

JazzyPiano.net

Glen Rose

The Five basic Jazz Chords (3 parts)

The Five basic Jazz Chords - Part One (21 minutes)

Shorthand used in the descriptions below are as follow:

LH=left hand

RH = right hand

0:10

Introduction

2:10 Building major 7 chords

3:40

The Five Basic Jazz Chord Types

- 1.CMaj7
- 2.C dominant 7
- 3.Cm7
- 4.Cm7b5
- 5.Cdim7

4:51

Practice by going down in whole steps

A.This is a learning tool to organize your practice. If you want to study and learn all of the 60 chords this is a recommended method but not the only one. It's very easy to get lost and disoriented in the practice so going down in whole steps while helps keep your study organized helping to keep your place and remember which chords you have studied.

B. Explanation of what whole tone scales are

C. Demonstration, playing thru all the 5 chord types descending thru the whole tone scale. This covers half of the jazz chords.

D. Add rhythms to the exercise to make the practice more enjoyable

E. Arpeggiate the chords for practice. This creates a classical sound

8:28

Practice with 6/8 rhythm in the right hand (or any rhythm)

This creates a classical sound and make practice more interesting

Practice while going down in whole steps

Use the pedal to make a smoother blending of the chords

11:44

Practice with arpeggiated chords (Classical sound)

Another way to make practicing and learning the chords more enjoyable.

13:30

Use the other whole tone scale to play the other six sets of chords

15:43

Play the chords in both hands

practice playing the chords hand-over-hand

Helps to train both hands and creates a pleasant harp like effect

The Five basic Jazz Chords - Part Two (26 minutes)

Playing tunes with the chords

00:00

Introduction and talk about jazz notations

01:21

Apply the chords - *Misty*

Play chords in the right hand and a single root note in the left hand, no melody yet

-Chords played in root position are not optimum and don't sound so good but we need to learn them in this root position before we can evolve them into better inversions and variations.

-Use the chords in the stock root positions that we learned in Part 1

-Slowly figure out each chord in the song, test yourself to see how well you know the chords in root position

-play without tempo

07:52

Bridge chords to *Misty*

9:55

Melody in the RH hand and chords in the LH (root position still)

11:51

Play with a rhythmic pulse in the LH

-Play like a guitar or ukulele

This is similar to how a guitar, banjo or ukulele plays a straight ahead rhythmic accompaniment to songs. The same is done on the piano. Play on every beat , everyother beat or every 4 beats just as a guitar would.

13:30

Apply the chords in root position to *Georgia*.

-Still play simple root position chords and a single bass note in the LH

15:52

Bridge chords to *Georgia*.

-Play like a guitar or ukulele as we did on *Misty*.

18:39

Inverting the chords so they no longer are in root positions

-Play all the chords with the 7th on the bottom. This will make the chords sound much more musical. yOu will use them in this position frequently when playing tunes.

-Explanations on how to find the inversion

-Practice. Run through all the chords with the 7th on the bottom

22:13

Use the inverted chords to play *Misty*. Still no melody , chords only

22:56

Use the inverted chords to play *Georgia*.

-Add rhythm

24:05

Playing the melody in the RH above the chords played in the LH

The Five basic Jazz Chords - Part Three (22 minutes)

Adding 9ths to all the chords and introduction to other common necessary jazz chords

00:16

Introduction about chords with a 9th in them

The 9th is an “upper extension”, a “jazz color tone.”

1:04

How to build the jazz 9 chord.

-The 9 chords have no root. You can play the root with your left hand or not play it at all

-It's not necessary to say 7/9. If you say 9 it is implied that a 7 is in the chords. The 9 chords MUST have a 7 in them or they are not 9 chords. They would be something else if they didn't have a 7 in them.

05:26

Dominant 7b9 chords

The most common altered jazz chord

-Explanation of what a b9 chord is and how to make it.

07:11

Two jazz chords commonly found in combination

m7b5 – Dominant7b9

07:14

Explanation about the two often linked chords. A Dom7b9 is almost always preceded by a m7b5.

09:33

Example of the sound of the two chord combination m7b5 – Dominant7b9. Going down in whole steps.

10:14

Stella By Starlight as an example of the two chord combination (m7b5 – Dominant7b9)

12:11

More common and necessary jazz chords

12:28

Major 6 and major 6/9 chords.

-These are interchangeable at anytime with major 7 chords. They are all called “major jazz chords” and can be swapped out with each other at anytime according to your preference at any spot in a tune.

15:12

Every song ends with a major chord. In jazz we usually chose to end a song with a major 6/9 instead of a major 7 because the melody can sometimes interfere and clash with a major 7 chord. It's not a big deal but it's good to know.

16:17

Minor 6 and minor 6/9 chords

18:12

Augmented chords

-They are written in three different ways but they all mean the same thing. C+, C^{aug}, C#5

-You can play it with a 7th (dominant 7) or as a three note triad.

19:14

What's next?

What's up ahead? Follow this video with the next in the series, “Professional Piano Techniques” to see how professional pianists use the five basic jazz chords to play tunes. There are many ways to play the basic chords in the LH, RH or in two hands. The video will show you some common ways they are used and how to play melody with the chords.