

Continuous Melodic Lines for Giant Steps

By Avi Rothbard

Giant Steps is a classic jazz standard that has been composed by the late great saxophonist, **John Coltrane**. Since the release of the album in 1960, there was never a shortage of literature of how to improvise over these complex harmonic progressions, which became a practice templates for jazz improvisers.

In the next examples, I have decided to present continuous lines that are moving between neighboring **zones**. That means that if you play a line on the 3rd position, the line will move to either the 2nd or the 4th position, depends on the direction of the line. The goal is to stay in one zone or position for as long as possible in order to make an easy shit between the positions in play.

As mentioned in the topic, these are all examples in one continuous line without rests. One should try to experiment with these lines in order to **tweak** and make them **his/her own**.

Things to do:

- 1) play the examples slowly and get used to hear each line and eventually memorize it. Try to sing some of the lines. It is as effective as playing them on the guitar.
- 2) **Insert** rests(See example) in different placements of the bar. In this way you will make these solos sound more alive and less of an exercise. By doing so, you will make the written solo **breeze** more.
- 3) Try to breakdown the sixteen bar form of each solo to smaller units/cells of two or four bar licks. You can then transpose these lines and play them in different areas of the fretboard.

Here are the four bars of example #1:

Example #1: Continuous melodic line over four bars. Chords: B, D7, G, Bb7, Eb6, Am7, D7. The line is continuous across the bars. Tablature is provided for the guitar.

	II	III.....	
T	2 5 4 2 3 5 2 5	3 3 4 5 3 6 5 3	3 3 6 4 5
A		5 6 5 3	5 3 4 3
B		5 6	6 5 3

Same example after inserting rests:

Example #1 with rests: The same melodic line as above, but with rests inserted at the beginning of the first, second, and fourth bars. Chords: B, D7, G, Bb7, Eb6, Am7, D7. Tablature is provided for the guitar.

	II	III.....	
T	4 2 3 5 2 5	4 5 3 6 4 5	3 3 6 4 5
A		4 5 3 6 5 3	5 3 4 3
B			6 5 3