Dominant '7' Resolutions

A guide to playing over V7 to I Resolutions

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Introduction

One of the most important things an improvisor has to learn is how to resolve a line or an idea. It could be argued that you can play anything as long as you resolve it properly. One of the strongest resolutions you will find is the 'V7 to I' progression example: "C7 to F."

With these exercises I've compiled some strong melodic resolutions for the student to practice and learn in all 12 keys. These ideas can be used anytime you have a dominant 7th chord resolving to a Major chord a 5th away. You can also use these ideas if the dominant 7th chord moves to another dominant 7th chord a 5th away, example: D7 to G7.

The ideas should be practiced with a metronome with the target tempo being 240 bpm. Start slow!!! Play the written idea then transpose it to fit the next chord. If you have never transposed before, use the chord tones to help you find the notes in the new key, example: The first idea starts on the 5th of the G7 chord then goes to the 7th, to the 6th, back to the 5th then jumps to the root, then the 7th to the 6th, back to the 5th and lands on the root of the C major chord. The more you transpose the easier it will become. Every idea or lick you learn should be taken through all 12 keys. You'll find that you favor playing certain things in certain keys but you shouldn't be limited to only playing and idea in 1 key.

The majority of these ideas are just 1 bar in length and can also be thought of as being a short 'ii-V7-I' idea. Once you've learned the idea try to incorporate it as a part of your improvised line not just a 'lick' unto itself. Try to play a line that leads into the idea and continues out of the idea.

Enjoy...

Charles McNeal
Dominant 7 Resolutions

G7  C  C7  F  F7  Bb

Bb7  Eb  Eb7  Ab  Ab7  Db

C#7  F#  F#7  B  B7  E

E7  A  A7  D  D7  G

G7  C

G7  C  F7  Bb  Eb7  Ab

C#7  F#  B7  E  A7  D