

MAJOR LINES

Major Scale. Extended to the 9th degree of the scale.

1

Gmaj⁷

Treble clef staff: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter).

Bass staff (T, A, B):
 T: 3 5 2 3 5 2 4 5 | 2 5 4 2 5 3 2 5
 A: 3 5 2 3 5 2 4 5 | 3 5 4 2 5 3 2 5
 B: 3 5 2 3 5 2 4 5 | 3 5 4 2 5 3 2 5

Cmaj⁷

Treble clef staff: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter).

Bass staff (T, A, B):
 T: 3 5 2 3 5 2 4 5 | 3 5 4 2 5 3 2 5
 A: 3 5 2 3 5 2 4 5 | 3 5 4 2 5 3 2 5
 B: 3 5 2 3 5 2 4 5 | 3 5 4 2 5 3 2 5

Fmaj⁷

Treble clef staff: F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter).

Bass staff (T, A, B):
 T: 3 5 2 3 5 3 5 6 | 3 6 5 3 5 3 2 5
 A: 3 5 2 3 5 3 5 6 | 3 6 5 3 5 3 2 5
 B: 3 5 2 3 5 3 5 6 | 3 6 5 3 5 3 2 5

Bbmaj⁷

Treble clef staff: Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), Eb5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), Ab5 (quarter), Bb5 (quarter), Ab5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), Eb5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter).

Bass staff (T, A, B):
 T: 6 3 5 6 3 5 2 3 | 5 3 2 5 3 6 5 3
 A: 6 3 5 6 3 5 2 3 | 5 3 2 5 3 6 5 3
 B: 6 3 5 6 3 5 2 3 | 5 3 2 5 3 6 5 3

Ebmaj⁷

Treble clef staff: Eb4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), Ab4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Db5 (quarter), Eb5 (quarter), Db5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), Ab4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), Eb4 (quarter).

Bass staff (T, A, B):
 T: 6 3 5 6 3 5 3 4 | 6 4 3 5 3 6 5 3
 A: 6 3 5 6 3 5 3 4 | 6 4 3 5 3 6 5 3
 B: 6 3 5 6 3 5 3 4 | 6 4 3 5 3 6 5 3

Major Arpeggio. Extended to the 9th degree of the scale.

2

Gmaj⁷ Cmaj⁷ Fmaj⁷

B^bmaj⁷ E^bmaj⁷

This symmetrical figure is a kind of hybrid scale/arpeggio. It is built from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th steps of the major scale ascending and the 7th, 6th, 5th and 3rd steps descending. Note the absence of the 4th step which is often omitted or raised a semitone in major-based lines to avoid a semitonal clash with the 3rd of the accompanying *chord* (See Example 16).

3

Gmaj⁷ Cmaj⁷ Fmaj⁷

B^bmaj⁷ E^bmaj⁷

Employed by guitarist Django Reinhardt, pianist Art Tatum and countless others, this phrase incorporates double *neighbour notes* that target each step of the major *triad* creating a pattern known as a *sequence*. Notice how upper neighbour notes (*) are always *diatonic* scale tones whereas each lower neighbour note (**) is situated a semitone below the main tone.

4

Gmaj⁷

Musical notation for Gmaj⁷ in 4/4 time. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes G4 (marked *), A4 (marked **), B4 (marked *), A4 (marked **), G4 (marked *), F#4 (marked **), E4 (marked *), and D4 (marked **). The second measure contains the notes D4 (marked *), E4 (marked **), F#4 (marked *), G4 (marked **), A4 (marked *), B4 (marked **), C5 (marked *), and B4 (marked **). The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for the first and second strings: T (first string), A (second string), B (first string), 5 (second string), 3 (first string), 2 (second string), 3 (first string), 3 (second string), 2 (first string), 1 (second string), 2 (first string), 2 (second string), 5 (first string), 4 (second string), 5 (first string), 2 (second string), 5 (first string), 4 (second string), 5 (first string).

