



WALKING BASS LINES



Terms:

Chordal: chord tones only

Scalar: notes found within the scale

Chromatic Passing Tone: notes outside of the scale

Dominant Approach: 5th of next chord found on beat four

Diatonic Whole or Half Step: whole or half step within the scale

Voice Leading: connecting the line to closest chord tone

Neighbour Tones: diatonic or chromatic

Cambiata: a movement in the same direction as the resolution

Escape Tones: a movement in the opposite direction of the resolution

Appoggiatura: a leap to a non-chord tone, resolving to a chord tone

Walking Lesson 2

♩ = 120

Diatonic Whole or Half Step - Beat 4 to 1
Dm⁷ G⁷

Cmaj⁷

Fmaj⁷

mf

Voice Leading - 7 to 3
Dm⁷ G⁷

Cmaj⁷

Fmaj⁷

Voice Leading - 7 to 5
Dm⁷ G⁷

Cmaj⁷

Fmaj⁷

Neighbour Tones - Diatonic
Dm⁷ G⁷

Cmaj⁷

Fmaj⁷

Neighbour Tones - Chromatic
Dm⁷ G⁷

Cmaj⁷

Fmaj⁷

Dm⁷

Walking Lesson 3

♩ = 120

Cambiata
Dm⁷ G⁷ Cmaj⁷ Fmaj⁷

mf

5-2-3-2 | 5-7-4-7 | 5-4-2-5 | 3-5-0-3

Escape Tones
Dm⁷ G⁷ Cmaj⁷ Fmaj⁷

5-2-3-2 | 5-7-4-7 | 5-5-2-5 | 3-0-3-4

Appoggiaturas
Dm⁷ G⁷ Cmaj⁷ Fmaj⁷ Dm⁷

5-8-7-6 | 5-6-5-4 | 3-0-3-2 | 1-5-3-6 | 5

Walking Lesson 4

♩ = 120

chordal / chromatic Dm⁷ scalar G⁷ dominant approach Cmaj⁷ rhythmic variation Fmaj⁷

mf

5 3 2 4 | 5 3 2 5 | 3 2 5 3 | 3 0 3 0 3 4

Dm⁷ 7 to 3 voice leading G⁷ Cmaj⁷ 7 to 5 voice leading Fmaj⁷

5 3 2 5 | 4 5 5 2 | 3 2 5 4 | 5 2 3 3

diatonic whole approach Dm⁷ chromatic neighbour G⁷ diatonic neighbour Cmaj⁷ diatonic whole approach Fmaj⁷

5 5 3 5 | 5 3 4 3 2 | 3 5 3 2 | 3 5 0 3

cambiata Dm⁷ escape tone G⁷ chordal / chromatic Cmaj⁷ appoggiatura Fmaj⁷

5 2 3 2 | 5 7 4 7 | 5 2 5 4 | 3 5 3 6

7 to 3 voice leading Dm⁷ G⁷ appoggiatura diatonic neighbour Cmaj⁷ rhythmic variation dominant approach Fmaj⁷ Dm⁷

5 3 2 5 | 4 6 5 2 | 3 5 3 2 | 3 3 1 5 3 5 | 5

Go Further!
Transpose these bass lines into every key!