

Tenor Madness - Session 2 (Bb)

Session 2 is made contains several exercises which build on the information set out in session 1. Firstly, it's important to extend the previous exercise of root note practice through to the full 4 note arpeggio on each chord. The root, 3rd, 5th and 7th are shown as a chord in each bar here: Practice playing the 3rd only, then the 5th only and then the 7th only in each bar, before going on to pick combinations, such as the 3rd and 7th, or root and 5th.

Three staves of chord diagrams for Session 2 in Bb major. The first staff shows chords I, IV, I, I. The second staff shows chords IV, #IV, I, VI. The third staff shows chords II, V, I.

To develop this exercise further as a group, we can apply the rhythmic figures which we practiced in session 1 (derived from the melody) to the chord tones shown above. The example below shows 2 players applying the 3rds and 7ths to the top line of the rhythmic figure, while 2 players apply the root and 5th to the low line of the figure.

Three systems of musical notation for Session 2, each with a rhythmic figure on the top staff and chord tones on the bottom staff. The first system is measures 13-17 with chords I⁷, IV⁷, I⁷, I⁷. The second system is measures 18-21 with chords IV⁷, #IV[°], I⁷, VI⁷. The third system is measures 22-25 with chords II⁻, V⁷, I⁷.

Still using the rhythmic fig, we can now apply it to the triads which we assigned to each chord. This time, starting at the highest pitch, descending 2 steps and then ascending for the final note, as shown below. This now gives a very strong indication of the melody.

26 I⁷ Minor Triad from 6th IV⁷ Diminished Triad from 3rd I⁷ Minor Triad from 6th I⁷ Minor Triad from 6th

30 IV⁷ Diminished Triad from 3rd #IV^o Diminished Triad from 3rd I⁷ Minor Triad from 6th VI⁷ Minor Triad from 6th

34 II⁻ Minor Triad from root (2nd inversion) V⁷ Diminished Triad from 3rd I⁷ Minor Triad from 6th

As well as laying the melodic and rhythmic foundations for the melody, this exercise should allow us to improvise more freely using the triads described in the boxes.