Cmaj⁷

Musical notation for Cmaj⁷ in 4/4 time. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes C4 (marked *), D4 (marked **), E4 (marked *), D4 (marked **), C4 (marked *), B3 (marked **), A3 (marked *), and G3 (marked **). The second measure contains the notes G3 (marked *), A3 (marked **), B3 (marked *), C4 (marked **), D4 (marked *), E4 (marked **), F#4 (marked *), and G4 (marked **). The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for the first and second strings: T (first string), A (second string), B (first string), 5 (second string), 3 (first string), 2 (second string), 3 (first string), 3 (second string), 2 (first string), 1 (second string), 2 (first string), 2 (second string), 5 (first string), 4 (second string), 5 (first string), 3 (second string), 5 (first string), 4 (second string), 5 (first string).

Fmaj⁷

Musical notation for Fmaj⁷ in 4/4 time. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes F4 (marked *), G4 (marked **), A4 (marked *), G4 (marked **), F4 (marked *), E4 (marked **), D4 (marked *), and C4 (marked **). The second measure contains the notes C4 (marked *), D4 (marked **), E4 (marked *), F4 (marked **), G4 (marked *), A4 (marked **), B4 (marked *), and A4 (marked **). The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for the first and second strings: T (first string), A (second string), B (first string), 5 (second string), 3 (first string), 2 (second string), 3 (first string), 3 (second string), 2 (first string), 1 (second string), 2 (first string), 2 (second string), 3 (first string), 5 (second string), 4 (first string), 5 (second string), 3 (first string), 6 (second string), 5 (first string), 6 (second string).

B^bmaj⁷

Musical notation for B^bmaj⁷ in 4/4 time. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes B3 (marked *), C4 (marked **), D4 (marked *), C4 (marked **), B3 (marked *), A3 (marked **), G3 (marked *), and F3 (marked **). The second measure contains the notes F3 (marked *), G3 (marked **), A3 (marked *), B3 (marked **), C4 (marked *), D4 (marked **), E4 (marked *), and D4 (marked **). The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for the first and second strings: T (first string), A (second string), B (first string), 3 (second string), 6 (first string), 5 (second string), 6 (first string), 6 (second string), 5 (first string), 4 (second string), 5 (first string), 5 (second string), 5 (first string), 3 (second string), 2 (first string), 3 (second string), 5 (first string), 3 (second string), 2 (first string), 3 (second string).

E^bmaj⁷

Musical notation for E^bmaj⁷ in 4/4 time. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes E3 (marked *), F3 (marked **), G3 (marked *), F3 (marked **), E3 (marked *), D3 (marked **), C3 (marked *), and B2 (marked **). The second measure contains the notes B2 (marked *), C3 (marked **), D3 (marked *), E3 (marked **), F3 (marked *), G3 (marked **), A3 (marked *), and G3 (marked **). The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for the first and second strings: T (first string), A (second string), B (first string), 3 (second string), 6 (first string), 5 (second string), 6 (first string), 6 (second string), 5 (first string), 4 (second string), 5 (first string), 5 (second string), 5 (first string), 3 (second string), 2 (first string), 3 (second string), 6 (first string), 4 (second string), 3 (first string), 4 (second string).

This line combines aspects found in the previous examples.

