

Playing chord changes - Part I

By Udi Wahrsager

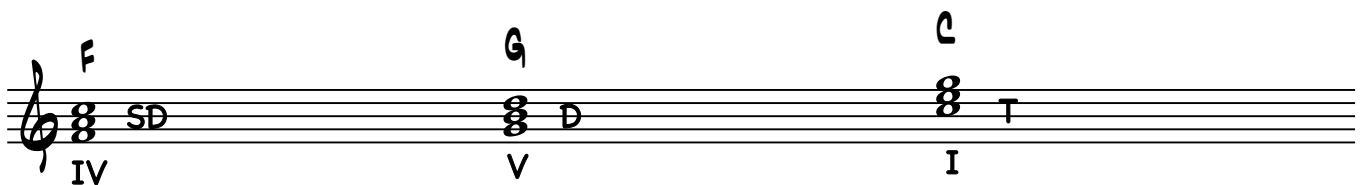
A. The major scale



The major chord

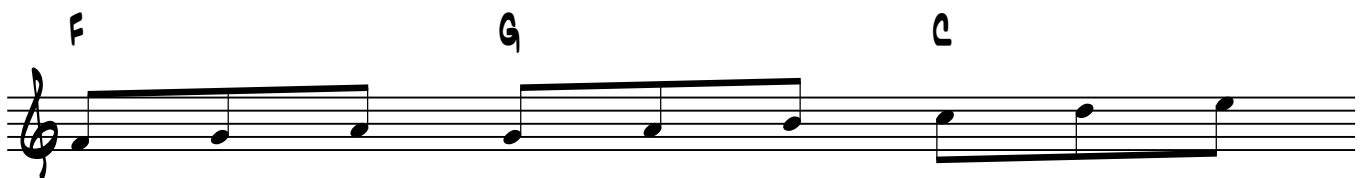


Primary chord functions in C major



Major note-cells

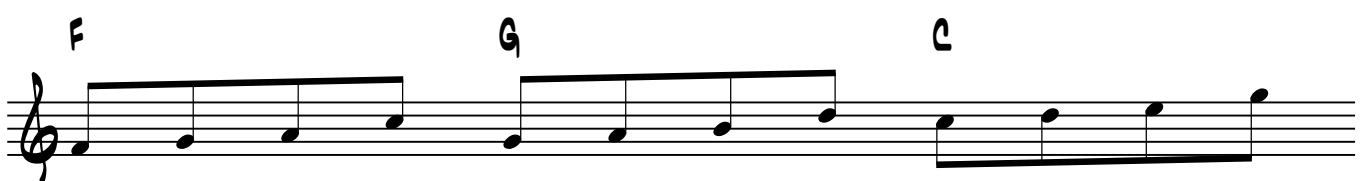
1 - 2 - 3



1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5



1 - 2 - 3 - 5



♪ Ex. 1

Progression 1

C F G C

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains four measures, each with a whole note indicated by a single diagonal slash. Above the staff, the chords C, F, G, and C are written above the first, second, third, and fourth measures respectively.

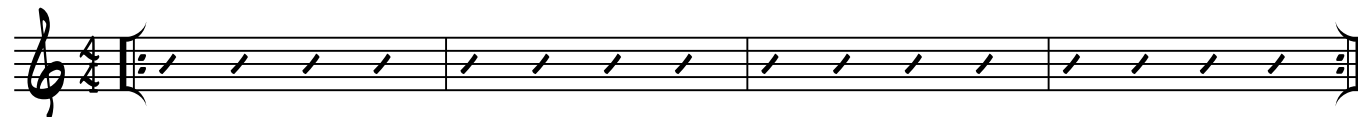
Progression 2

C F C G

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains four measures, each with a whole note indicated by a single diagonal slash. Above the staff, the chords C, F, C, and G are written above the first, second, third, and fourth measures respectively.

