



# THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL TO KNOW AS A JAZZ GUITARIST.

*As the great Duke Ellington said... "It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't Got that Swing."*

It doesn't matter the notes you play if you can't play with the proper feel.

BUT, with the proper Jazz Swing feel, even the simplest of ideas SWING!

**In this lesson you will learn how to develop a Jazz feel and apply it to melodic patterns to begin soloing.**

This lesson uses the chords to the Jazz standard "Fly Me to the Moon" as a progression to work from.

Learn All You Can!

## Developing a Jazz Swing Feel

Jazz is based on a TRIPLET FEEL.

In Rock, standard eighth notes are given equal time for each note – also known as "straight eighths".

But in Jazz, eighth notes are interpreted as a "loping" triplet rhythm.

STRAIGHT EIGHTHS



SWING EIGHTHS



Jazz also has an emphasis on the upbeat eighths like this...

EMPHASIZE UPBEATS



So, even though the notes are written as normal eighth notes, it is customary to see a notation that they are to be played as "swing 8ths."

# Jazz Swing Feel Exercises

Play the following exercises with a triplet swing feel. Remember to accent the upbeats.



Play the up the C major scale in swing 8ths with four 8<sup>th</sup> notes for every bar...



Let's change notes a bit quicker using only 2 eighth notes for every step of the scale. Remember to still use a Jazz triplet feel emphasizing the upbeats.



Now, just one for every note...

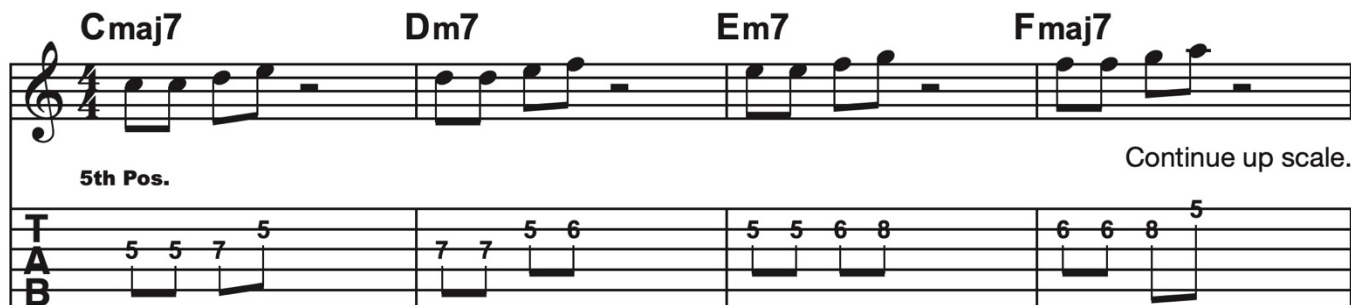


## Jazz Patterns

Scales are fun and all, but now let's try some real-world patterns that sound a bit more like music. Play these in the 5<sup>th</sup> position.

### PATTERN STARTING ON ROOT

**Cmaj7**                      **Dm7**                      **Em7**                      **Fmaj7**



5th Pos.                      Continue up scale.

T	5	5	7	5	7	7	5	6	5	5	6	8	6	6	8	5
A																
B																

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# “Fly Me to the Moon” Chords

Let’s apply these patterns to the chords to a classic Jazz standard. Start by playing just the roots of each chord, then try another time playing the thirds. Finally try to apply the patterns to the various chords – starting on the root or the third. Then, create your own melody using the C major scale.



**Am7** **Dm7** **G7** **Cmaj7** **C7**  
A-C-E-G D-F-A-C G-B-D-F C-E-G-B C-E-G-Bb

**Fmaj7** **Bm7(b5)** **E7(b9)** **Am7** **A7**  
F-A-C-E B-D-F-A E-G#-B-D-F A-C-E-G A-C#-E-G

**Dm7** **G7** **Cmaj7** **Em7** **A7**  
D-F-A-C G-B-D-F C-E-G-B E-G-B-D A-C#-E-G

**Dm7** **G7** **Cmaj7** **Bm7(b5)** **E7**  
D-F-A-C G-B-D-F C-E-G-B B-D-F-A E-G#-B-D

**Am7** **Dm7** **G7** **Cmaj7** **C7**  
A-C-E-G D-F-A-C G-B-D-F C-E-G-B C-E-G-Bb

**Fmaj7** **Bm7(b5)** **E7(b9)** **Am7** **A7**  
F-A-C-E B-D-F-A E-G#-B-D-F A-C-E-G A-C#-E-G

**Dm7** **G7** **Em7** **A7**  
D-F-A-C G-B-D-F E-G-B-D A-C#-E-G

**Dm7** **G7** **C6** **(Bm7(b5) E7)**  
D-F-A-C G-B-D-F C-E-G-A B-D-F-A E-G#-B-D