5

Gmaj⁷

TAB: 5 3 2 3 2 5 2 4 2 5 4 2 5

Cmaj⁷

TAB: 5 3 2 3 2 5 2 4 3 5 4 2 5

Fmaj⁷

TAB: 5 3 2 3 2 5 3 5 3 6 5 3 5

B^bmaj⁷

TAB: 3 6 5 6 5 3 5 2 5 3 2 5 3

E^bmaj⁷

TAB: 3 6 5 6 5 3 5 3 6 4 3 5 3

6

E^bmaj7



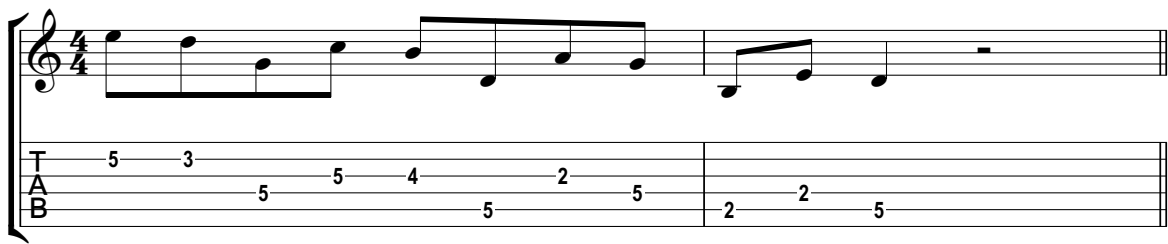
T
A
B

3 5 3 6 4 5 5 4 3 5 5 6 3

Here's a classic trumpet *lick* from the incomparable Louis Armstrong.

7

G⁶



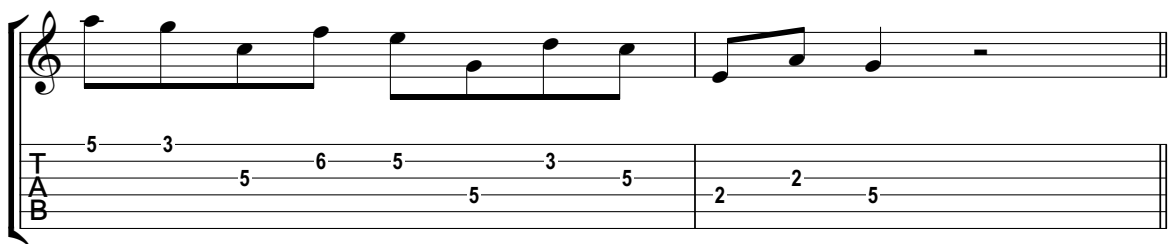
7

5 3 5 5 4 2 5 2 2 5

T
A
B

Detailed description: This block shows a musical lick for the G6 chord in 4/4 time. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff is a three-line tablature with fingerings: 5, 3, 5, 5, 4, 2, 5, 2, 2, 5. The first measure contains the first seven notes, and the second measure contains the last three notes.

C⁶

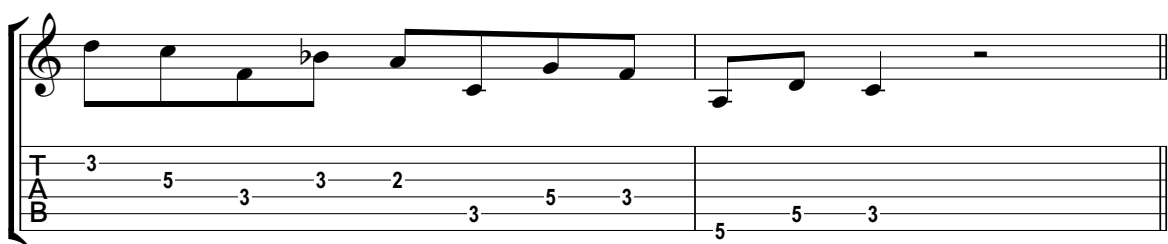


5 3 5 6 5 3 5 2 2 5

T
A
B

Detailed description: This block shows a musical lick for the C6 chord in 4/4 time. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff is a three-line tablature with fingerings: 5, 3, 5, 6, 5, 3, 5, 2, 2, 5. The first measure contains the first seven notes, and the second measure contains the last three notes.

