Major Chord Essentials!
3 Must Know Patterns

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In this lesson, you'll learn three "must know" major chord patterns for all jazz musicians. These patterns are based on a combination of the major scale and the major 7 arpeggio.

In the video, I'll explain the patterns in the key of F major. While I have included cheat sheets with the patterns written through the keys, your goal will be to learn each pattern through all 12 keys without reading it.

Essential Major Chord Pattern #1

1. Using the numbered major scale, locate the 1-3-5-7 arpeggio tones.

2. Begin the pattern with a low 7th tone. Play the ascending 1-3-5 tones as a triplet that targets the upper 7th tone. Follow this with the descending 5-3-1 tones targeting the low 7th tone.

3. Repeat for accuracy and fluency.

Essential Major Chord Pattern #2

This pattern combines the ascent from Pattern #1 with a series of descending 7-5-3-1 tones embellished with lower neighboring scale tones. For this pattern expand the low range of your major scale to include the 6.

1. Begin with the ascending portion of Pattern #1 targeting the upper 7th tone.

2. Drop from the 7th to the 5th, then ascend back to the 7 via a scale tone.

3. Create similar 4-note groups between the 5-3, the 3-1, and the 1-6 tones. The final destination is the 7.

*ST = Scale Tone

Essential Major Chord Pattern #3

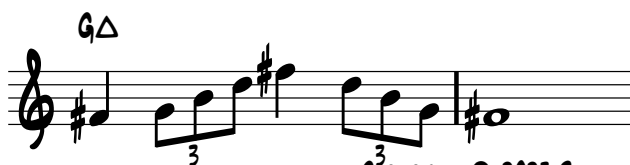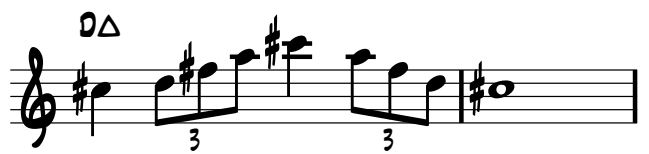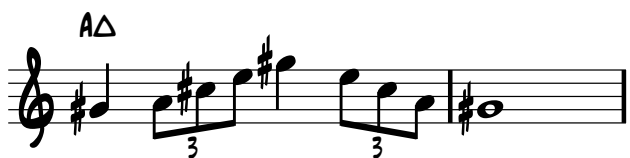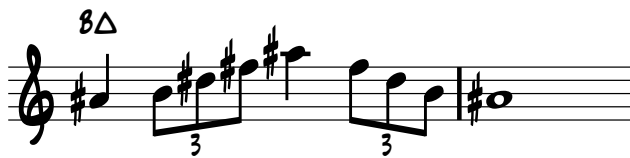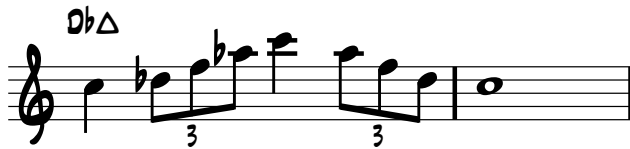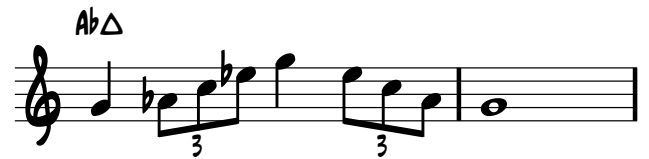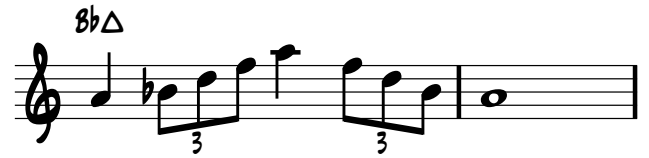This pattern combines the ascent from Pattern #1 with a series of descending 7-5-3-1 tones embellished with upper neighboring scale tones. For this pattern expand the upper range of your major scale to include the 9.

1. Begin with the ascending portion of Pattern #1 targeting the upper 7th tone.

2. Ascend from the 7 to the 9th via a scale tone, then drop back to the 7.

3. Create similar 4-note groups between the 5-7, the 3-5, and the 1-3 tones. The final destination is the 7.

Essential Major Chord Pattern #1 - Cheat Sheet

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Essential Major Chord Pattern #2 - Cheat Sheet

Essential Major Chord Pattern #3 - Cheat Sheet