Rhythm Rules

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In my opinion **Rhythm** is the most important musical element required for effective improvisation.

Regardless of the harmonic content of a given tune, an improvised solo can have limited melodic content and still be expressive and interesting if solidly rooted in rhythm.

Rhythm is not one thing. As an essential foundation for improvisation it requires the inclusion of many components to create a meaningful result. Some of those are:

FUNdamentals: The Placement of Sound and Silence in Time.

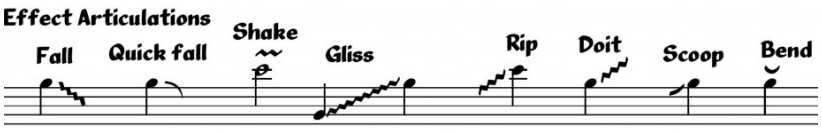
- beat/pulse
- meter
- subdivisions
- tempo

Playing with Style: Phrasing, Articulations and Dynamics.

- What is style? Characteristics of a player, group of players or genre.
- What is phrasing? A complete musical idea and *how* it's executed.
- What is articulation? Creation of specific and distinct effects on notes, slurred or tongued.
- What are dynamics? Volume of notes and phrases relative to the ensemble and spontaneous creativity.

The One & Only You: Be Yourself; Everyone Else is Already Taken.

- Sound – tone, timbre, color and quality.
- Time Feel – how you interpret, place or express notes.
- Emotion - feelings you may express or repress.
- Attitude – a way of thinking or feeling that manifests as behavior.
- Intention - object of your ambition and effort.
- Personality - a combination of characteristics and qualities unique to you.
- Performance – presentation of material within predetermined guidelines.



Additional Effects: Vibrato, Use a Plunger, Mutes, Growl, Flutter Tongue, Ghost Notes, ½ Valve, False Fingering, Altissimo, Multi-phonics, Arco (strings,) Piano Strings, Picks & Slides, Vocalize, What Else?

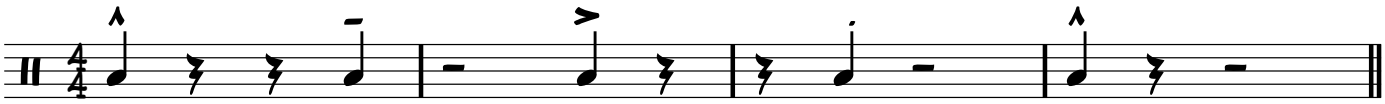
Here is a deeper look at **Jazz Rhythm** by David Liebman: http://davidliebman.com/home/ed_articles/jazz-rhythm/

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

- Create simple rhythmic motives to use as a tool to develop solo ideas deeply rooted in rhythm
- Melodic content should be based on chord changes
- Consider chord roots, chord tones, arpeggios, chord scales, chord extensions, chromatic approach, melodic shapes, or random

* Rhythmically modulate your motive by a beat or any subdivision of a beat to inspire creativity

1 Note Rhythmic Motive



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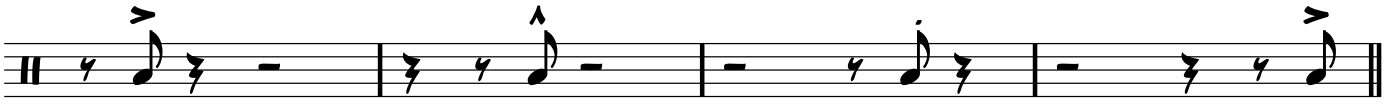
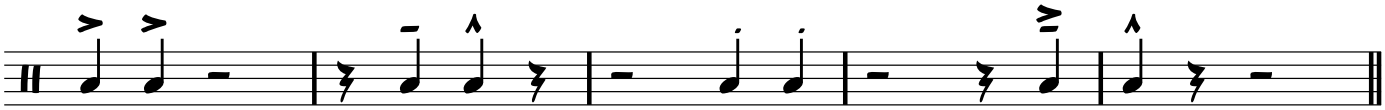


2 Note Rhythmic Motive



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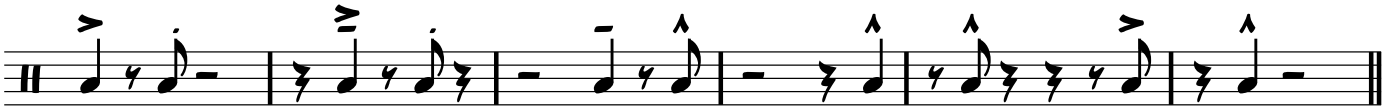

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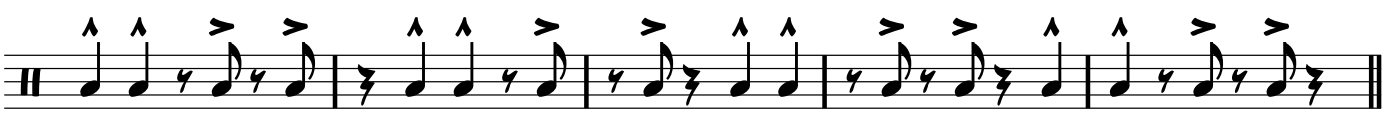
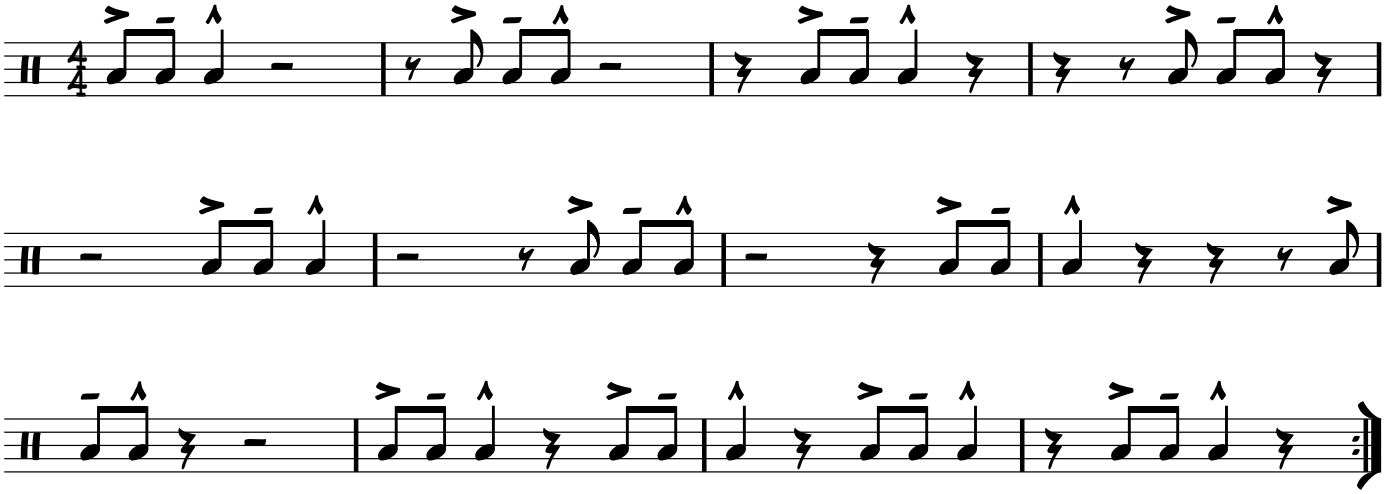


3 Note Rhythmic Motive



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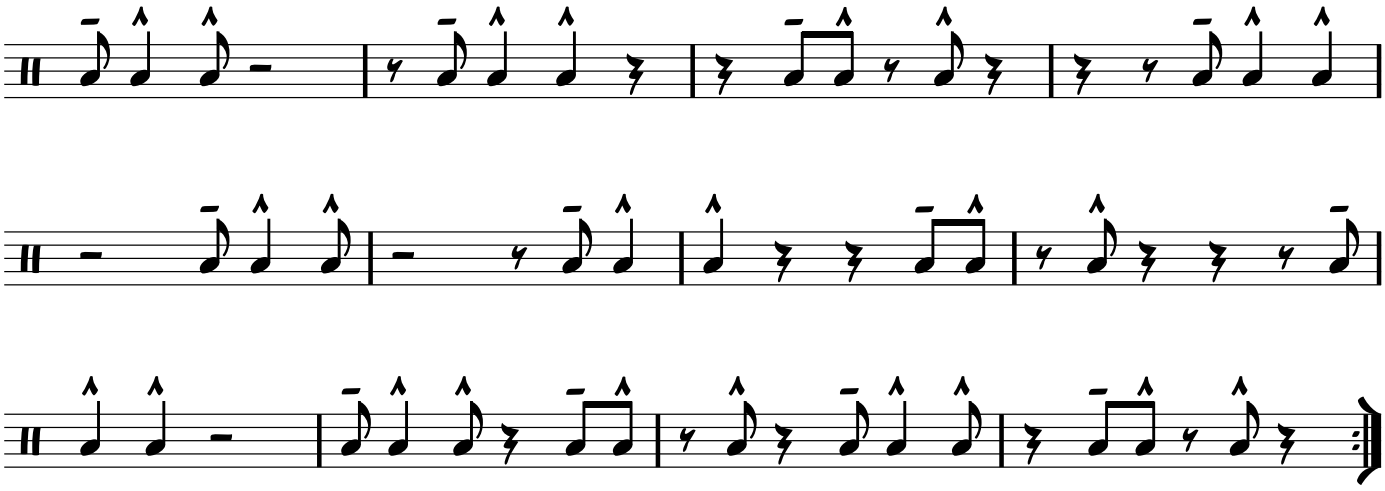
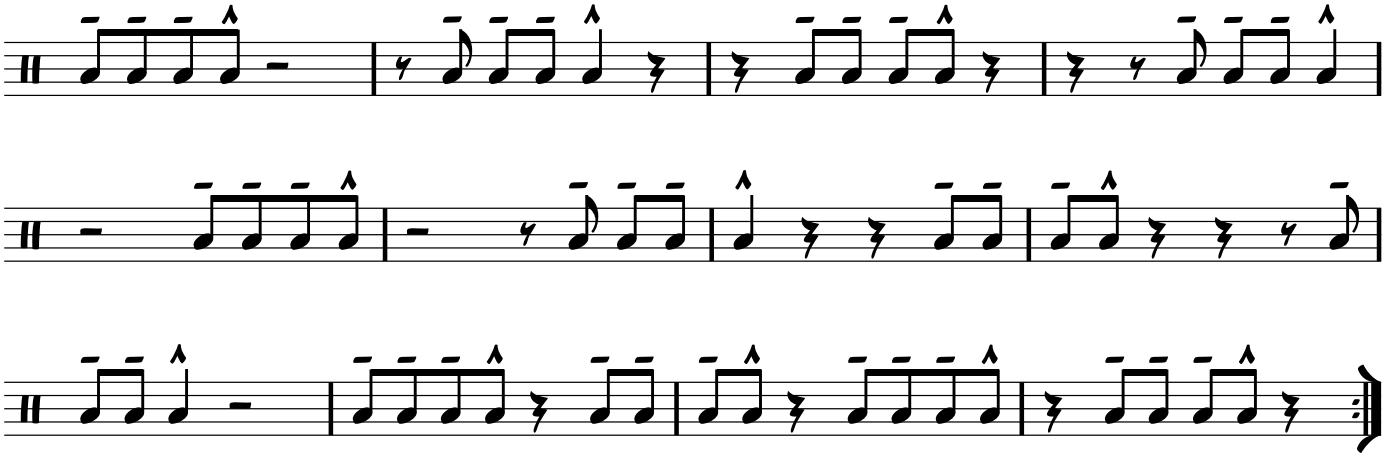
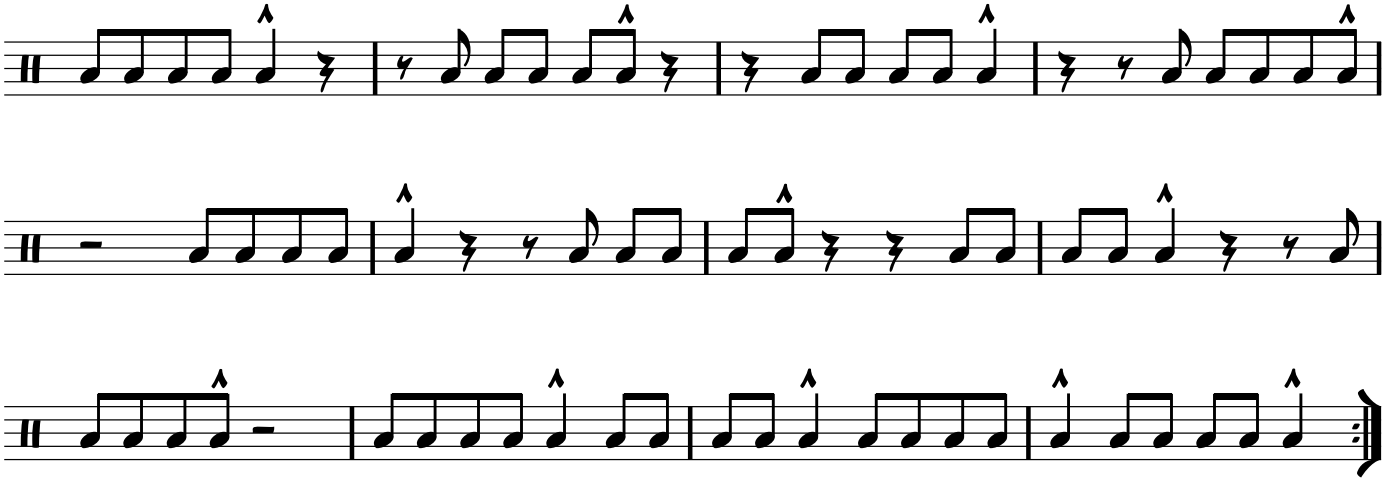