F⁶

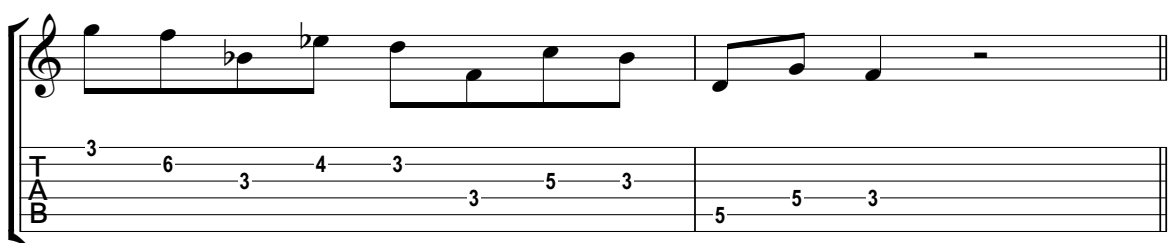


3 5 3 3 2 3 5 3 5 5 3

T
A
B

Detailed description: This block shows a musical lick for the F6 chord in 4/4 time. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, including a flat. Below the staff is a three-line tablature with fingerings: 3, 5, 3, 3, 2, 3, 5, 3, 5, 5, 3. The first measure contains the first seven notes, and the second measure contains the last three notes.

B^{b6}

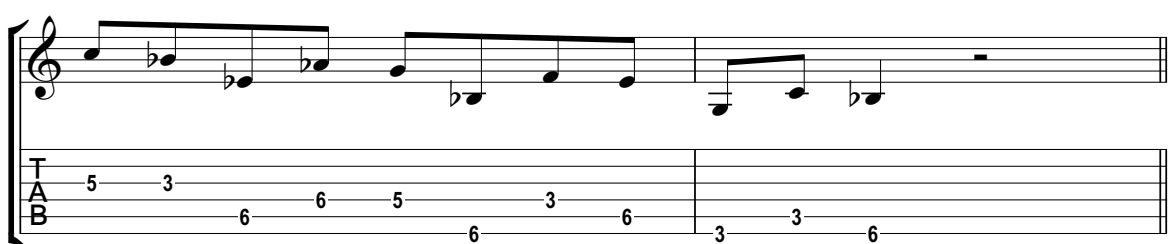


3 6 3 4 3 3 5 3 5 5 3

T
A
B

Detailed description: This block shows a musical lick for the Bb6 chord in 4/4 time. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, including flats. Below the staff is a three-line tablature with fingerings: 3, 6, 3, 4, 3, 3, 5, 3, 5, 5, 3. The first measure contains the first seven notes, and the second measure contains the last three notes.

E^{b6}



5 3 6 6 5 3 6 3 3 6

T
A
B

Detailed description: This block shows a musical lick for the Eb6 chord in 4/4 time. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, including flats. Below the staff is a three-line tablature with fingerings: 5, 3, 6, 6, 5, 3, 6, 3, 3, 6. The first measure contains the first seven notes, and the second measure contains the last three notes.

The following two *blues-based riffs* can also be played over a *dominant 7th* chord as the 7th step of the scale is not stated. Example 8 is in the Kansas City-style. Bandleader, pianist and master of minimalism Count Basie employed this kind of riff for many of his tunes.

8

G⁶

T
A
B

C⁶

T
A
B

F⁶

T
A
B

B^b6

T
A
B

E^b6

T
A
B

Here's one in the style of the great *swing* guitarist Charlie Christian whose adventurous playing pointed towards *bebop*.

9

G⁶

C⁶

F⁶

B^{b6}

E^{b6}

A descending passage built from the *bebop major scale*.

10

Gmaj⁷

bebop major scale

T A B

Cmaj⁷

T A B

Fmaj⁷

T A B

B^bmaj⁷

T A B

E^bmaj⁷

T A B

A sweeping *double-time* line relying heavily upon the use of the *leading tone* (*).

12

Gmaj⁷

T A B

1 2 5 4 2 4 5 4 3 1 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 1 2

Cmaj⁷

T A B

1 2 5 4 3 4 5 5 3 6 7 7 7 2 3 3 3 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 1 2

Fmaj⁷

T A B

4 5 3 2 5 2 3 2 5 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 1 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 2 3 3 3 4 5

B^bmaj⁷

T A B

4 5 3 2 5 2 3 3 6 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 2 3 3 3 2 3 3 3 2 3 3 3 4 5

E^bmaj⁷

T A B

2 3 6 5 3 5 6 5 3 2 3 3 3 2 3 3 3 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 5 6 6 6 2 3

This extended bebop line brings together many of the ideas covered thus far.

