

5 Easy Jazz Solo Exercises

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Standard tuning

♩ = 120

Example 1 - C major Scale

Musical notation for Example 1 - C major Scale. The piece is in 4/4 time. The first staff shows the melody in treble clef, consisting of two measures of eighth notes: C4-D4-E4-F4-G4-A4-B4 and G4-F4-E4-D4-C4. The second staff shows the guitar TAB with fret numbers: 8-5-7-8-5-7-9-5 in the first measure and 7-5-6-8-5-7-8 in the second measure.

Exercise #1 - Play The Chords

Exercise #1 - Play The Chords. This section shows four chords: Cmaj7, A7, Dm7, and G7. Above each chord name is a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings and muting instructions (x for muted strings, xx for muted pairs). Below each diagram is a musical staff showing the chord voicing in treble clef and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers. Cmaj7: fret 8, notes C, E, G, B. A7: fret 11, notes A, C#, E, G. Dm7: fret 10, notes D, F, A, C. G7: fret 9, notes G, B, D, F.

Exercise #2 - Arpeggios

Exercise #2 - Arpeggios. This section shows four arpeggios for Cmaj7, A7, Dm7, and G7. Each chord name is placed above its respective musical staff. The first staff shows the arpeggios in treble clef. The second staff shows the guitar TAB with fret numbers: Cmaj7 (5-5-8-7), A7 (7-6-5-8), Dm7 (7-6-5-8), and G7 (5-9-7-6).

Example 2 - improvising with arpeggios

Example 2 - improvising with arpeggios. This section shows a sequence of chords: Cmaj7, A7, Dm7, G7, and Cmaj7. Above each chord name is a musical staff showing an arpeggiated line in treble clef. The second staff shows the guitar TAB with fret numbers: Cmaj7 (5-8-8-5-5), A7 (6-7-5-6-8-5), Dm7 (6-6-7-5-7), G7 (9-5-9-7-6-5), and Cmaj7 ((5)).

Empty musical notation for improvisation. It consists of a treble clef staff with a whole rest, and a guitar TAB staff with a whole rest.

Exercise #3 - Barry Harris Scale Exercise

Cmaj7 **A7** **Dm7** **G7**

TAB: 5 7 5 6 8 5 7 | 7 8 6 7 5 6 8 | 7 5 6 8 5 7 8 | 5 7 9 5 7 5 6

TAB

Example 4a - Target Notes

Cmaj7 **A7** **Dm7** **G7**

TAB: 5 | 6 | 6 | 9

Example 4b - Target Notes with the b9

Cmaj7 **A7** **Dm7** **G7**

b9

TAB: 5 | 6 | 6 | 9

Exercise #4 - Soloing Playing Towards Target Notes

Cmaj7 **A7** **Dm7** **G7** **Cmaj7**

TAB: 5 8 5 9 5 | 6 5 5 8 5 | 6 7 5 7 5 | 9 7 6 8 6 | 5

Cmaj7 **A7** **Dm7** **G7** **Cmaj7**

TAB: 5 8 5 7 9 5 | 6 7 6 5 8 7 | 6 7 6 7 7 8 | 9 7 6 8 6 7 8 | 5