Progression 3

G F C G

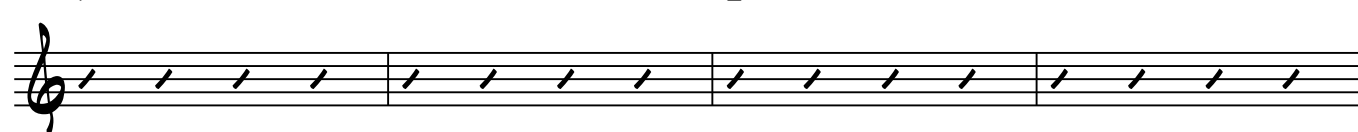
A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains four measures, each with a whole note indicated by a single diagonal slash. Above the staff, the chords G, F, C, and G are written above the first, second, third, and fourth measures respectively.

♪ Ex. 2 - The traditional blues progression

C F C

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains four measures, each with a whole note indicated by a single diagonal slash. Above the staff, the chords C, F, and C are written above the first, second, and third measures respectively. The fourth measure is empty.

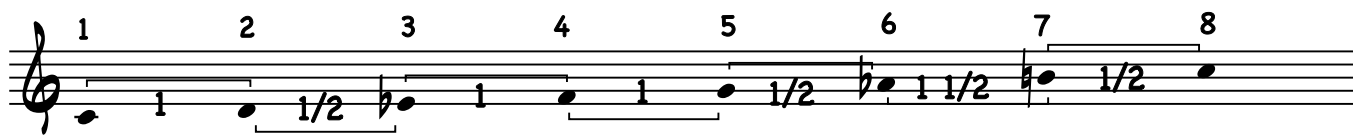
F C

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains four measures, each with a whole note indicated by a single diagonal slash. Above the staff, the chords F and C are written above the first and third measures respectively. The second and fourth measures are empty.

G F C G

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains four measures, each with a whole note indicated by a single diagonal slash. Above the staff, the chords G, F, C, and G are written above the first, second, third, and fourth measures respectively.

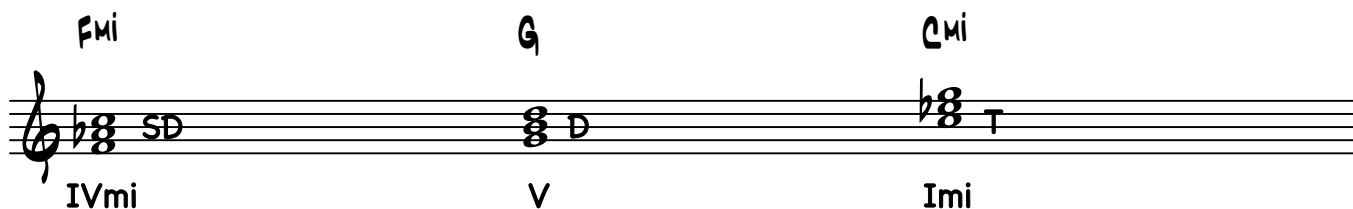
B. The harmonic minor scale



The minor chord



Primary chord functions in C minor



Minor note-cells

1 - 2 - 3



1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5



1 - 2 - 3 - 5



♪ Ex. 1

Progression 1

C

F

Fmi

C



Progression 2

F

Fmi

C

G



Progression 3

F

Fmi

Cmi

G



Progression 4

Cmi

Fmi

Cmi

G



C. The major Jazz cadence

C Dmi Emi F G Ami Bdim

I II III IV V VI VII

Sub-dominant function

F Dmi Dmi7

Dominant function

G Bdim G7

Tonic function

C Emi CΔ7 C Ami C6

The II-V-I progression ("the Jazz cadence")