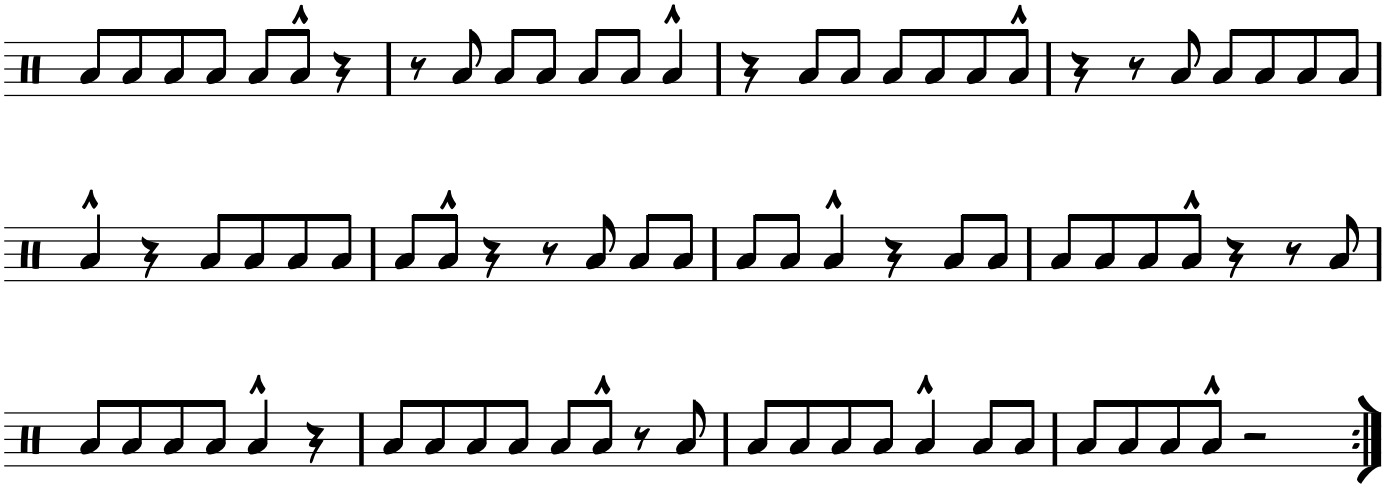
4 Note Rhythmic Motive



5 Note Rhythmic Motive

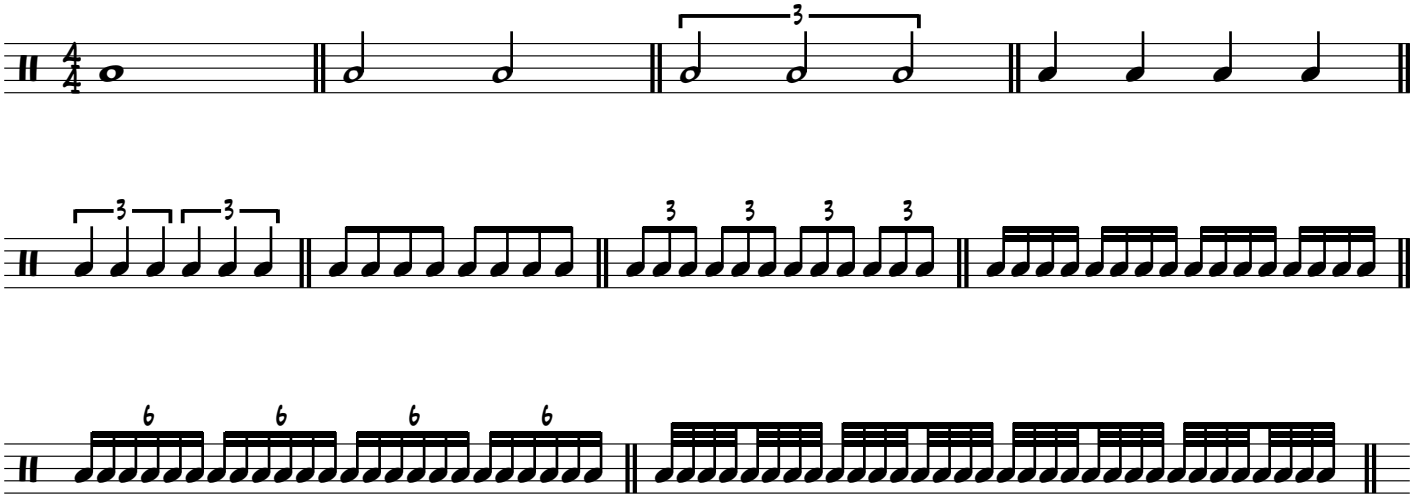


6 Note Rhythmic Motive



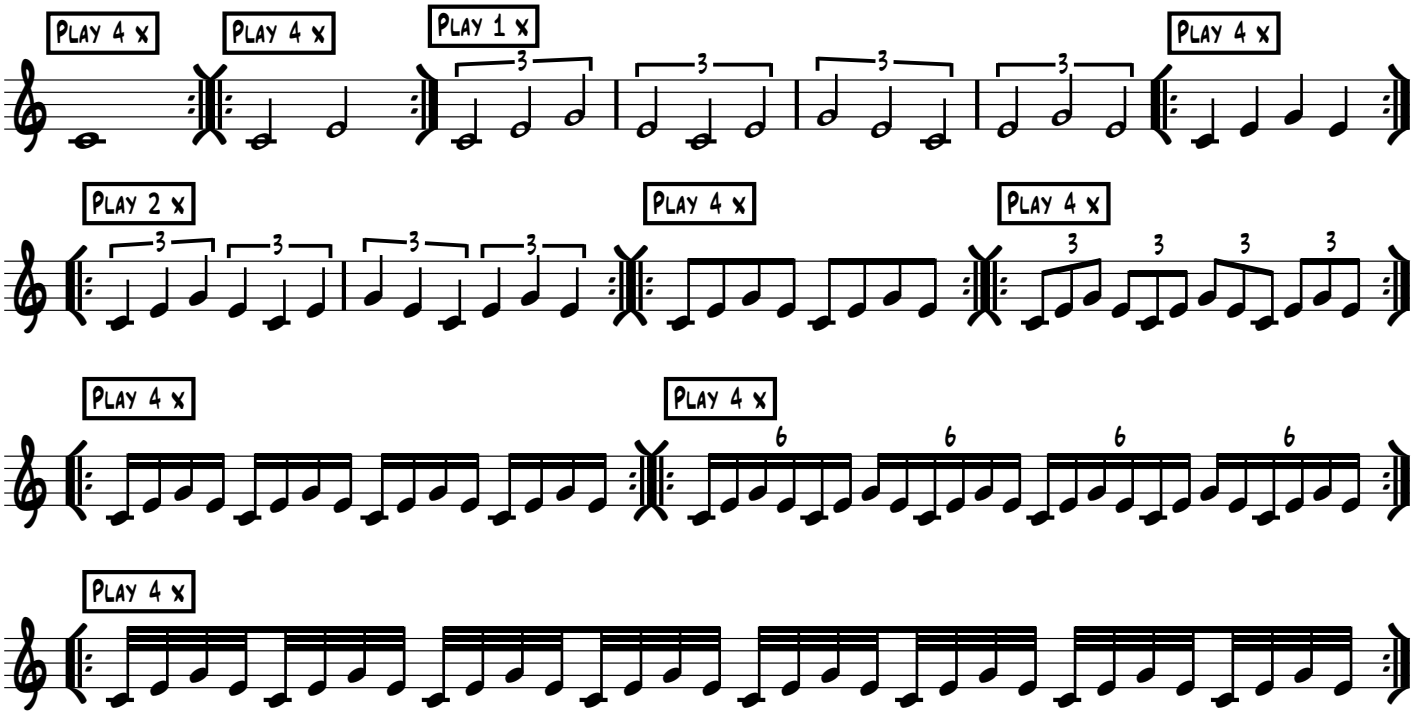
Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

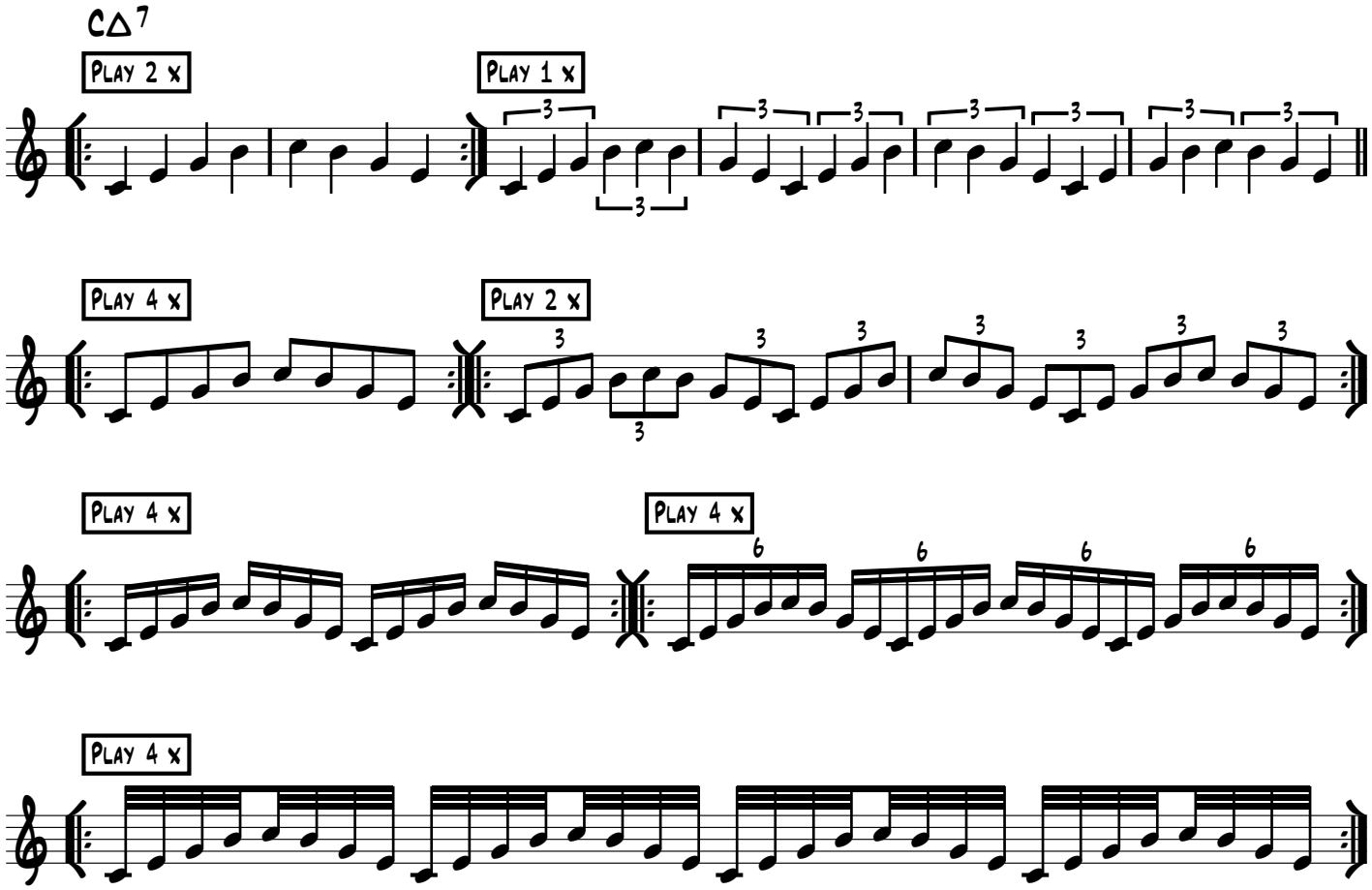
Basic Subdivisions of the ♩



- Choose a grouping of notes, scales, arpeggios, patterns, or chord changes. Drummers use stickings.
- Play each measure 4-16 times and direct segue to the next.
- Play at a variety of tempos in a variety of styles. Use a metronome.
- Add articulations, phrasing, dynamics, range, tone, etc. Drummers orchestrate around set.

