

How I wish jazz chords were explained to me as a student

Resource Sheet



3 Types Of Chord

Major 7: Root - 3 - 7

Dominant 7: Root - 3 - b7

Minor 7: Root - b3 - b7



These can also be inverted...



You can use a combination of these inversions to create good voice leading

Practice Plan



1. Practice playing all 3 types of chords, in every key.
2. Play through as many jazz standards as possible, using the chords from the previous step.
3. Practice playing the inversion of all 3 chord types, in every key.
4. Play through as many jazz standards as possible, using the inverted chords from the previous step.
5. Practice using a combination of different inversions so that your hand moves as little as possible.
6. Repeat the previous step over as many jazz standards as possible, until it becomes easy.

Examples Over Autumn Leaves



3+7s

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef, showing chord voicings for the first system of 'Autumn Leaves'. The first staff contains four measures: Cm7 (C4, E♭4, G♭4, B♭4), F7 (F4, A♭4, C♭5, E♭5), B♭maj7 (B♭4, D5, F5, A♭5), and E♭maj7 (E♭4, G4, B♭4, D5). The second staff contains four measures: Am7(b5) (A3, C4, E♭4, G♭4), D7 (D4, F♯4, A♭4, C♭5), Gm7 (G3, B♭3, D♭4, F♭4), and Gm7 (G3, B♭3, D♭4, F♭4). The piece ends with a double bar line.

Inversions (7+3s)

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef, showing chord voicings for the second system of 'Autumn Leaves'. The first staff contains four measures: Cm7 (C4, E♭4, G♭4, B♭4), F7 (F4, A♭4, C♭5, E♭5), B♭maj7 (B♭4, D5, F5, A♭5), and E♭maj7 (E♭4, G4, B♭4, D5). The second staff contains four measures: Am7(b5) (A3, C4, E♭4, G♭4), D7 (D4, F♯4, A♭4, C♭5), Gm7 (G3, B♭3, D♭4, F♭4), and Gm7 (G3, B♭3, D♭4, F♭4). The piece ends with a double bar line.

Combination

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef, showing chord voicings for the third system of 'Autumn Leaves'. The first staff contains four measures: Cm7 (C4, E♭4, G♭4, B♭4), F7 (F4, A♭4, C♭5, E♭5), B♭maj7 (B♭4, D5, F5, A♭5), and E♭maj7 (E♭4, G4, B♭4, D5). The second staff contains four measures: Am7(b5) (A3, C4, E♭4, G♭4), D7 (D4, F♯4, A♭4, C♭5), Gm7 (G3, B♭3, D♭4, F♭4), and Gm7 (G3, B♭3, D♭4, F♭4). The piece ends with a double bar line.