Dmi7 G7 CΔ7

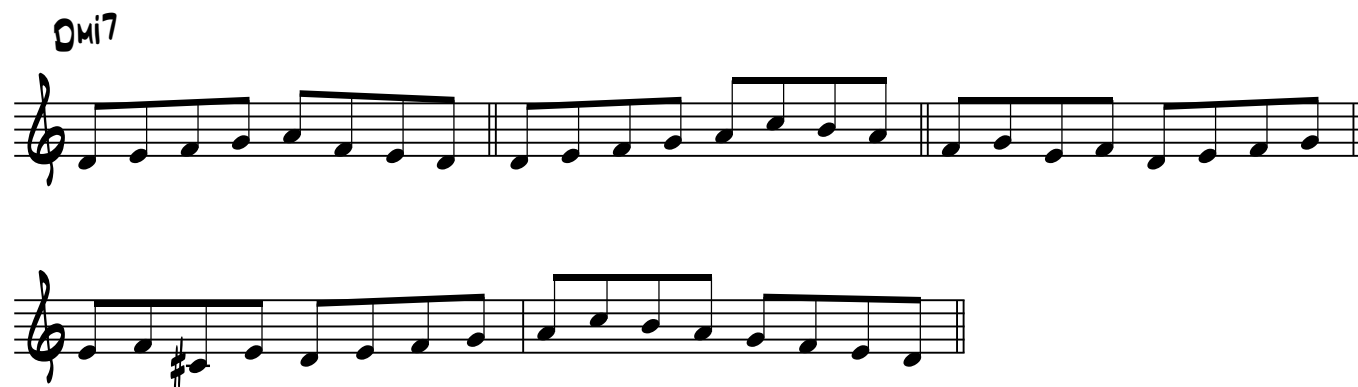
♪ Ex. 1 - Practice: (a) chord arpeggios, (b) all note-cells over the II-V-I progression.

Mi7 licks (II chord licks)

(a) Mi7 arpeggio



(b) Scale patterns (Dorian lines)

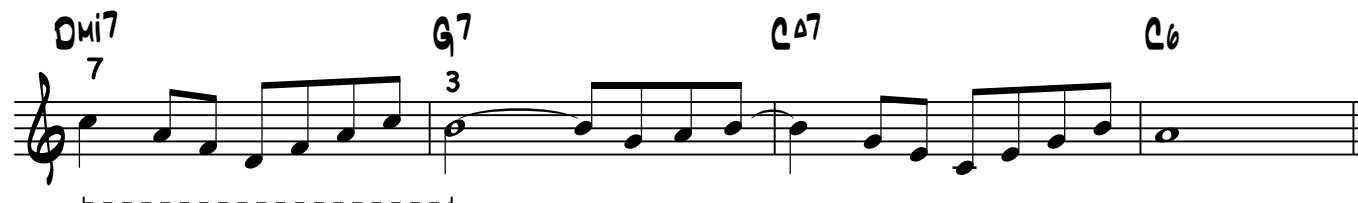


(c) "Line cliché" licks



♪ Ex. 2 - Memorize at least one mi7 lick of each type

7 --> 3 resolution



♪ Ex. 3 - Improvise over the II-V-I progression. Combine licks, arpeggios and note-cells.

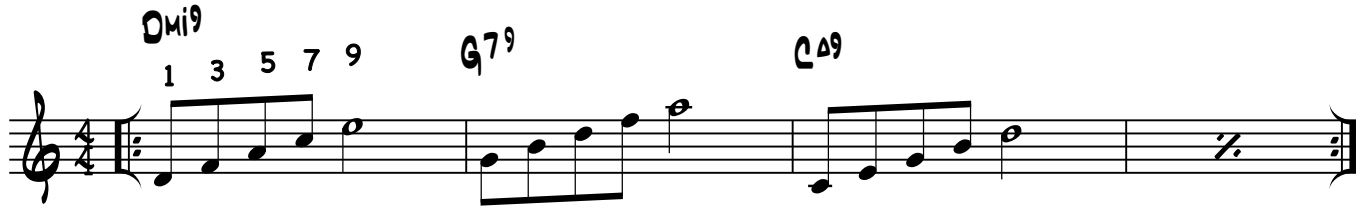
Lead the II chord line to the 3rd of the V chord.



D. Higher extensions in the II-V-I progression

(1) The II chord

Ex. 1 - 9th chords



Mi9 licks (II chord licks)



Mi13 licks



Ex. 2 - Memorize the licks and practice over the II-V-I progression



(2) The V chord

3 --> 9 resolution (mi7b5 arpeggio)



♪ Ex. 3 - Resolving dom. 7th chords (memorize)

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Chord progression: G7, C7, F7, B $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$ 7, Dmi7, G7, C Δ 7.

♪ Ex. 4 - Combine II chord lines (licks and note-cells) with this 3-->9 line

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Chord progression: Dmi7, G7, C Δ 7.