C△ Triad

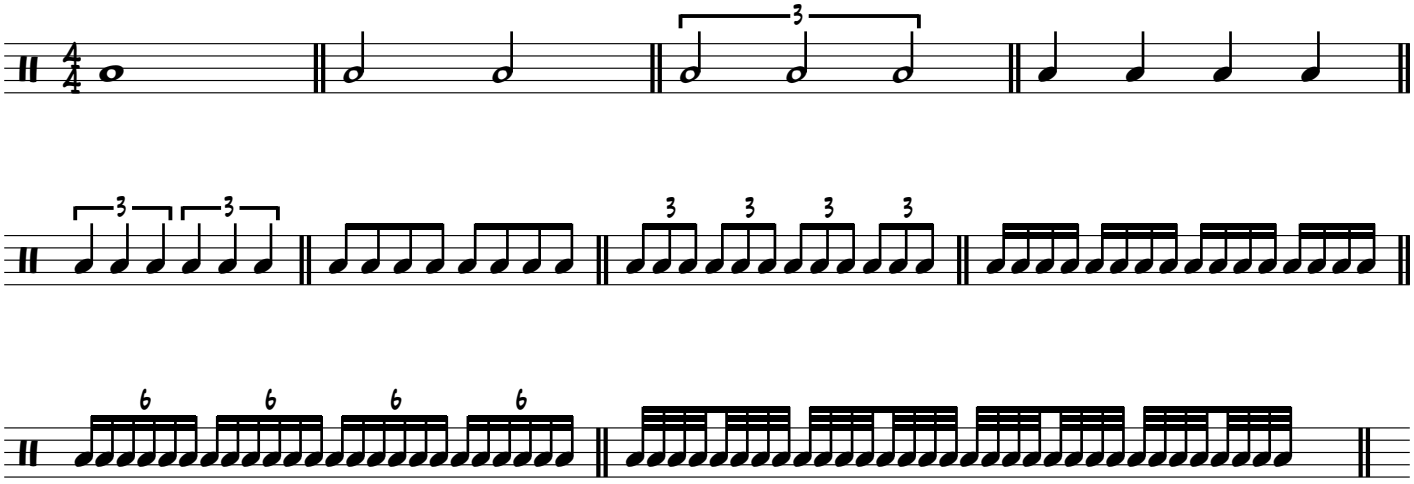



C△7
Play 2 x
Play 1 x
Play 4 x
Play 2 x
Play 4 x
Play 4 x
Play 4 x

Concert Bass

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

Basic Subdivisions of the ♩



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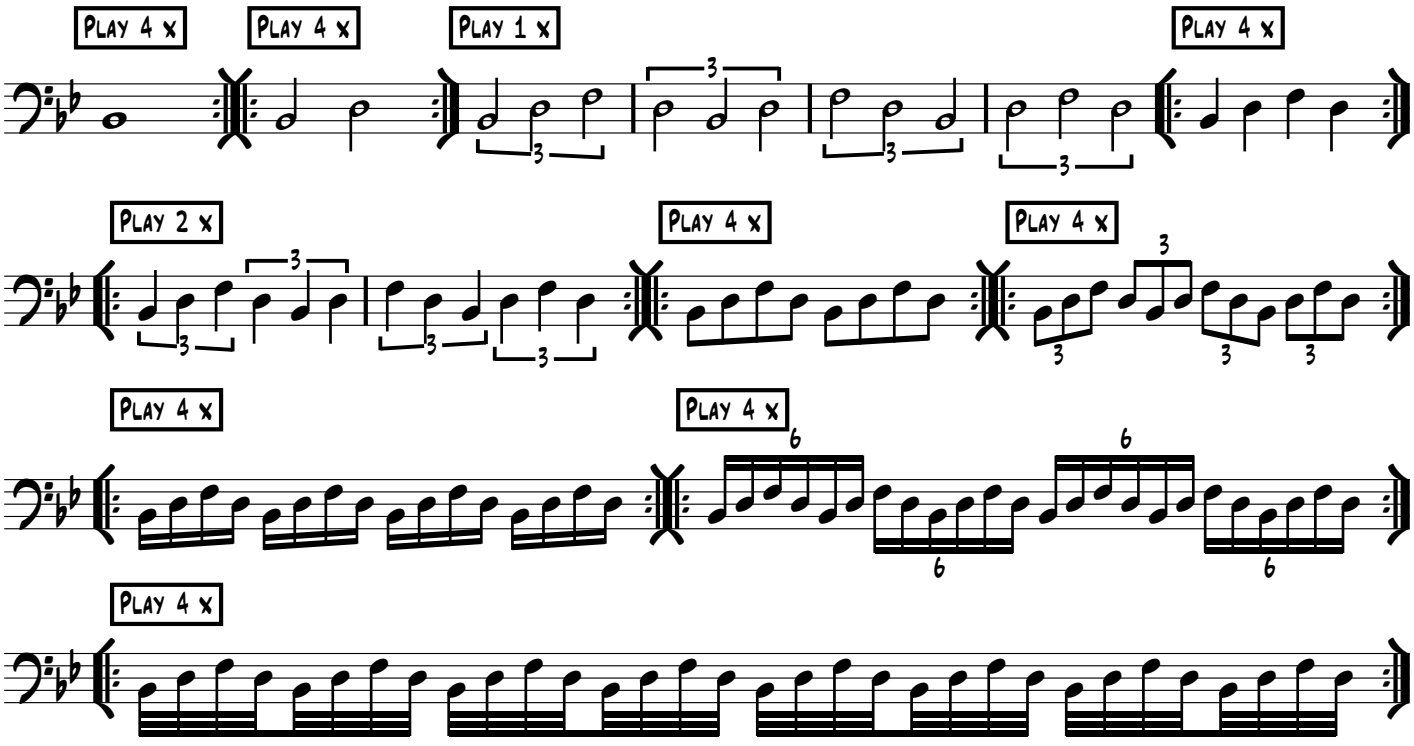
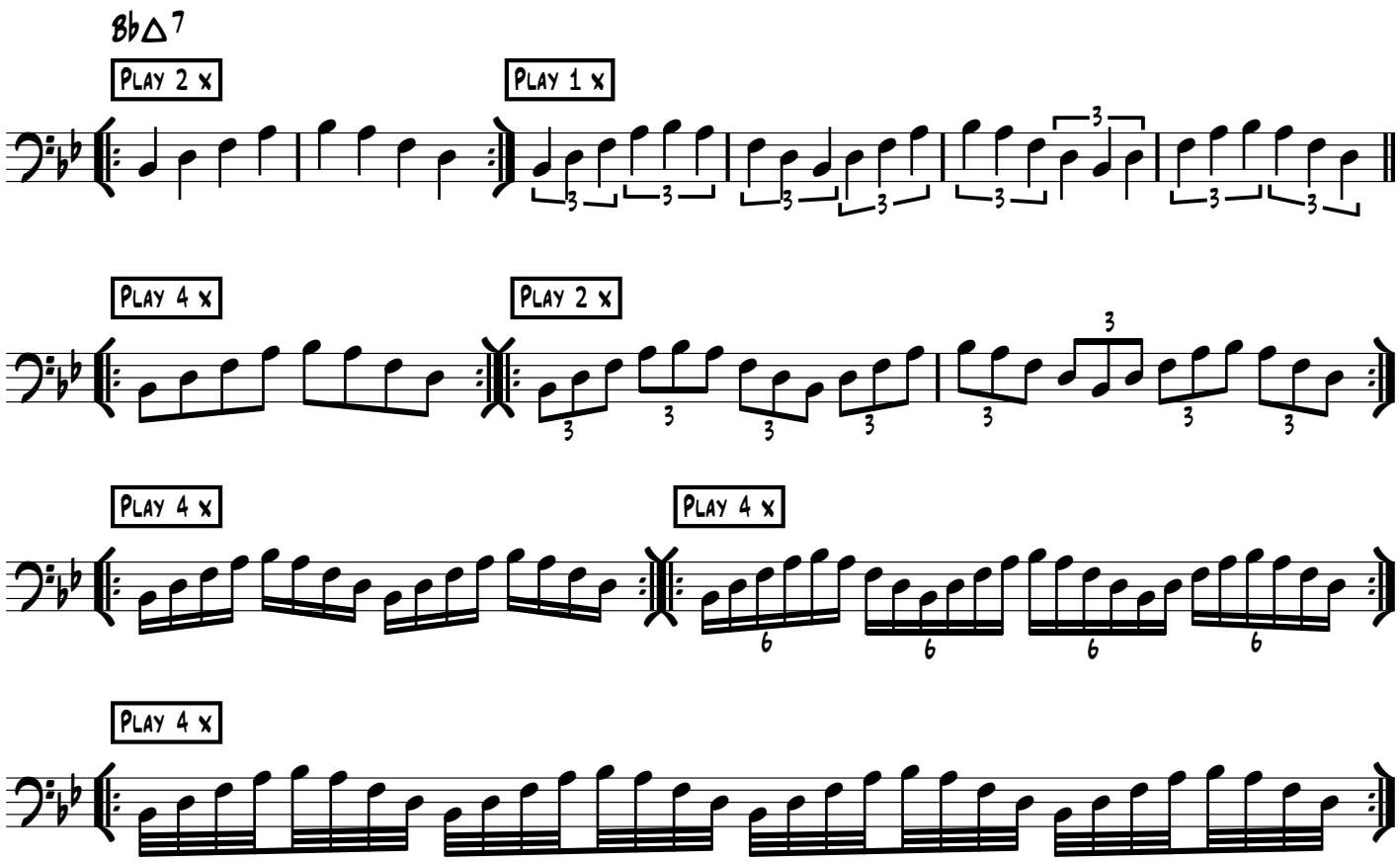
B♭△ Triad




