQ)
1)	F			Eb7al		7.44	A <sub>&gt;</sub> _Δ			G7alt		
)												

^	C-7	G-7	D-7		B <i>⊳</i> –7	F-7	C-7			
$+(\bigcirc$	_ _ C-7			<i>'</i> .	⊥ ‡ B <i>⊳–7</i>				- <del>/</del> .	
• )								J		

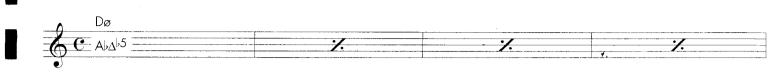
# **▶ TRACK 15:** PROGRESSION 14 »SPLURGE« (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)







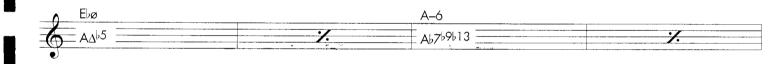
# ▶ TRACK 15: PROGRESSION 14 »SPLURGE« (EÞ INSTRUMENTS)













A-7 E-7 B-7	G-7	7 D–7 A–7
A-7	<b>%</b> G-7	7 <b>/</b> :
•)		

Again, try playing the rhythmic devices introduced in Chapter 3.

- $_{\mbox{\scriptsize 1.}}$  Play the exercise on the next page using all eighth notes.
- 2. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

#### Example 9.3A



 $_{\mbox{\footnotesize 3.}}$  Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

#### Example 9.3B



4. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

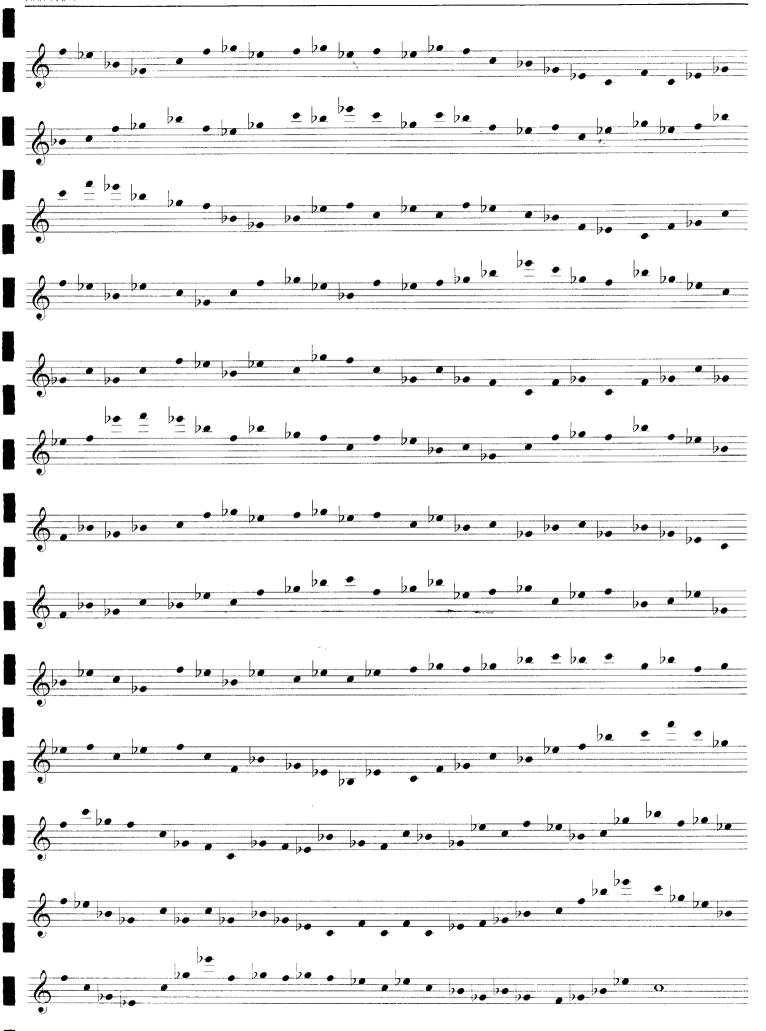
## Example 9.3C



5. Try playing the exercise using rests and syncopations:

### Example 9.3D

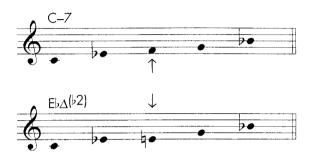




# Chapter 10: The Major 62 Pentatonic Scale

Replace the  $\rightarrow F_{\le}$  in the original pentatonic scale with E natural. This scale is called Eb major  $\flat 2$ .

