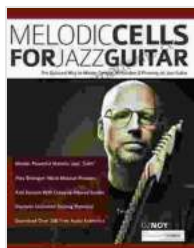


The Quickest Way to Master Tension Resolution Phrasing on Jazz Guitar | Learn How



Melodic Cells for Jazz Guitar: The Quickest Way to Master Tension, Resolution & Phrasing on Jazz Guitar (Learn How to Play Jazz Guitar) by Tim Pettingale

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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As a jazz guitarist, mastering tension resolution phrasing is essential for creating captivating and sophisticated solos. This technique involves using dissonant notes, or tensions, that resolve to consonant notes, creating a sense of movement and release. In this comprehensive guide, we will delve into the intricacies of tension resolution phrasing, providing clear explanations, practical examples, and expert advice to help you elevate your jazz guitar playing.

Understanding Tension and Resolution

In music theory, tension refers to notes that create a sense of instability or dissonance. These notes typically clash with the underlying harmony,

creating a sense of anticipation. Resolution, on the other hand, refers to notes that provide stability and consonance, resolving the tension created by the dissonant notes.

In jazz guitar phrasing, tensions are often used to add color and interest to solos. By resolving these tensions to consonant notes, guitarists can create a sense of movement and forward motion. This technique is particularly effective in creating melodic lines that are both memorable and satisfying.

Types of Tensions

There are various types of tensions that can be used in jazz guitar phrasing. Some of the most common include:

- **Major 7th:** This tension is created by adding a major 7th interval to a major chord. It creates a bright and dissonant sound that can resolve to the root, 3rd, or 5th of the chord.
- **Minor 7th:** This tension is created by adding a minor 7th interval to a major or minor chord. It creates a darker and more somber sound that can resolve to the root, 3rd, or 5th of the chord.
- **9th:** This tension is created by adding a 9th interval to a major or minor chord. It creates a more complex and extended sound that can resolve to the root, 3rd, 5th, or 7th of the chord.
- **11th:** This tension is created by adding an 11th interval to a major or minor chord. It creates a more dissonant and angular sound that can resolve to the root, 3rd, 5th, 7th, or 9th of the chord.
- **13th:** This tension is created by adding a 13th interval to a major or minor chord. It creates a more extended and harmonically rich sound

that can resolve to the root, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, or 11th of the chord.

Creating Tension Resolution Phrases

Now that we have a basic understanding of tension and resolution, let's explore how to create tension resolution phrases on jazz guitar.

Step 1: Start with a Consonant Note

Begin your phrase with a consonant note, such as the root or 3rd of the underlying chord. This will establish the harmonic context and provide a stable foundation for your improvisation.

Step 2: Introduce a Tension

Once you have established a consonant base, introduce a tension note. This can be done by playing a note that clashes with the underlying harmony, such as a major 7th or minor 9th. The tension note will create a sense of instability and anticipation.

Step 3: Resolve to a Consonant Note

After introducing the tension, resolve it to a consonant note. This can be done by moving to the root, 3rd, 5th, or 7th of the chord. The resolution will provide a sense of release and satisfaction, creating a melodic line that is both memorable and pleasing to the ear.

Step 4: Experiment with Rhythms and Articulations

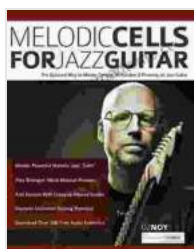
To add interest and variety to your tension resolution phrases, experiment with different rhythms and articulations. Try playing the tension notes

staccato to create a more percussive effect, or slur the notes together to create a smoother and more legato sound.

Practical Examples

Here are a few practical examples of tension resolution phrasing on jazz guitar:

- **Major 7th Resolution:** Play a C major chord (C-E-G). Introduce a major 7th tension (B natural) by playing C-E-G-B natural. Resolve the tension to the root (C) by playing C-E-G-C.
- **Minor 7th Resolution:** Play a G minor chord (G-B flat-D). Introduce a minor 7th tension (F natural) by playing G-B flat-D-F natural. Resolve the tension to the root (G) by playing G-B flat-D-G.
- **9th Resolution:** Play a D major chord (D-F#-A). Introduce a 9th tension (E) by playing D-F#-A-E. Resolve the tension to the root (D) by playing D-F#-A-D.
- **11th Resolution:** Play an A minor chord (A-C-E). Introduce an 11th tension (G#) by playing A-C-E-G#. Resolve the tension to the root (A) by playing A-C-E-A.
- **13th Resolution:** Play an

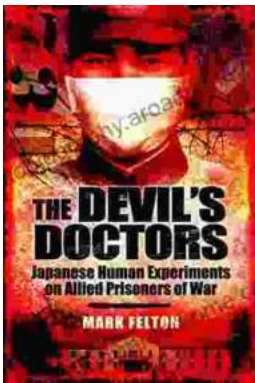


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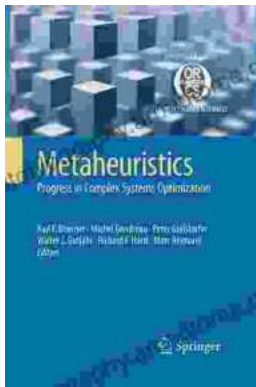
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