B♭△7
Play 2 x
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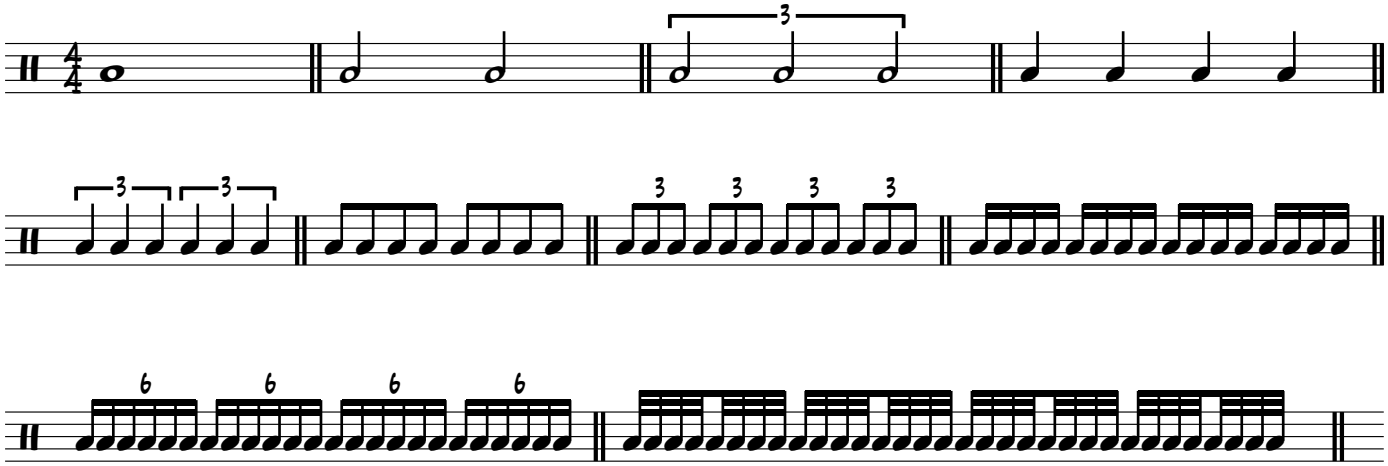
Play 4 x

Concert Treble

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

Basic Subdivisions of the ♩



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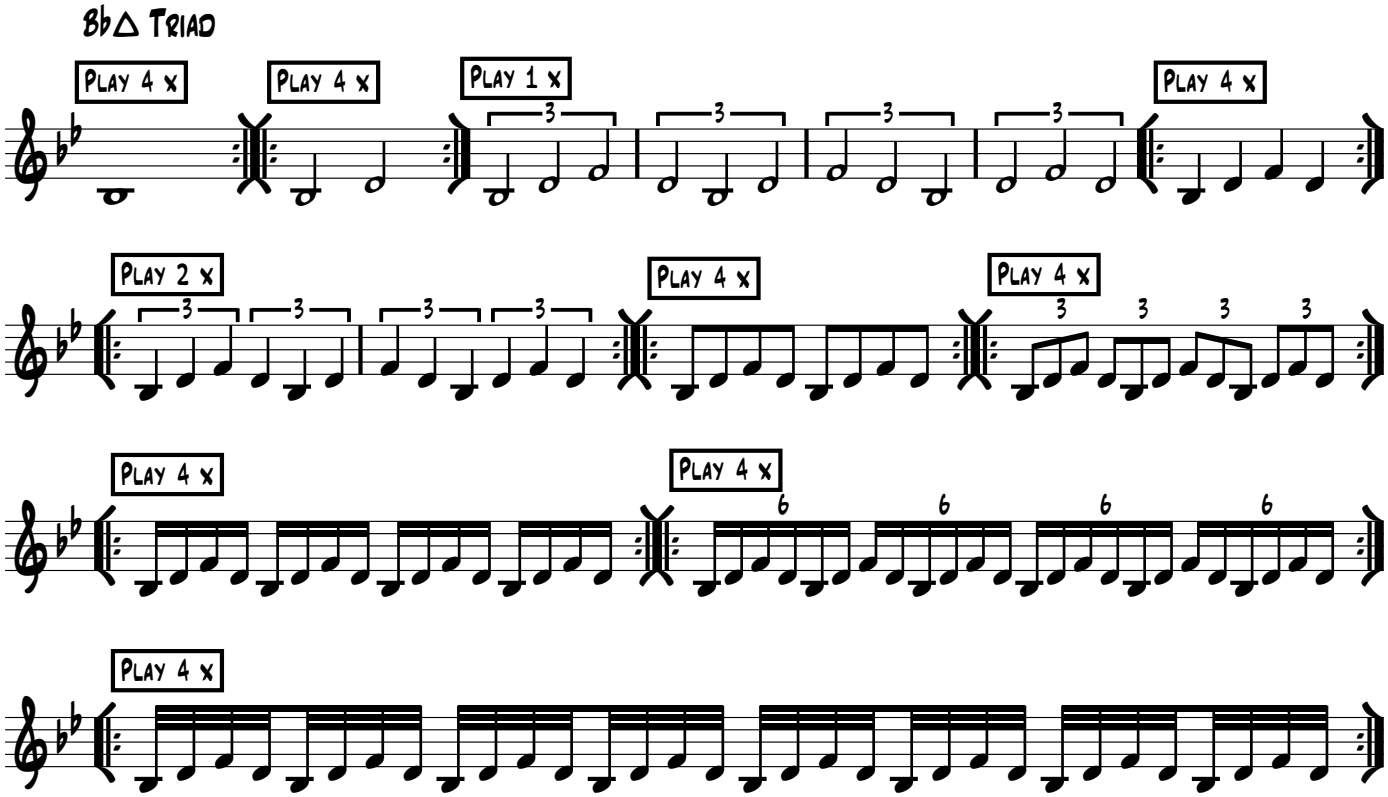

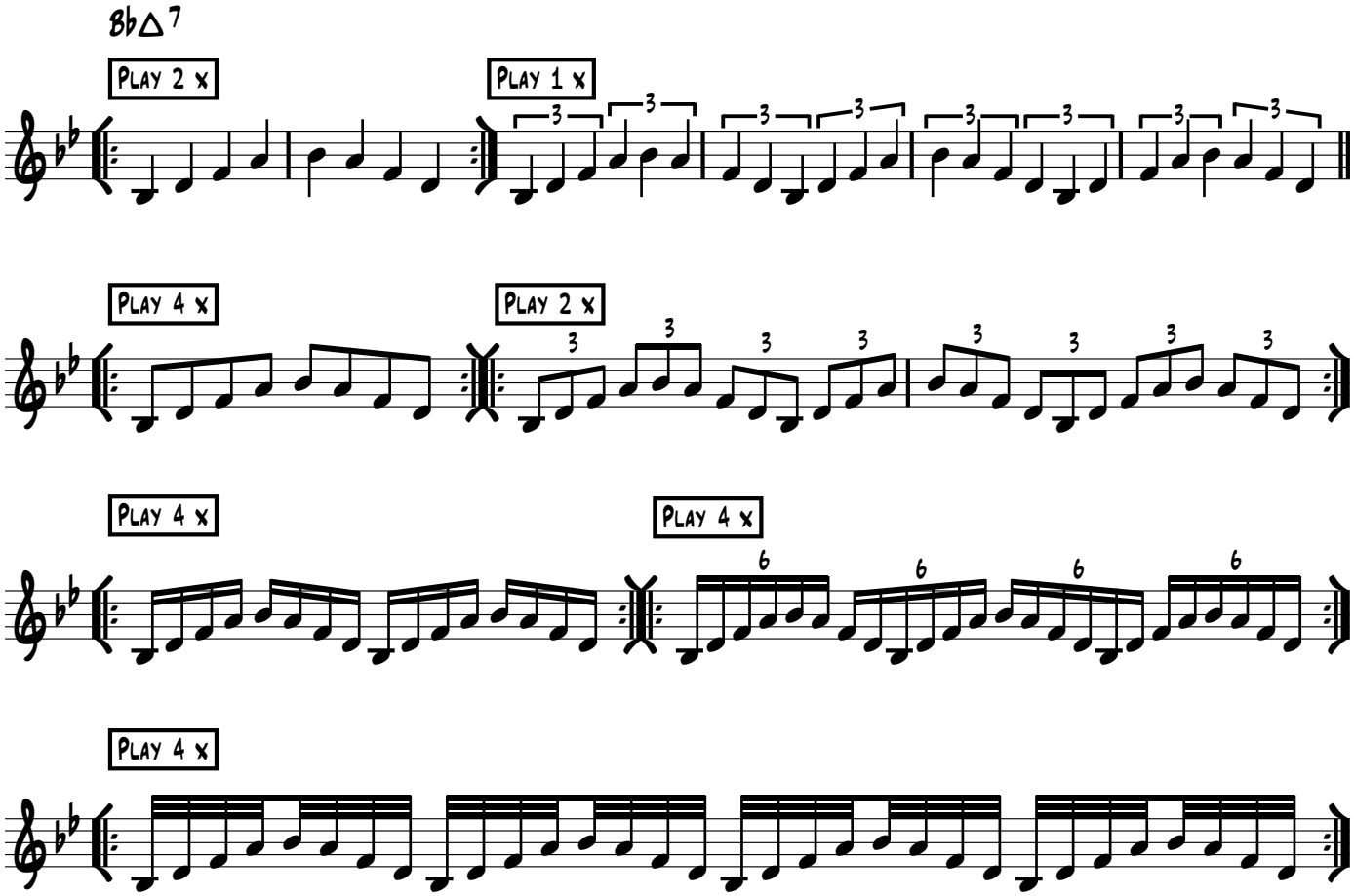
B♭△7
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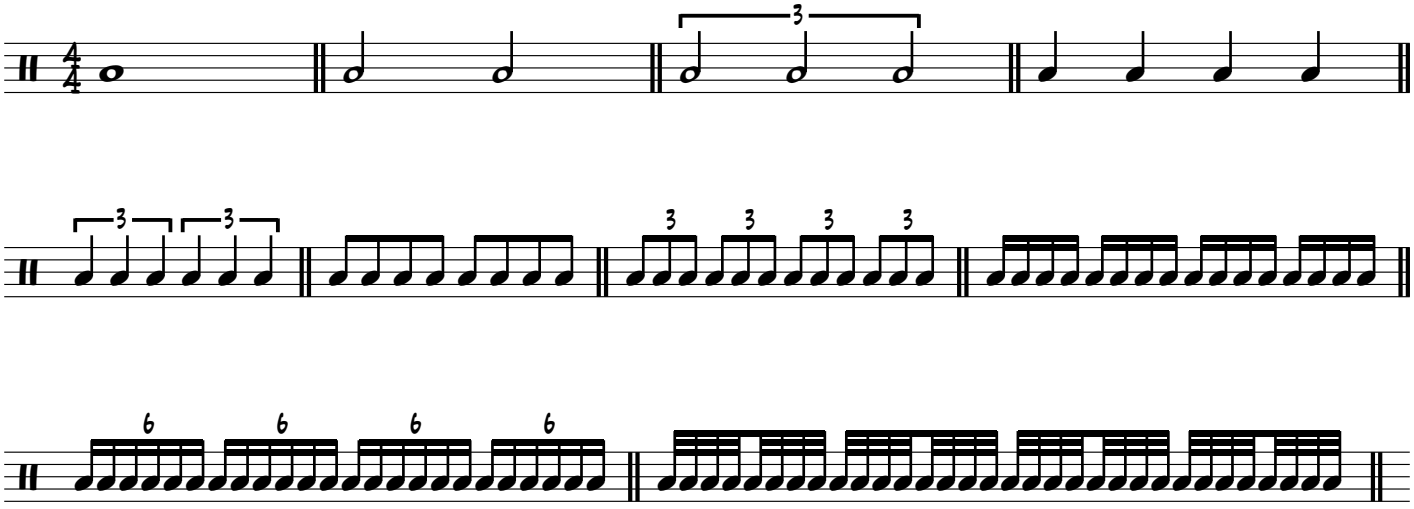
Eb Instruments