#### EXAMPLE 10.1



The Eb major b2 pentatonic scale fits the following chords:

1	C dominant 7	C7
	Eb dominant 7	ЕЬ7
	F# dominant 7	F#7
	A dominant 7	A7

From another perspective, consider what  $\flat 2$  pentatonics fit over a C7 chord; a C major  $\flat 2$ , an Eb major  $\flat 2$ , and F# major  $\flat 2$ , or an A major  $\flat 2$  can all be played over a C7 chord.

#### Example 10.2



[Note: b2 is the same as b9]

Here is the C major 1/2 pentatonic plugged into the original formula:



Apply the major \$\beta 2\$ pentatonic to the following progressions. First you may check out the sound of each of the four pentatonic \$\beta 2\$ options against the chord progression. After you got familiar with the individual sound of each option you can mix them up randomly:

# ▶ TRACK 16: PROGRESSION 15 - DOMINANT 59 \$13 CYCLE (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)



# ▶ TRACK 16: PROGRESSION 15 - DOMINANT ♭9 \$13 CYCLE (B₺ INSTRUMENTS)

D F Ab B (all b2)
G Bb C‡ E (all b2)
G7b9\$13

7. (G7b9\$13

C Elv F# A (all b2)
F Alv B D (all b2)

C7b9\pi13
F7b9\pi13
F7b9\pi13

ВЬ С# E G (all ь2)

ВЬ7 Ь9 #13

\* EЬ F# А С (all ь2)

\* EЬ7 Ь9 #13

\* EЬ7 Ь9 #13

 Ab B D F (all b2)
 C# E G Bb (all b2)

 Ab7 b9 b13
 C#7 b9 b13

E G Bb C‡ (all b2)

E7b9\$13

A C Eb F‡ (all b2)

A7b9\$13

## ▶ TRACK 16: PROGRESSION 15 - DOMINANT b9 \$13 CYCLE (EB INSTRUMENTS)

A C Eb F\$ (all b2)

D F Ab B (all b2)

D7b9\(\frac{13}{2}\)

D7b9\(\frac{13}{2}\)

G Bb C# E (all b2)

G7b9\q\13

C Eb F# A (all b2)

C7b9\q\13

F Ab B D (all b2)

Bb C# E G (all b2)

F7b9\(\frac{1}{3}\)

Bb 7b9\(\frac{1}{3}\)

Bb 7b9\(\frac{1}{3}\)

 Eb F# A C (all b2)
 Ab B D F (all b2)

 Eb7b9413
 Ab7b9413

 C# E G Bb (all b2)
 F# A C Eb (all b2)

 C#7b9\q13
 F#7b9\q13

B C: F Ab (all b2)

B7b9=13

E G Bb C: (all b2)

E7b9\( \) 13

E7b9\( \) 13

# ▶ TRACK 17: PROGRESSION 16 »FEEL FOR YOU« (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)

G-7 D-7 Eb F‡ A C (all b2) Ab B D F (all b2) G Bb Db E (all b2)

Eb7 = Ab7 = G7

C E F # A (all b2)

G-7 C-7

F A B D (all b2)

C C 7

F A B D (all b2)

G-7 D-7 Eb F# A C (all b2) Ab B D F (all b2) G Bb Db E (all b2)

Bb\D \text{Eb7} \text{Eb7} \text{Ab7} \text{G7}

C Eb F# A (all b2) F Ab B D (all b2) G-7 D-7

C7 F7 BbΔ

F-6 D(1-6) C E1-F A (all 1-2) F A1-B D (all 1-2)
D71-91-13 G-69 C7 F7

G-7 D-7 E> F♯ A C (all ♭2) A> B D F (all ♭2) G B♭ D♭ E (all ♭2)

