

Tenor Saxophone (B Flat)

251 lesson

1. Primary scales

MAJOR SCALE



HARMONIC MINOR SCALE



MELODIC MINOR SCALE



Practise either up or down in semitones, or around the cycle (down in 5ths) C-F-Bb-Eb etc. Try playing even 8ths WITH NO ARTICULATION (very important!!) and metronome on 2&4. Make sure you cover the whole range of the instrument you wish to be able to play, including altissimo.

2. Basic arpeggios

I like to think of the tonic chords as sixth chords rather than major sevenths. This avoids any potential dissonance from a root melody note above a major 7th voicing. Also in the case of the tonic minor is clearly delineates between the functionality of the ii chord in a major key and the i of the minor.



3. Connecting chord tones with scale notes (ascending)

extra chromatic note needed between 5th & 6th

Dm7 G7 C6

5 B \emptyset E7^(b9) Am6

extra chromatic note needed between 5th & 6th

4. 251 lesson

extra chromatic note needed between root & 7th

Dm7 G7 C6

5 B \emptyset E7^(b9) Am6

extra chromatic note needed between root & 7th

Exercises 3 & 4 connect the chord notes (on the beat) with scale or chromatic notes (off the beat). Conventional 7-note scales will only get you so far with jazz improvisation - additional chromatic passing notes are often used to justify the line

5. 35791 arpeggio patterns

Dm7 G7 C6

5 B \emptyset E7^(b9) Am6

6. Extended arpeggios

After the 35791 pattern the octave is displaced down for the 357. This is a common device often placed on the "and of 1" or the "and of 3" as here.

7. Useful minor 251 scale exercise

This exercise demonstrates satisfying places to use the 3 primary scales in a minor 251. Bear in mind that additional chromatic material is often required. Nonetheless it is essential to master these 3 scales to get your basic "chops" together.

Exercises 2-6 will fit the 1st 8 bars of Autumn Leaves. I recommend playing these with iRealPro on a loop, through all the keys - without writing them out! Just follow the chord symbols through. You may need to rewrite the chords to be exactly the same as here. It is worth learning to do, as iRealPro is a fantastic practice tool.