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

Basic Subdivisions of the ♩



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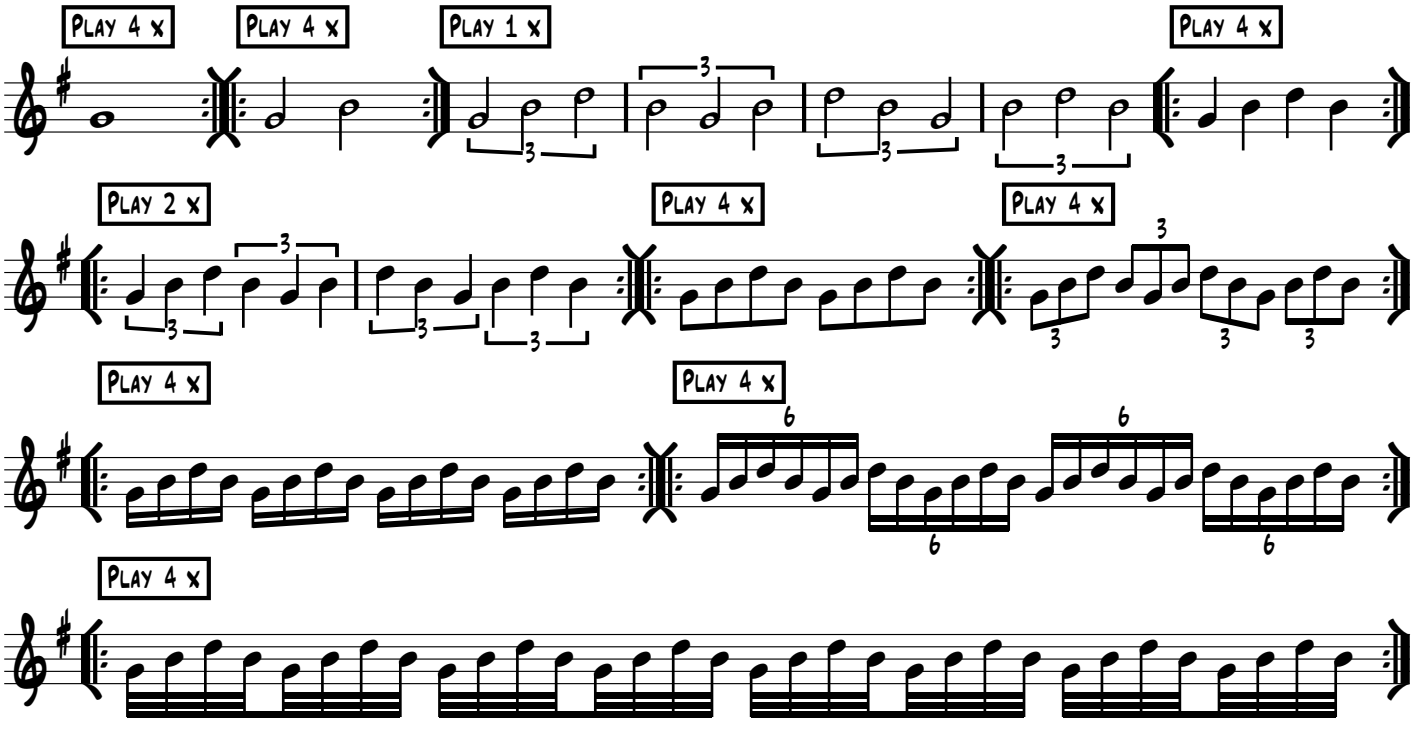
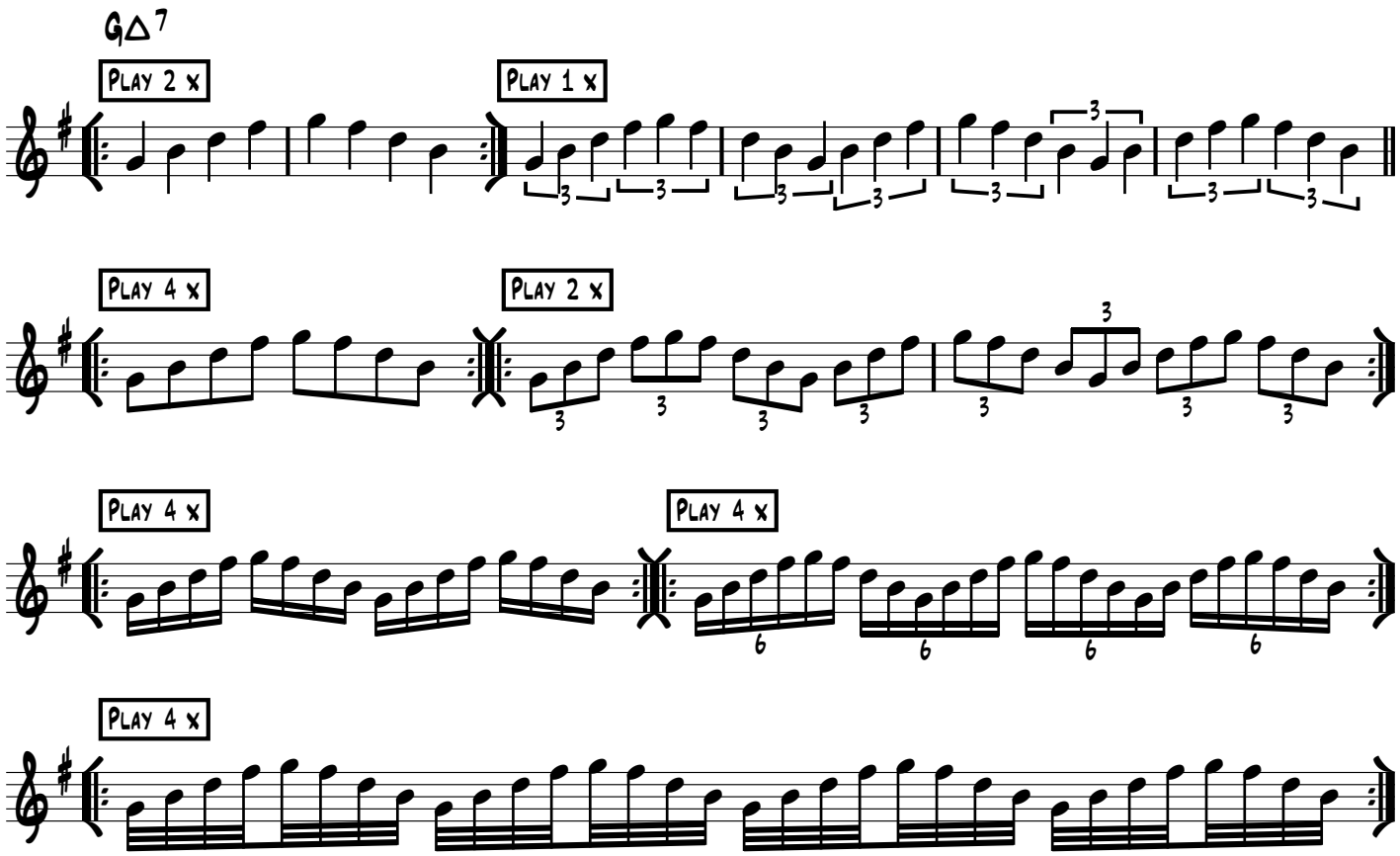
G△ Triad




GΔ7
Play 2 x
Play 1 x
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Play 2 x
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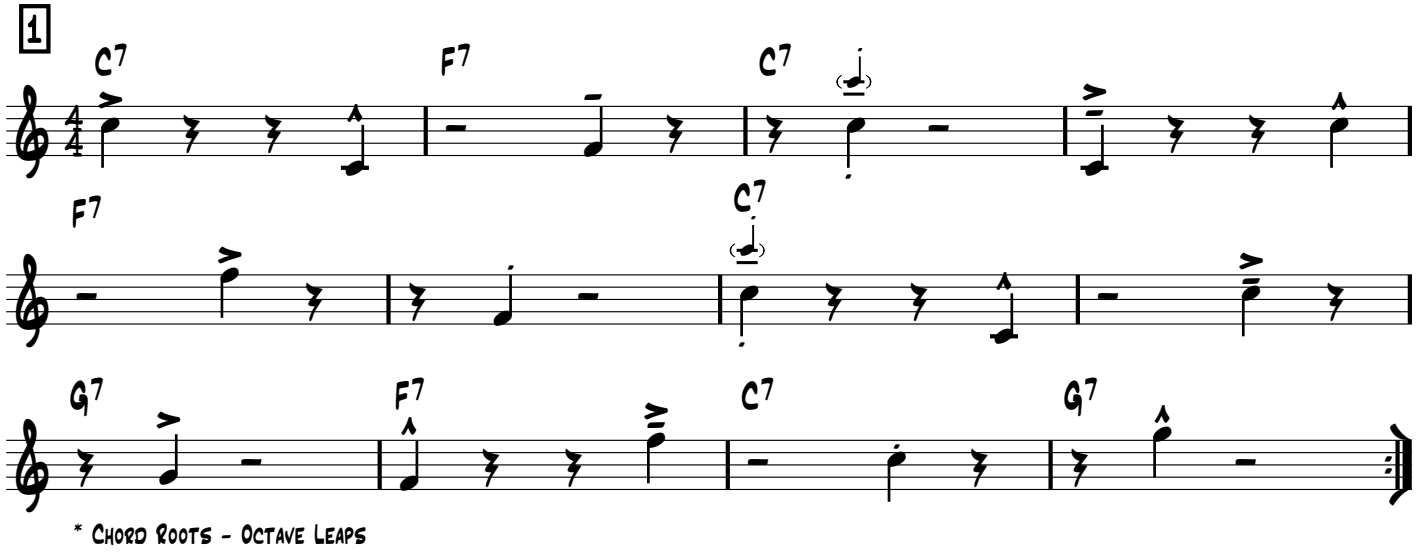
Play 4 x