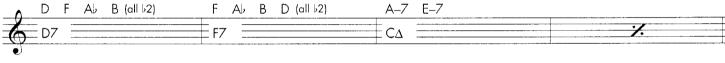
B♭∆ E♭7 A♭7 G7

C E<sub>2</sub> F: A (all 32) F A<sub>3</sub> B D (all 32) G-7 A<sub>3</sub>-6 C-7 C-6

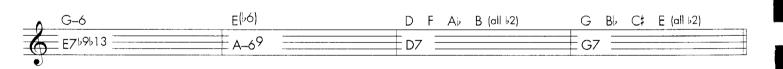
C7 F7 B5Δ G7 C-7 F7

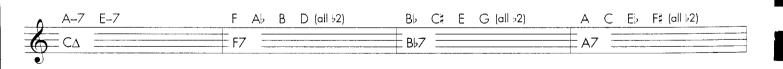
## ▶ TRACK 17: PROGRESSION 16 »FEEL FOR YOU« (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)













# ▶ TRACK 17: PROGRESSION 16 »FEEL FOR YOU« (Eb INSTRUMENTS)

E-7 B-7		. 3, 5 5 (42)	E G B  C# (all   2)
€ G∆	C7	F7	E7

A C# El> F# (all >2)	_ /	D	F	C#	B (all ♭2)
A7	A-7	D7	_		

- 0 E-7 B-7	С	Εŀ	F#	A (all 52)	F	C#	В	D (all \2)	Ε	G	Βŀ	C# (all \2)	
GA					- F7				E7				

A C♯ E♭ F♯ (all ♭2)	D F	C#	B (all 62)	E-7	2 /
A7				<u> </u>	<b>7</b> .



	<u> </u>		
_ <b>D</b> _6	B(96)	A C# E♭ F# (all ♭2)	D F C# B (all \2)
B769613	E-69	A7	
•			

6 E-7 B-7	С	E	F	:	A (all 52)	F	C#	В	D	(all √2)	Ε	G	В♭	C# (all ♭2)	
GA	_ C7	, <u> </u>				F7					E7				

A C‡ E> F‡ (all >2)	D F C: B (all 62)	E-7	G-6	A-7	A-6	
A7	D7	GΔ	E7 ===	A-7	D7 =	•

Again, try playing the rhythmic devices introduced in Chapter  ${\bf 3}.$ 

- 1. Play the exercise on page 104 using all eighth notes.
- 2. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

#### Example 10.4A



3. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

#### Example 10.4B



4. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

#### Example 10.4C



5. Try playing the exercise using rests and syncopations:

## Example 10.4D

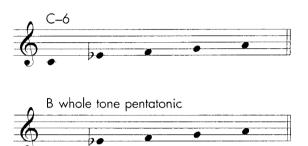


be to be to be to be to be to be = be , 40 ° bo bo 40 bo 40 be to be be be to be to to be 6 ho ho ho ho ho

# Chapter 11: The Whole Tone Pentatonic Scale

Consider the minor 6 pentatonic scale again and drop the root a 1/2 step.

