

Jazz Improvisation Basics

CHORD SYMBOLS

C Maj7, CΔ7, C Major 7, C M7	=	Major scale on given note
Dmin7, D-7, D minor7	=	Dorian scale on given note
G7	=	Mixolydian (or dominant) scale on given note
Bø7, Bm7(b5), B-7(b5)	=	Half diminished scale on given note

BASIC SCALE TYPES

Major scale	=	Major scale
Dorian scale	=	Major scale starting on 2nd note (D Dorian = C major scale, start on D - no b's or #'s)
Mixolydian scale	=	Major scale starting on 5th note (G Mixolydian = C major scale, start on G - no b's or #'s)
Half Diminished	=	Major scale starting on 7th note (B Half Diminished = C major scale, start on B - no b's or #'s)

CHORD TONES

Found by taking the appropriate scale and choosing, usually, every other note.

C Maj7 (I)	=	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
D-7 (ii)	=	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
G7 (V)	=	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Bø7 (vii)	=	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B