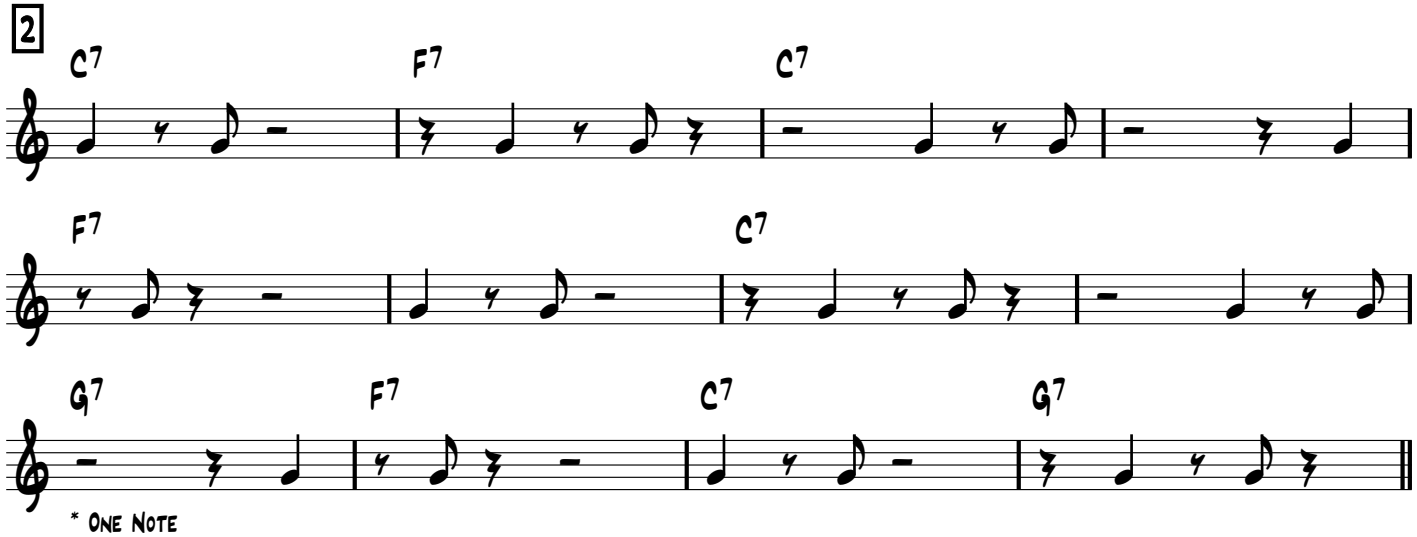
Bb Instruments

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

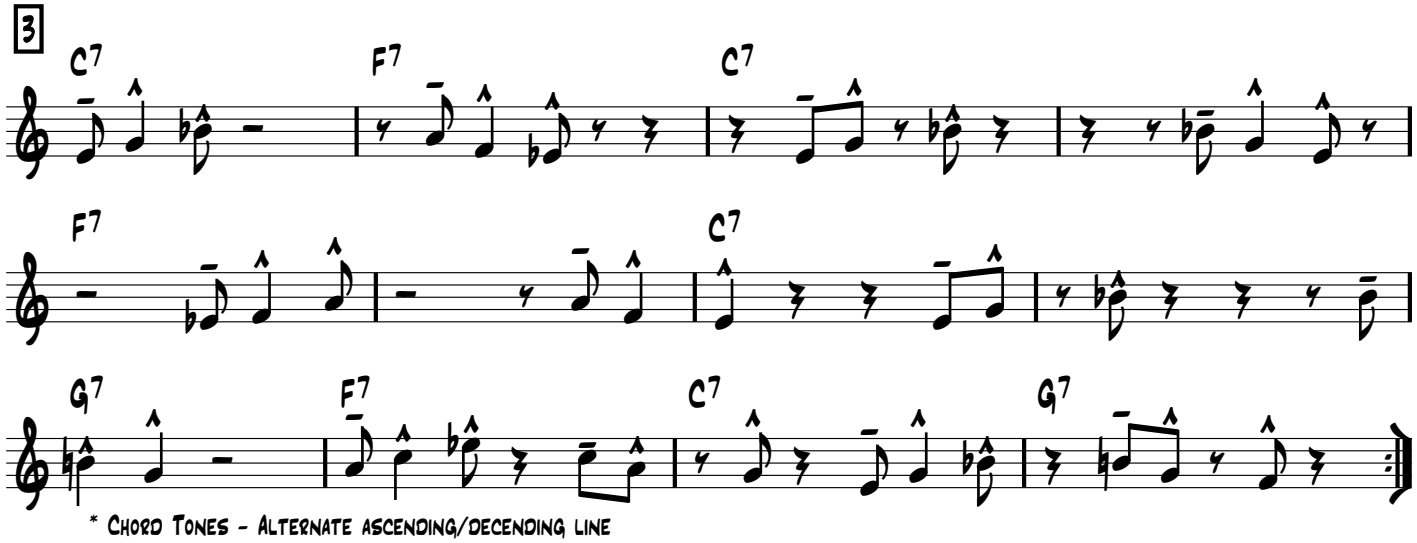
Rhythmic Motives - The Blues



* Chord Roots - Octave Leaps



* One Note

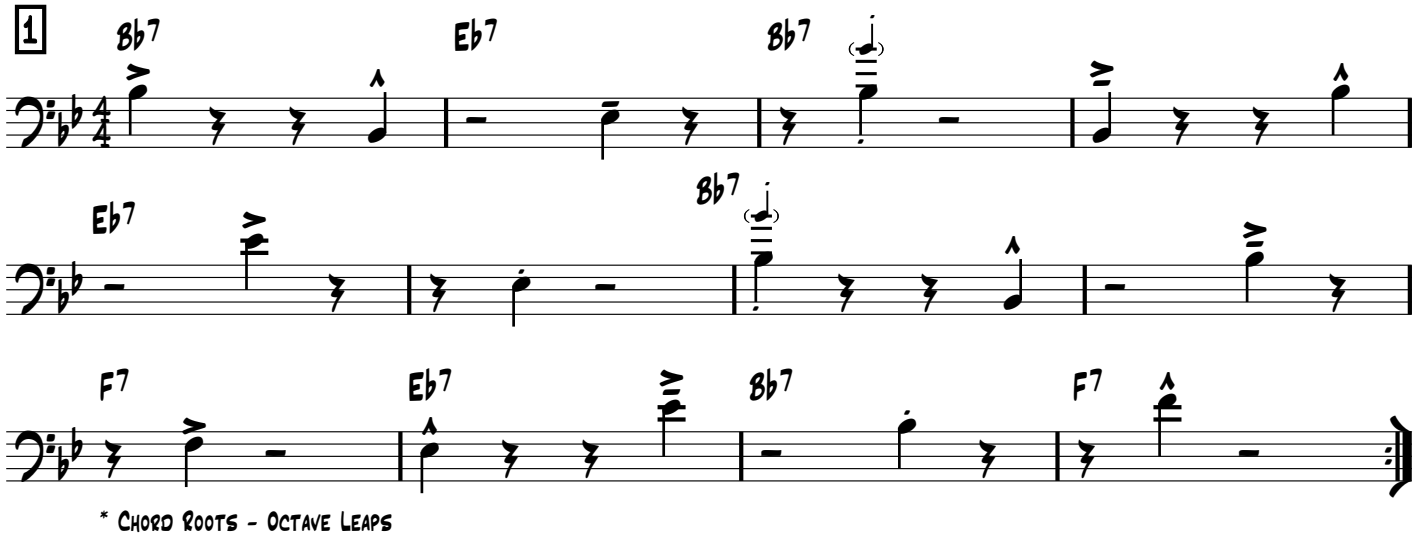


* Chord Tones - Alternate ascending/decending line

Concert Bass

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

Rhythmic Motives - The Blues



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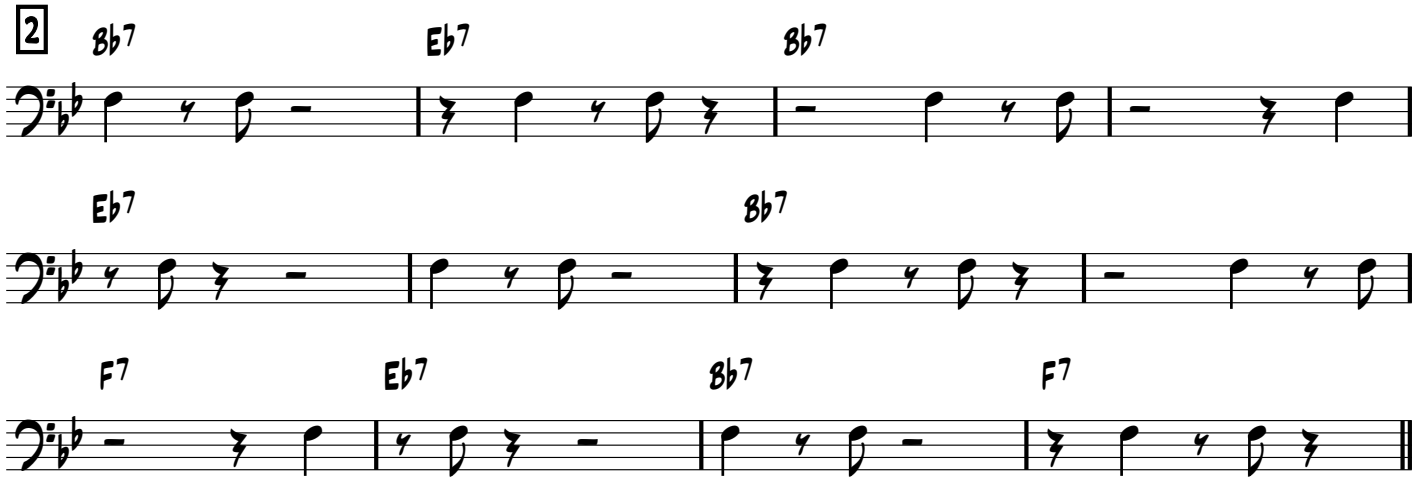

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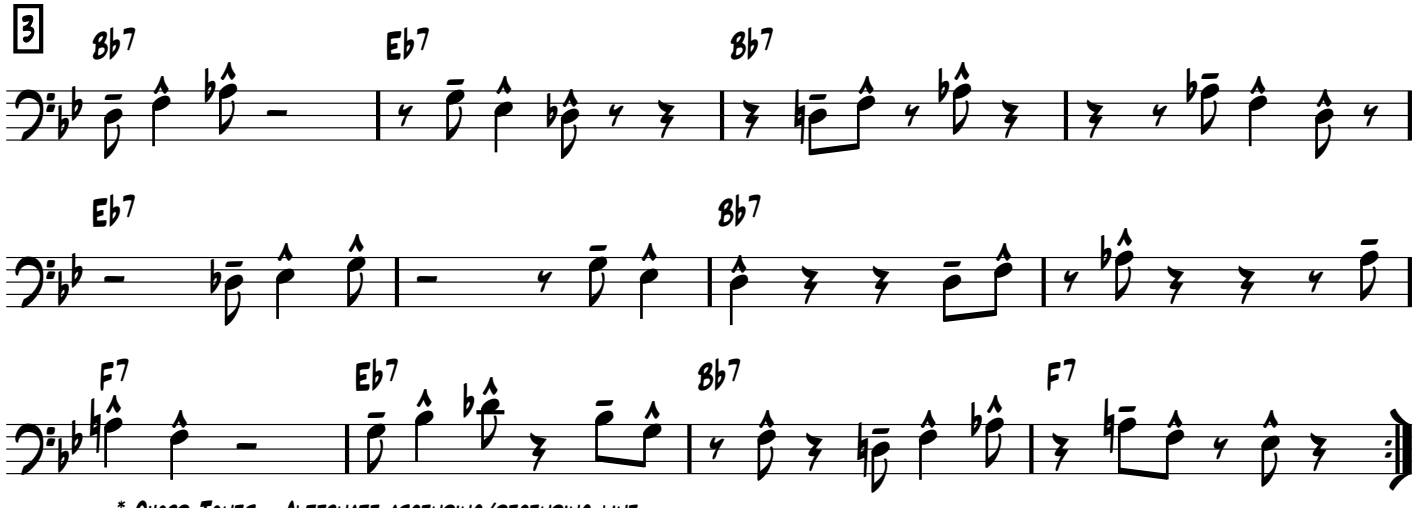

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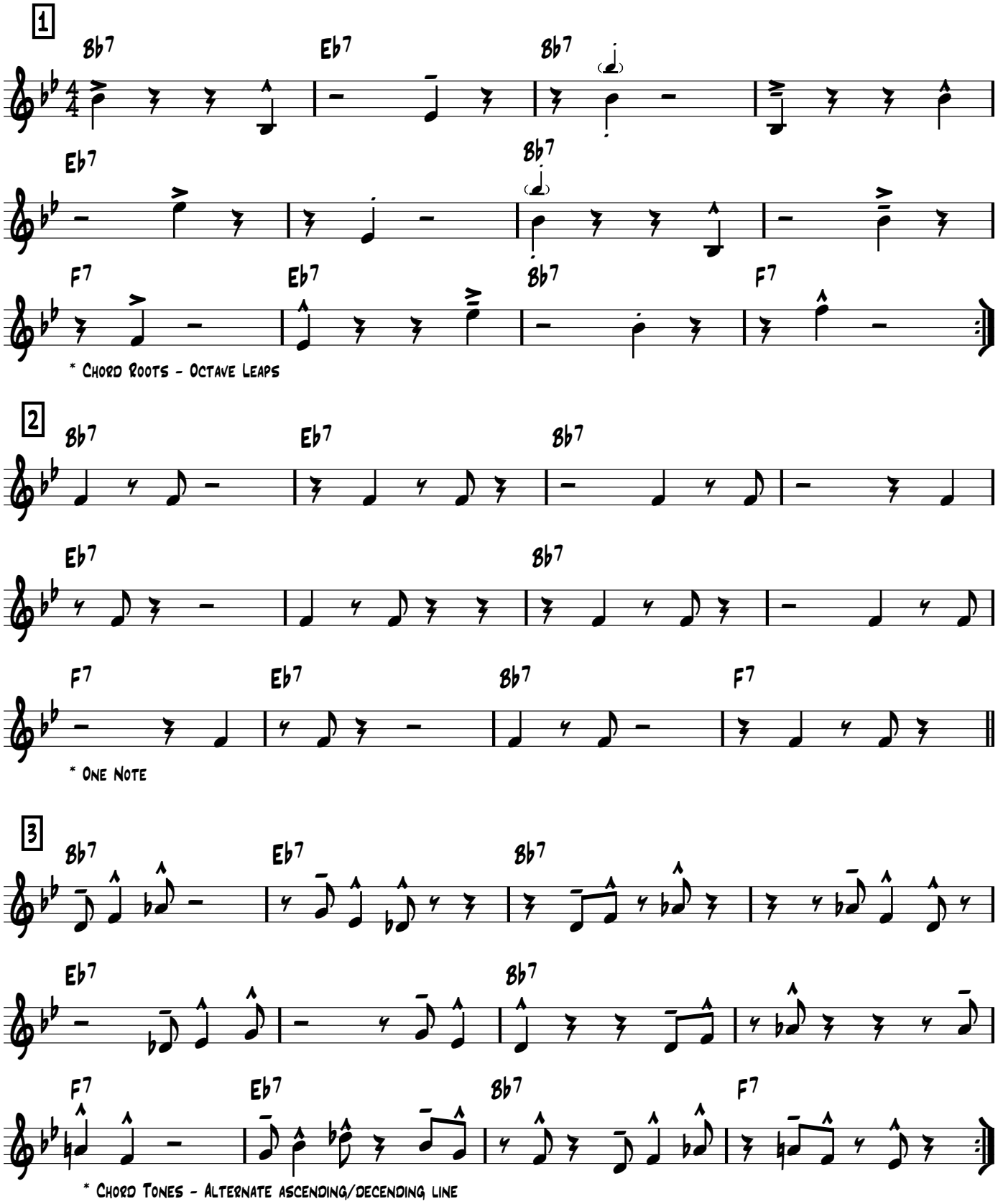
Concert Treble