#### EXAMPLE 11.1

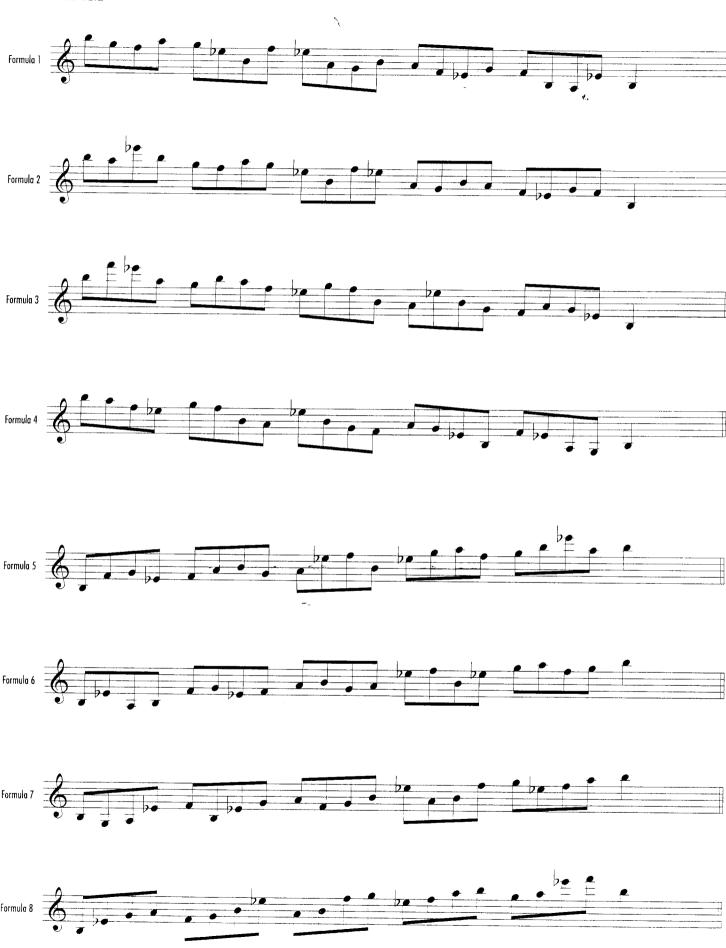


This scale is called a B whole tone pentatonic and it fits the following chords:

C minor/major 7	$C$ $\Delta$
F Lydian b7	F7 <sup>#11</sup>
B7 altered	B7alt
G dominant 7 <sup>491</sup> 13	G7 <sup>49</sup> 113

Here is a B whole tone pentatonic scale plugged into the oiginal formula:

#### EXAMPLE 11.2



Again, try playing the rhythmic devices introduced in Chapter 3.

- 1. Play the exercise on page 108 using all eighth notes.
- 2. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

## Example 11.3A



3. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

#### Example 11.3B



4. Play through the exercise using the following rhythmic pattern:

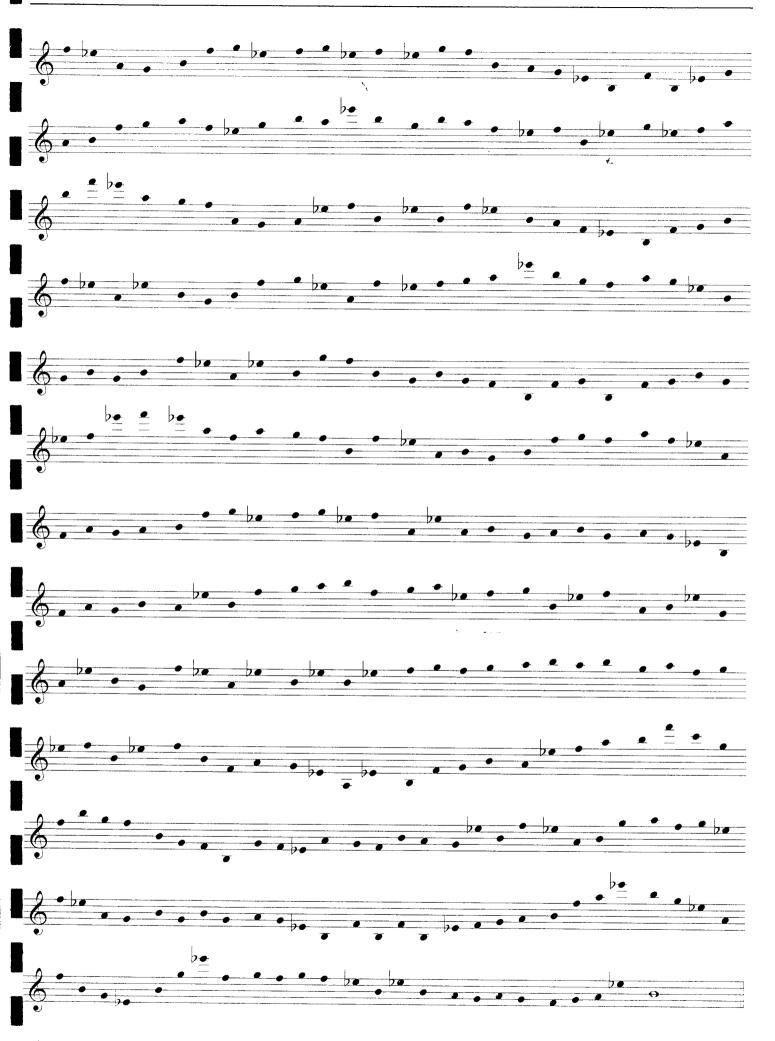
## EXAMPLE 11.3C



5. Try playing the exercise using rests and syncopations.

#### Example 11.3D





After you've practiced improvising with any whole tone pentatonic try adding the missing note in the whole tone scale.