13

Gmaj⁷

Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4

Staff 2: 3, 3, 4, 5, 3, 3, 2, 5

Staff 3: 3, 5, 5, 2, 4, 3, 2

Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4

Staff 2: 3, 2, 5, 4, 2

Staff 3: 3, 3, 2, 3, 2, 5, 3, 4

Cmaj⁷

Staff 1: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5

Staff 2: 5, 5, 2, 3, 5, 5, 4, 2

Staff 3: 5, 3, 3, 5, 2, 5, 5

Staff 1: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5

Staff 2: 2, 3, 2, 5, 4, 3, 2, 4

Staff 3: 5, 5, 4, 5, 4, 2, 5, 2

Fmaj⁷

Staff 1: F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4

Staff 2: 5, 5, 2, 3, 5, 6, 5, 3

Staff 3: 5, 3, 3, 5, 2, 5, 5

First system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains a triplet of eighth notes (indicated by a '3' above the first three notes) and a flat symbol (b) over the fourth note. The guitar TAB staff below it shows the corresponding fret numbers: 2, 3, 2, 5, 5, 3, 2, 5, 6, 5, 4, 5, 5, 3, 5, 2.

B^bmaj⁷

Second system of musical notation, labeled B^bmaj⁷. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line. The guitar TAB staff below it contains the fret numbers: 3, 3, 5, 6, 3, 3, 7, 5, 3, 6, 6, 3, 5, 3, 3.

Third system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains a triplet of eighth notes (indicated by a '3' above the first three notes) and a flat symbol (b) over the fourth note. The guitar TAB staff below it shows the corresponding fret numbers: 5, 6, 5, 3, 7, 5, 4, 2, 3, 3, 2, 3, 2, 5, 3, 5.

E^bmaj⁷

Fourth system of musical notation, labeled E^bmaj⁷. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line. The guitar TAB staff below it contains the fret numbers: 3, 3, 5, 6, 3, 4, 3, 5, 3, 6, 6, 3, 5, 3, 3.

Fifth system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains a triplet of eighth notes (indicated by a '3' above the first three notes) and a flat symbol (b) over the fourth note. The guitar TAB staff below it shows the corresponding fret numbers: 5, 6, 5, 3, 3, 6, 5, 3, 4, 3, 2, 3, 3, 5, 3, 5.

The following two descending sequential patterns were favoured by the supreme tenor saxophonist John Coltrane. The figure in Example 14 was most likely borrowed from trumpet master Dizzy Gillespie.

14

Gmaj⁷

T 3 2 3 5 3 5 4 3 4 5 4 2 | 5 4 5 2 5 2 5

A

B

Cmaj⁷

T 5 4 5 2 5 3 2 1 2 3 2 5 | 3 2 3 5 3 5 3

A

B

Fmaj⁷

T 5 4 5 3 5 3 2 1 2 3 2 5 | 3 2 3 5 3 5 3

A

B

B^bmaj⁷

T 6 5 6 3 6 4 3 2 3 4 3 5 | 3 2 3 5 3 5 3

A

B

E^bmaj⁷

T 3 2 3 5 3 6 5 4 5 6 5 3 | 6 5 6 3 6 3 6

A

B

Descending arpeggios built upon the IV, III, II and I steps of the major scale are each prefaced by a leading tone (*).

15

Gmaj⁷
(Cmaj⁷) Bm⁷ Am⁷ Gmaj⁷

Cmaj⁷
(Fmaj⁷) Em⁷ Dm⁷ Cmaj⁷

Fmaj⁷
(B^bmaj⁷) Am⁷ Gm⁷ Fmaj⁷

B^bmaj⁷
(E^bmaj⁷) Dm⁷ Cm⁷ B^bmaj⁷

E^bmaj⁷
(A^bmaj⁷) Gm⁷ Fm⁷ E^bmaj⁷

A common *chord substitution* for the *major 7th* chord in modern jazz is a major 7th with a sharpened 11th (also written as #4 or $\flat 5$). To effectively solo over this chord, most players choose the *lydian mode*. Note the A major triad in the second half of bar 1 which adds the 9th (A), #11 (C#) and 13th (E) to the underlying G major 7th.