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

Rhythmic Motives - The Blues

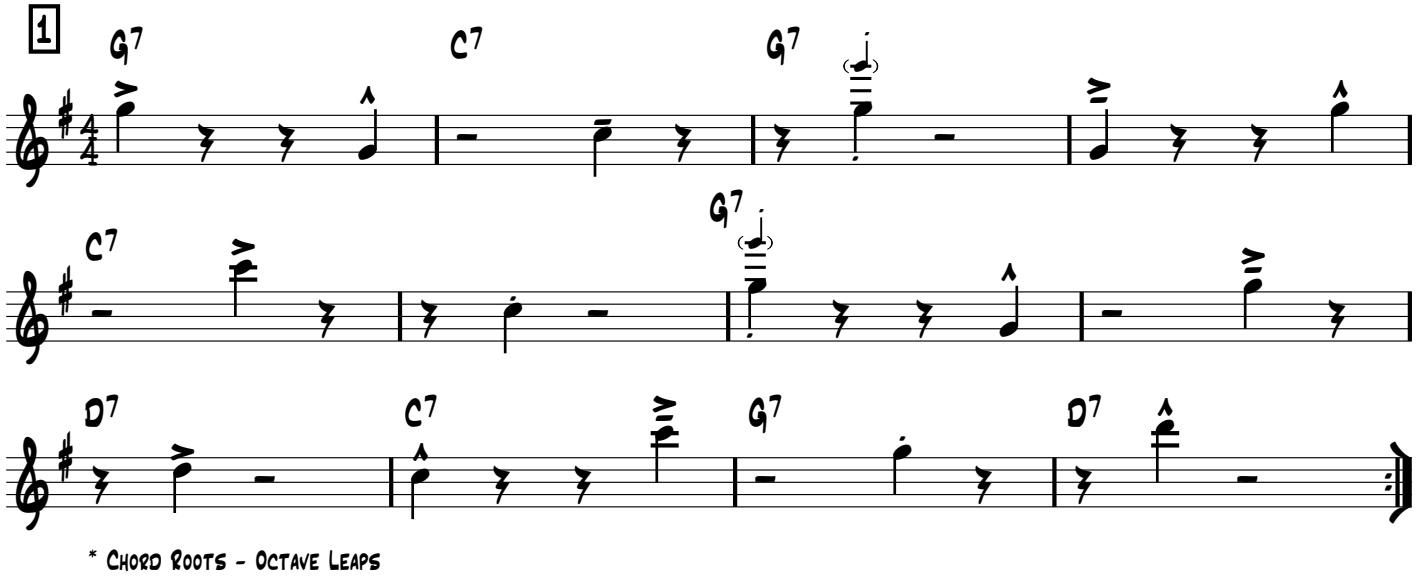


Eb Instruments

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

Rhythmic Motives - The Blues

1



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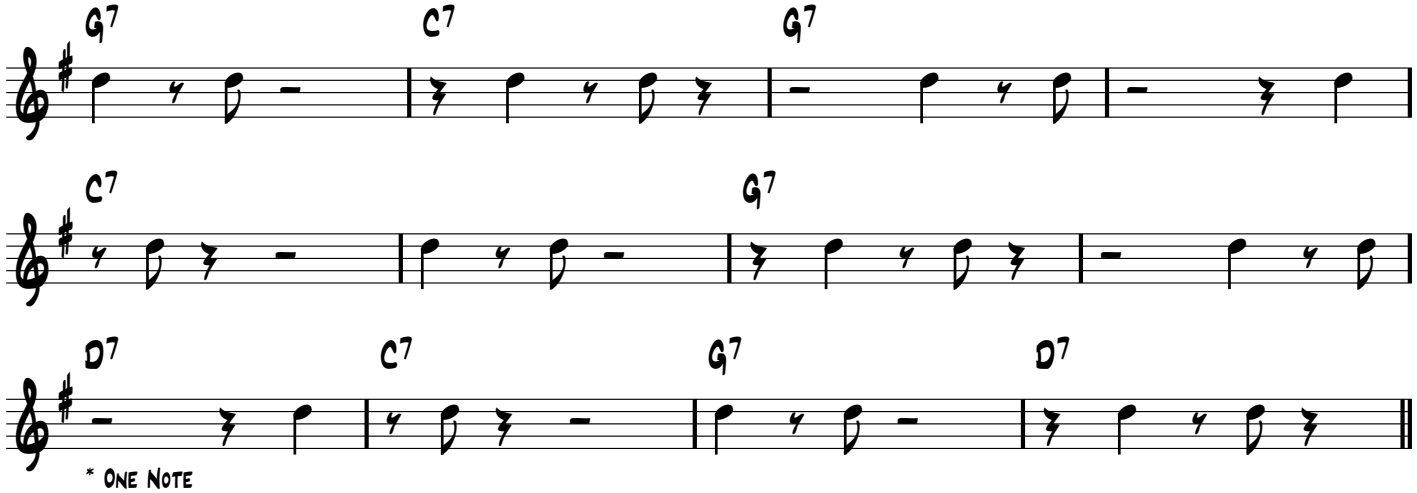
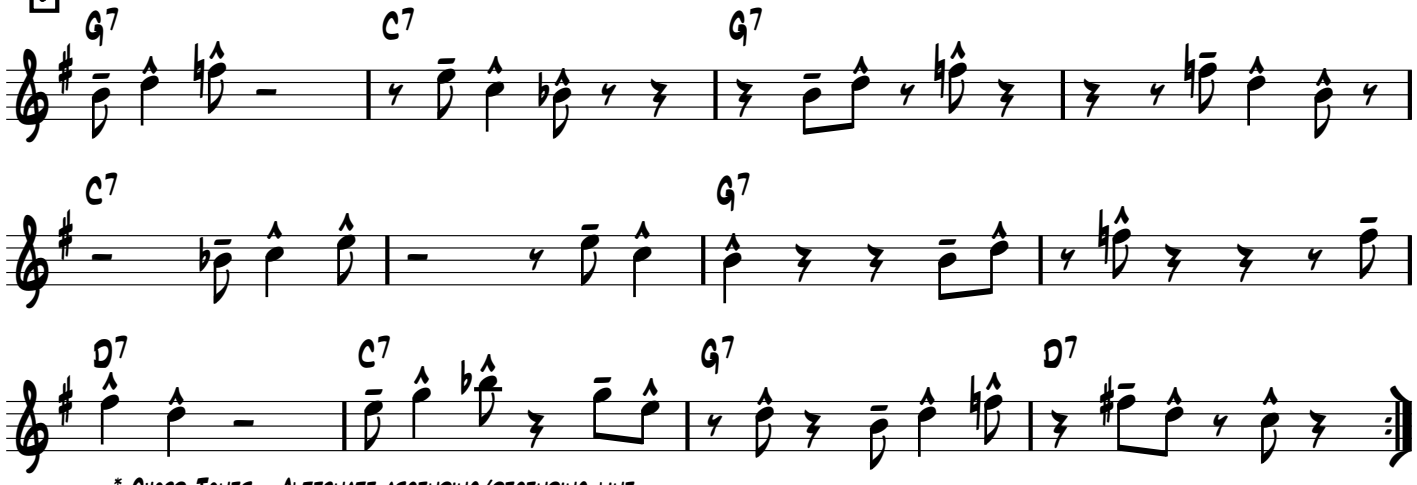


* One Note

3



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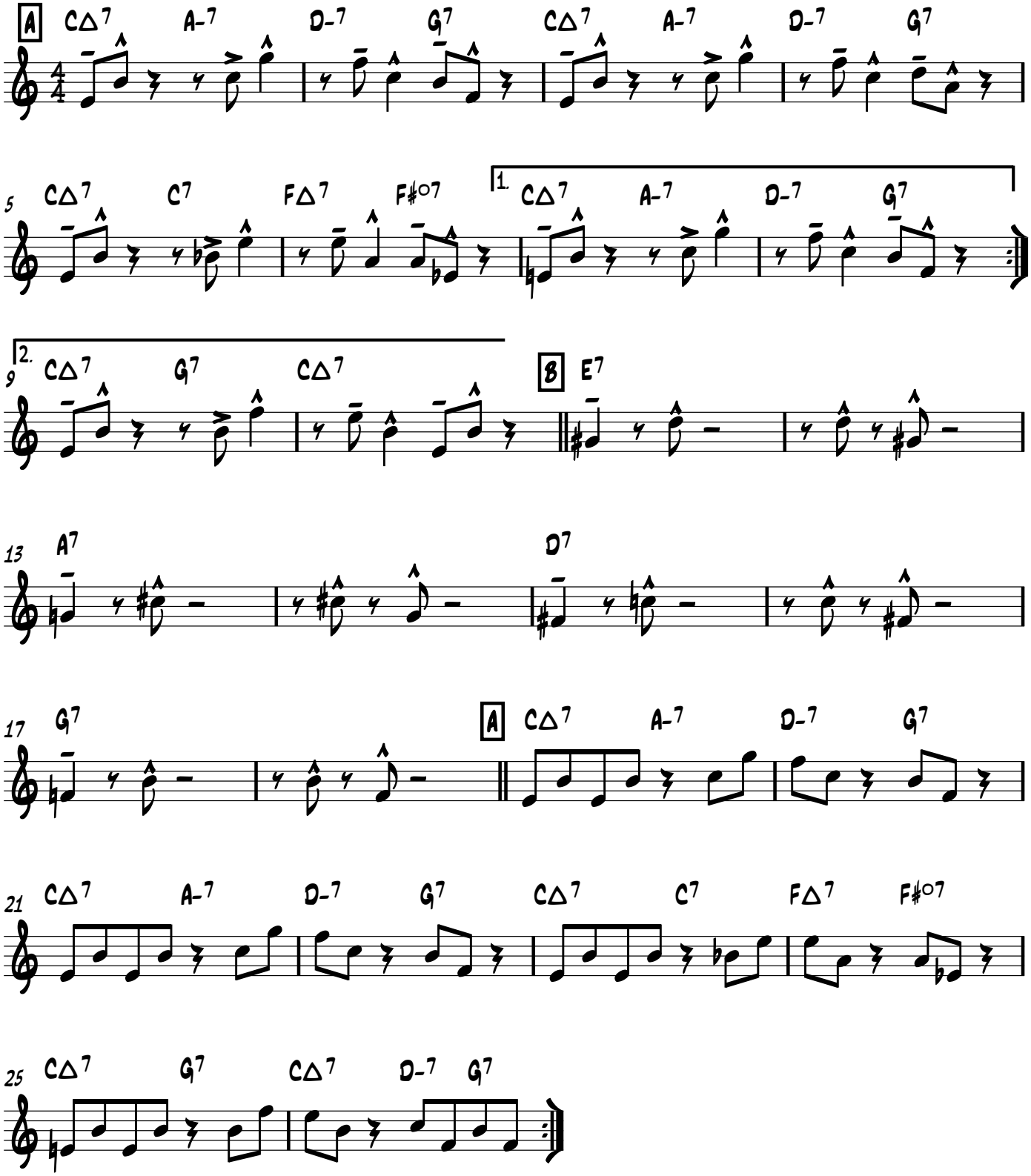
Bb Instruments