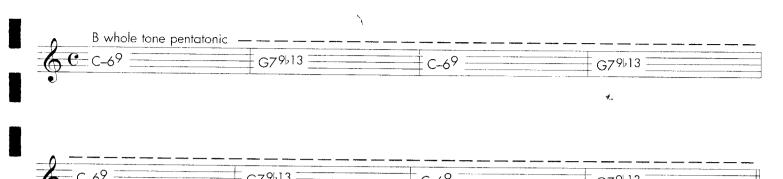
Example: Over the C minor/major 7 scale, add >Dbc.

# Example 11.4



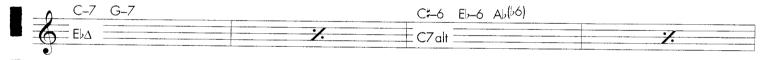
Practice the whole tone pentatonics over the following progression.

# ▶ TRACK 18: PROGRESSION 17 »HARDLY EVER« (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)

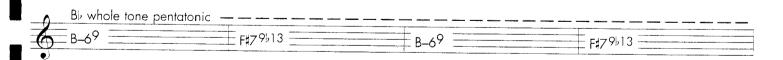


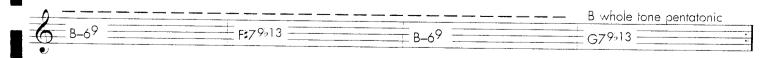












# **▶ TRACK 18:** PROGRESSION 17 »HARDLY EVER« (B♭ INSTRUMENTS)

D-69 A79,13 D-69 A79,13

D-69 D-69 A7913 D-69 A7913

D-69 A79,13 D-69 C7

G-7 F-6 G-6 C( $^{1}$ /6) Eø C whole tone pentatonic G-7 E7 alt  $A7^{19}$ sus  $A17^{19}$ 13

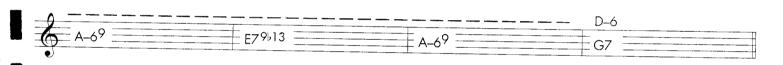
C;-69 A,79,13 C;-69 A79,13 A79,13

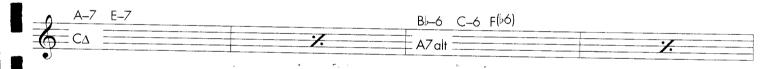
# ▶ TRACK 18: PROGRESSION 17 »HARDLY EVER« (E♭ INSTRUMENTS)

Al, whole tone pentatonic —			
<b>C</b> A-69	79b13 A-69	E79\13	

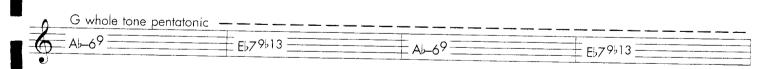
<u> </u>	
A-69 E79,13 A-69	E79\13

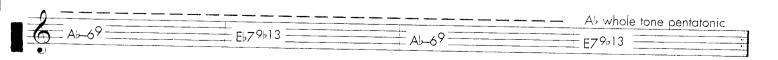








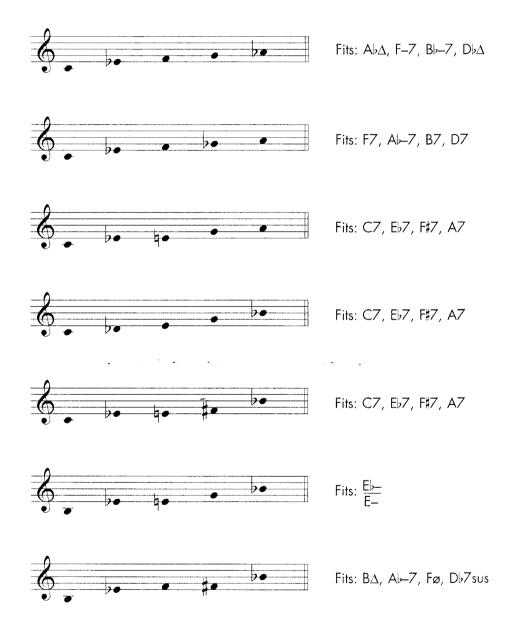




# Chapter 12: Other Pentatonic Scales

Remember that any five notes can make a pentatonic scale. Here are some others to consider:

#### Example 12.1



# Chapter 13: Poly-Pentatonics

Today many of the modern players are playing in and out of the harmonic structure. Poly-pentatonics is one of many harmonic devices used to get outside the harmony.

Take C minor 7 for example as the chord you are playing over (we'll call this the parent pentatonic) and hear what happens when you play another pentatonic over that tonality. Notice that the degree of soutness is related to the number of common notes between the parent pentatonic and the other pentatonic scale played.

For example, given the chord C–7, if you then play a B–7, C‡–7 or F‡–7 pentatonic scale, you are as far away from C–7 as you can get. There is not one note in the C–7 pentatonic scale in common with any of these three pentatonics.

First degree out:

B-7, C#-7 and F#-7 are the furthest out from C-7 pentatonic.

#### EXAMPLE 13.1



Second degree out:

Ab-7 and E-7 both have one note each in common with C-7 pentatonic.

# EXAMPLE 13.2



Third degree out:

E5-7 and A-7 have two notes in common with the C-7 pentatonic.

#### Example 13.3



Fourth degree out:

Bl-7 and D-7 each have three notes in common with the C-7 pentatonic.

#### Example 13.4



Fifth degree out:

F–7 and G–7 each have four notes in common with the C–7 pentatonic.

#### EXAMPLE 13.5



For the sake of sounding intentionally out try playing the first, second, or third degree out against the parent pentatonic.

The following example demonstrates how shifting back and forth between the parent pentatonic and an out pentatonic creates an interesting sound.

#### Example 13.6



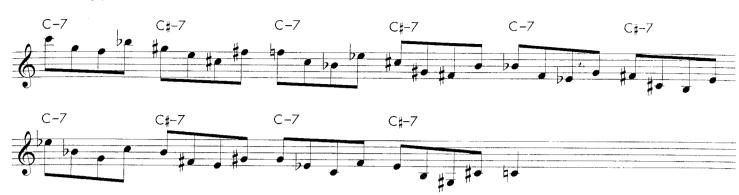
Example 13.6 uses a four note grouping from the parent pentatonic and then a four note grouping from the out pentatonic and continues alternating the two pentatonic scales. Each four note grouping starts on the note which is the closest descending note to the first note of the last pentatonic. That is in Example 13.6, the  $F_{*}^{\sharp}$  of the second grouping is the closest descending note to the  $F_{*}^{\sharp}$  of the first grouping.

From the four note grouping of the C–7 pentatonic move to the closest note in the F#–7 pentatonic and play a four note grouping. Then go to the closest note in the C–7 pentatonic and play a four note grouping. Continue with this pattern untill finally returning to the starting note.

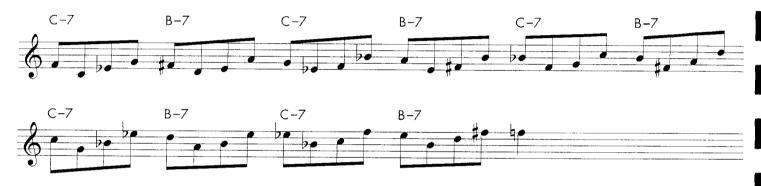
You can try this same exercise using a different out pentatonic. If you use the tritone away from the parent pentatonic it makes the melodies non parallel. Using the second or third degree out can run into the use of repeated notes which is fine. Of course this is an exercise and you can certainly try juxtaposing any number of notes from the parent pentatonic with any number of notes from the out pentatonic.

In the following exercise the first note of the out pentatonic is the closest descending note from the last note in the parent pentatonic. (as opposed to the closest to the first note, Ex. 13.6)





EXAMPLE 13.8: (Ascending pentatonics closest to the first note)



Example 13.9: (Ascending pentatonics closest to the last note)



These first four poly-pentatonic exercises have the second four note groupings containing the same shape and skip step formula as the first four note grouping. Here are some examples with the second four notes being different than the first.

