

COMMON PHRASES

In this unit we will focus on some of the phrases common to the jazz language. It is important to know the chord tones, extensions and alterations of the harmony you are dealing with. For example, some of the phrases you choose to put into your vocabulary might start on the ninth of the minor seventh chord or the sharp-ninth of the dominant seventh chord. Often you will connect the smaller phrases together to make longer lines.

A suggestion for practice might be to take some of these lines made from connected phrase fragments and work them through the cycle of fifths and the chord changes of a jazz or standard tune.

A COMMON PHRASE REVISITED

The first phrase we will look at is one of the more commonly heard phrases in the jazz lexicon. This common phrase is often played over Dm7 and starts on the ninth of the chord. Another way to look at this phrase is as a G13 with the phrase beginning on the thirteenth. Most of the vocabulary we use over a Dm7 chord is interchangeable with a G7 chord that isn't altered. (It is common to precede a V7 chord with iim7 chord.) In sections where the harmony stays on the dominant chord (static harmony) you will often hear a ii-V7 occurring to maintain interest in the accompaniment. Many of the lines you might play for Dm7 will work for G7 as well as Bm7b5 as they come from the same tonal center.

If this same phrase were played over a Bm7b5, it would start on the eleventh. For Db7(alt.), the phrase would start on the sharp-nine.

FIG. 1

Dm7
9th of Dm7

G13
13th of G13

Bm7b5
11th of Bm7b5

Db7(alt.)
#9th of Db7(alt.)

◀ [AUDIO-CommPhr1.mp3](#)

FENDER PLAYERS CLUB COMMON PHRASES



This lesson is from:

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