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

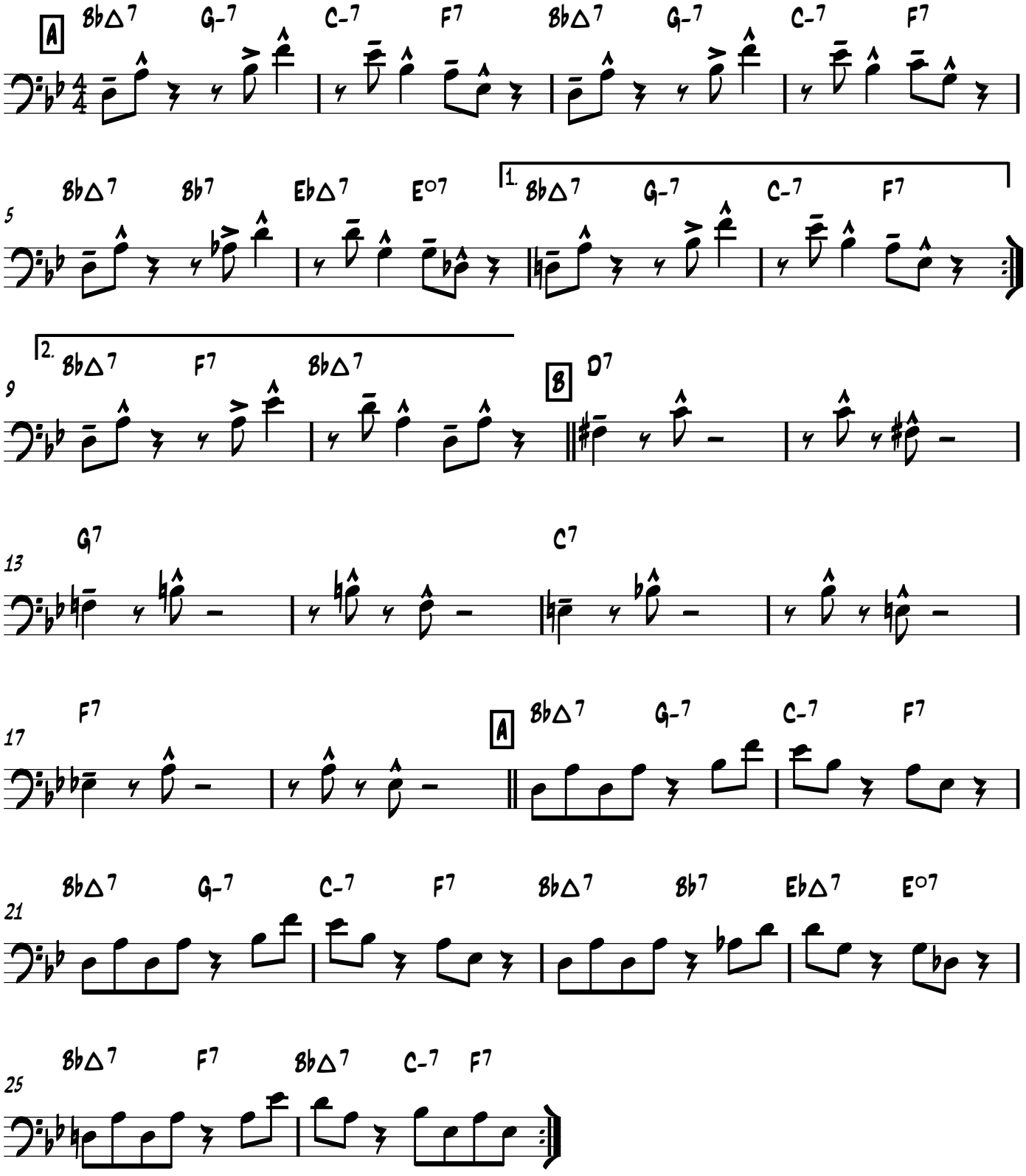
Rhythmic Motive - Basic Rhythm Changes



Concert Bass

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

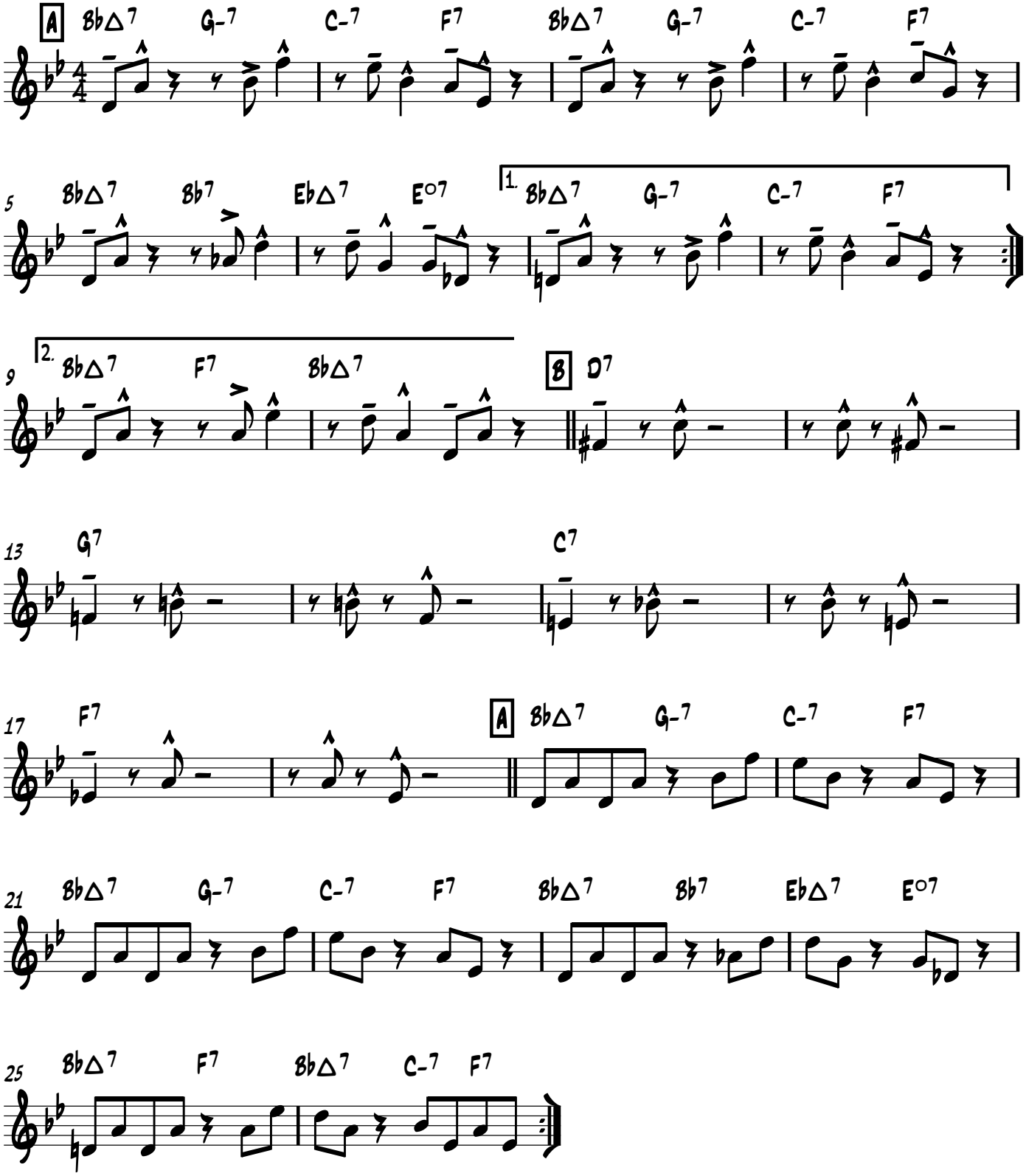
Rhythmic Motive - Basic Rhythm Changes



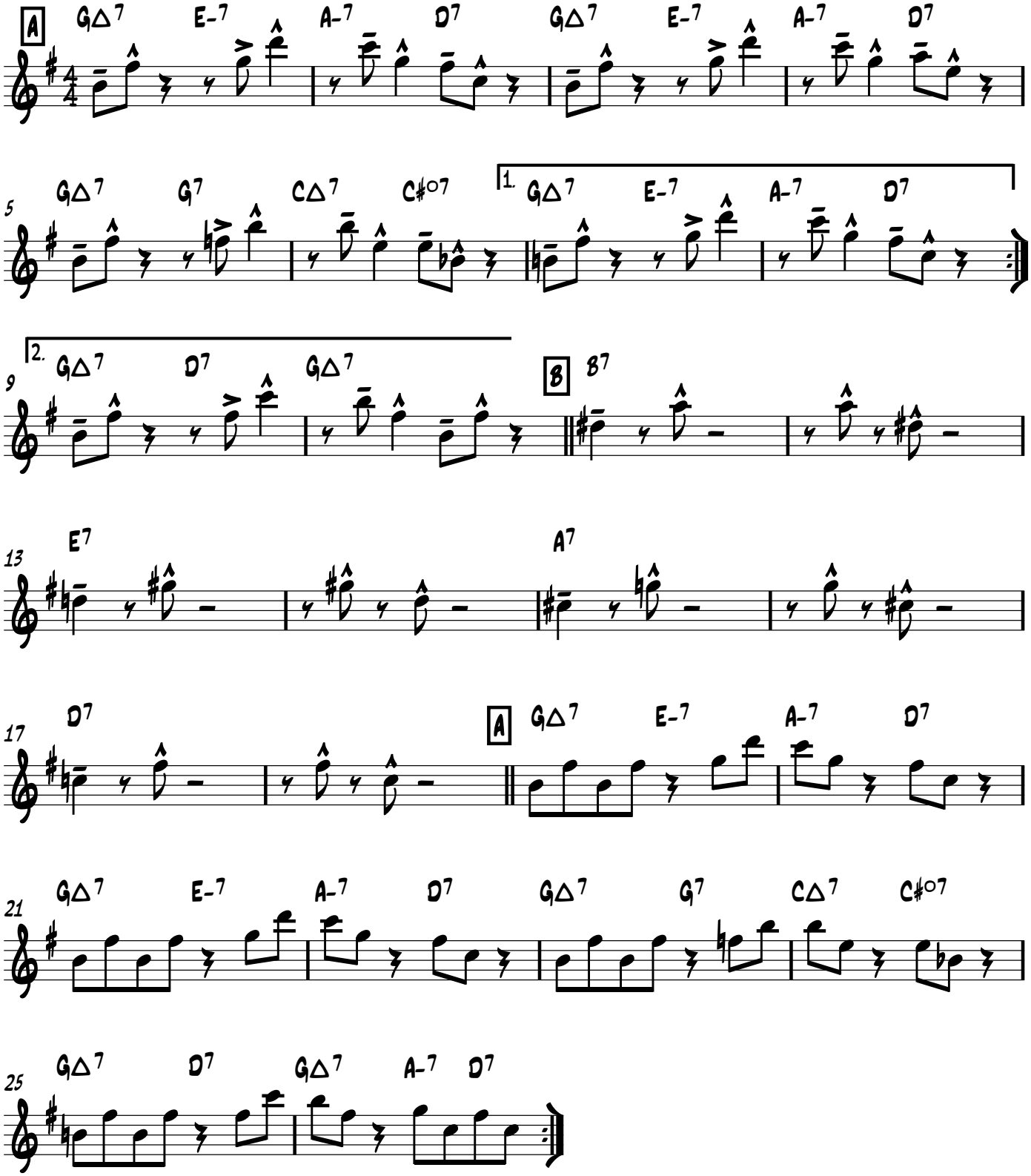
Concert Treble

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

Rhythmic Motive - Basic Rhythm Changes



Eb Instruments

Rhythm Rules FUNdamentals

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