#### EXAMPLE 13.10:



# Example 13.11:

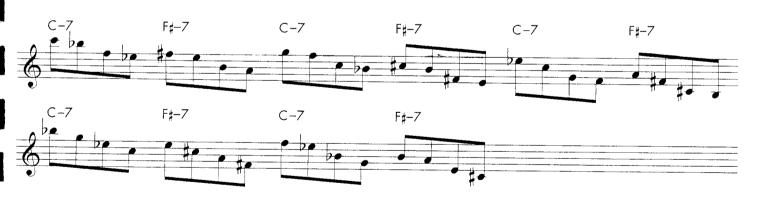


#### EXAMPLE 13.12:

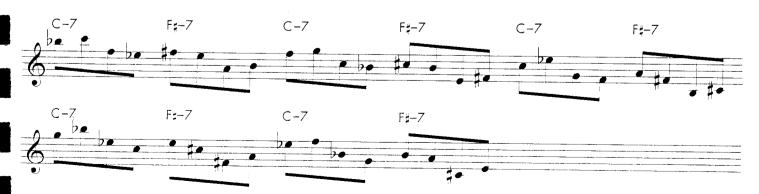


#### ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES

# Example 13.13A:



# Example 13.13B:



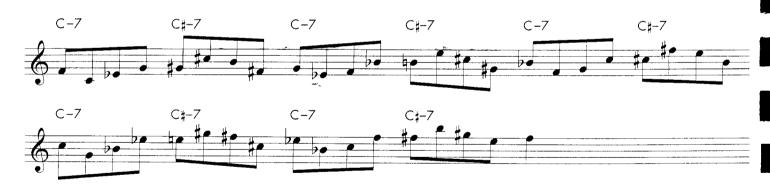
#### Example 13.14:



# Example 13.15:



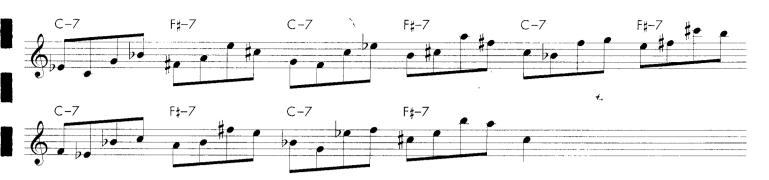
# Example 13.16:



# Example 13.17A:



# Example 13.17B:



The following are some examples of improvising or mixing up the inside and outside pentatonics against the parent pentatonic C–7:

#### Example 13.18:



# Example 13.19A:



# EXAMPLE 13.19B:



# Example 13.19C:



# Example 13.19D:

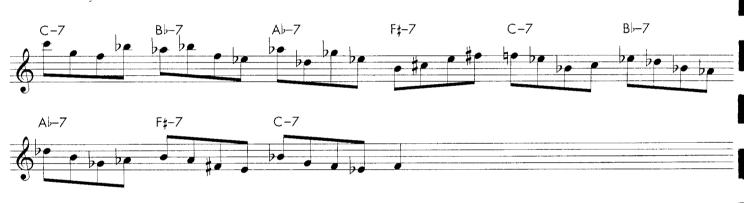


# Example 13.19E:

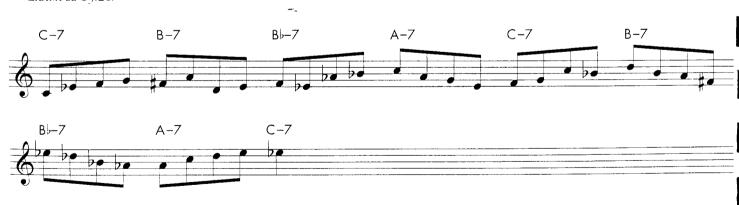


The following are some examples of grouping together four pentatonic scales:

# Example 13.20:



# Example 13.21:



# Example 13.22:



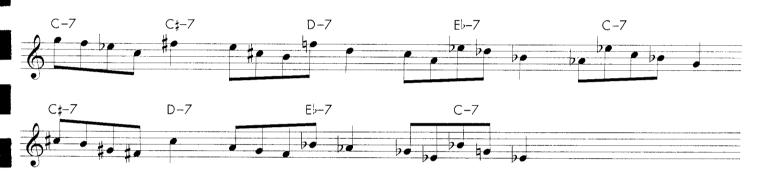
# Example 13.23:



Next try using the rhythmic variations introduced in Chapter 3 with any of the polypentatonic examples.