16

Gmaj7(#11)

A major triad

Cmaj7(#11)

Fmaj7(#11)

B $\flat$ maj7(#11)

E $\flat$ maj7(#11)

The following two examples highlight another substitute for the major 7th chord: the major 7th with a sharpened 5th (also written as $\flat 13$). Example 17 draws its notes from the *lydian augmented mode*.

17

Gmaj7($\sharp 5$)

T
A
B

2 3 2 6 4 5 1 4 | 1 2 4 1 2 3

Cmaj7($\sharp 5$)

T
A
B

2 3 2 6 4 5 1 4 | 1 2 4 1 2 3

Fmaj7($\sharp 5$)

T
A
B

2 3 2 2 5 6 2 5 | 2 2 4 2 2 3

B $\flat$ maj7($\sharp 5$)

T
A
B

5 6 5 4 2 3 4 2 | 4 5 7 4 5 6

E $\flat$ maj7($\sharp 5$)

T
A
B

5 6 5 4 3 4 4 3 | 4 5 7 4 5 6

Example 18 employs the *augmented scale* exclusively and is a sequence composed of major triads stated a major 3rd away from each other.

18

Gmaj7(#5)

(G E^b B G)

T 3 4 5 4 3 5 6 5

A 4 6 2 6 5 2 3 2

B

Cmaj7(#5)

(C A^b E C)

T 3 5 5 5 4 5 6 5

A 4 6 2 6 5 2 3 2

B

Fmaj7(#5)

(F D^b A F)

T 5 2 3 2 6 3 4 3

A 2 4 5 4 3 5 1 5

B

B^bmaj7(#5)

(B^b G^b D B^b)

T 6 3 3 3 6 3 4 3

A 7 4 5 4 3 5 6 5

B

E^bmaj7(#5)

(E^b B G E^b)

T 6 3 4 3 7 4 4 4

A 3 4 5 4 3 5 6 5

B

The tonally ambiguous nature of this example is derived from its concentration upon the *interval* of the fourth rather than the conventional third. Fourth-based lines are a common feature of the post-bebop language; the pianist McCoy Tyner and guitarist Joe Diorio have made particularly distinctive use of this interval. Note the irregular *time signature*, prevalent in much modern jazz.

19

G $\frac{6}{9}$

TAB: 2 2 2 4 4 5 3 2 2 2 4 5 2

C $\frac{6}{9}$

TAB: 2 2 3 4 5 5 3 3 2 3 4 5 2

F $\frac{6}{9}$

TAB: 5 5 5 2 2 3 5 5 5 5 2 3 5

B $\flat\frac{6}{9}$

TAB: 5 5 5 2 3 3 6 5 5 5 2 3 5

E $\flat\frac{6}{9}$

TAB: 3 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 3 3 5 6 3

This highly chromatic line in the style of guitarist Pat Metheny reveals an oblique relationship to the background *harmony*. Taking their cue from alto saxophonist Ornette Coleman and other *free jazz* artists, many contemporary players interpret *changes* in a liberated manner that often emphasises unity of *motif* and intervallic contour.

20

Gmaj⁷

T 2 1 5 1 4 5 3 2 | 1 2 5 1 4 3 2 3

A

B

Cmaj⁷

T 3 2 5 1 4 5 3 2 | 1 2 5 1 4 3 2 3

A

B

Fmaj⁷

T 3 2 6 6 5 5 4 3 | 2 2 5 1 4 3 2 3

A

B

B^bmaj⁷

T 5 4 3 4 2 3 6 5 | 4 5 3 4 7 6 5 6

A

B

E^bmaj⁷

T 6 5 4 4 3 3 6 5 | 4 5 3 4 7 6 5 6

A

B