

Beginner's Guide to Improvisation

Lesson 6

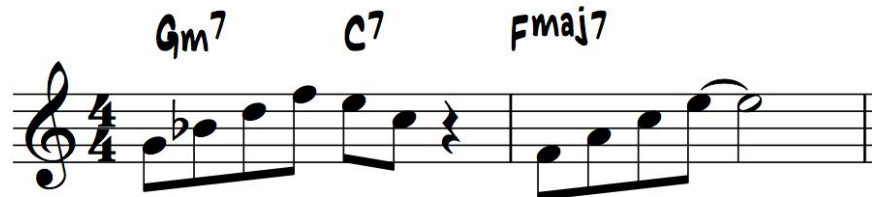
You can now improvise over a three-six-two-five chord progression, or “turnaround” - look at you go! Are you ready to learn how our trusty lick can transport us to a whole new space in the tonality of a progression? YES!

Chord four (or F major, in the key of C major) is a popular destination within a chord progression that adds an interesting new opportunity for our good old friend, the perfect cadence.

Let's bring our lick from lesson 4 back into play again:



Now, let's see what happens when we use the same idea to get to F major (or chord 4)...



If you've brushed up on your key signatures, you'll know that C major has no sharps or flats, but F major has one flat - Bb. Notice how, when we transpose this lick into the key of F, our G minor and C dominant chords have a Bb in them. This is what tells our ears that we are changing key!

Remember learning that the 3rd and 7th of a chord are the notes that best describe changes in the harmony? Well, fancy that. Bb is the 3rd of G minor 7 and the 7th of C dominant 7.

See how it works? MAGIC.

EXERCISE:

- Ask your tutor to play a two-five-one progression in a key other than C a few times round in a loop.
- See if you can hear how your lick fits over the two-five-one in the new key.
- If you're feeling ambitious, try this in all 12 keys. Multivitamins for the ears!