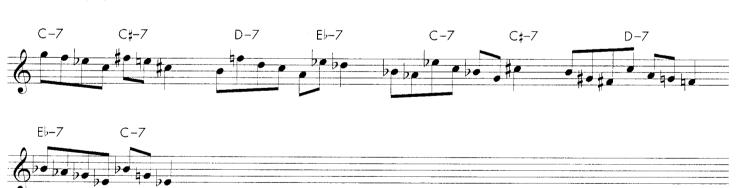
Here is the previous example with the rhymic pattern: • • • • •

#### Example 13.24:



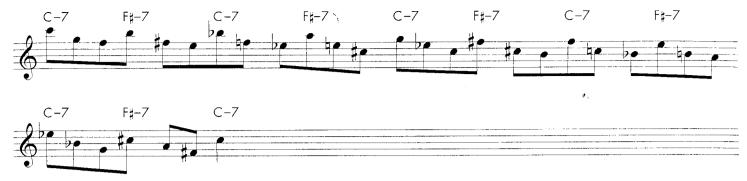
Here is that example with the rythmic pattern:

# Example 13.25:



Another device which can be applied to playing pentatonics is the use of odd groupings of notes. What follows is an example of mixing up a 3-note grouping of the C minor pentatonic together with a 3-note grouping from the F# minor pentatonic scale:





Here is an example of mixing up a 5-note grouping from the C minor pentatonic with a 3-note grouping from the F# minor pentatonic scale:

# Example 13.27:



Here is an example of mixing up a 5-note grouping from the C minor pentatonic with a 5-note grouping from the C‡–7 pentatonic scale:

# Example 13.28:



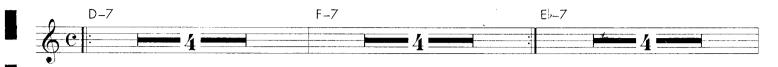
Here is an example of mixing up many polypentatonic minor scales and using odd groupings from each of those key centers. This can be played over the C minor tone center:

# EXAMPLE 13.29:



Finally, practice using different rhythms including rests and odd groupings of notes both inside and outside the changes on this progression.

# ▶ TRACK 19: PROGRESSION 18 (CONCERT INSTRUMENTS)





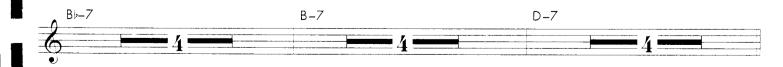
# ▶ TRACK 19: PROGRESSION 18 (B INSTRUMENTS)





# ▶ TRACK 19: PROGRESSION 18 (Eb INSTRUMENTS)





# Conclusion

This book was written in the spirit of exploring different sounds and ideas. The creative imagination has no boundaries. I hope this book can give the reader some insight and stimulate their individual exploration of music.

There are many different approaches and ways to study the many musical techniques. In a sense everyone finds his or her own way. I hope this book assists you in finding your own way.



This improvisation method is more than just another play-along. It is a series of books and CDs that progress step by step, offering concrete suggestions and advise that shows you how and what to practice. Drawing on twenty-five years of teaching experience at the Eastman School of Music, Ramon Ricker uses text, recorded demonstrations by him and his students, and practice and play-along tracks that present the material in a clear and concise manner.

Most of the play-along tracks feature the rhythm section of the 1980 Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band with Harold Danko on piano, Rufus Reid on bass and the late, great Mel Lewis on drums. Since they performed and recorded together consistently over a period of several years, they played as a unit – a true jazz rhythm section. The recordings were brought up to meet todays higher CD standards and served as an inspiration for Ramon Ricker to write three entirely new books. In addition, new demonstration, ear training, and play-along tracks were added.

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