

Active Tones in Improvisation

Lesson Objective

The goal of these lessons is to help students incorporate active tones in their improvisation. Active tones are an essential part of bebop vocabulary and give a phrase tension and release.

Lesson Plans

- Lesson 1 - This is an introduction to the idea of active tones. Have the students practice the active tone chord exercises on their instruments. With more advanced students, have them transpose the exercises into multiple keys or apply active tones with different chord qualities.
- Lesson 2 - In this lesson, we add active tones into scale patterns. With more advanced students, have them transpose the exercises into multiple keys and write their own exercises.
- Lesson 3 - Now we will begin to look at the application of active tones in improvisation. Study the etudes written over jazz standards. Analyze the use of active tones. Have students learn the etudes on their instruments. With more advanced students, have them write their own etudes.