

# From Autumn Leaves to Giant Steps: Chord Patterns in Jazz

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## Introduction:

Two separate approaches:

1. Whole to Detail (Start by using the blanketing approach)
2. Detail to Whole (Start by improvising on individual chords one at a time)

## I. "Autumn Leaves":

**All chords are diatonic to G-major:**

Blocks:

1. ii-V-I in G major
2. ii-V-i in E minor

Comments:

1. Chord analysis
2. Always memorize chord progression

## II. The jazz cadence ii-V-I:

**Jazz Fiddle Wizard tracks 9 and 14 and lesson 22:**

The ii-V-I in G-major:

1. Blanketing
2. Play roots
3. Root and 3<sup>rd</sup>
4. Root, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>
5. Root, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>
6. Inner melody

The ii-V-i in E-minor:

1. Blanketing
2. Adding the major 3<sup>rd</sup> of the V chord

Return to Autumn Leaves

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### III. The ii-V-I in all keys:

#### **Jazz Fiddle Wizard lesson 18:**

Transfer skills into all keys:

1. Blanketing
2. Arpeggios
3. Inner melodies

Comments:

1. Do not expect to be able to do this without practice!

### IV. “Tune Down”:

#### **Example of jazz standard with very simply ii-V-I progression:**

1. Blanketing
2. Arpeggios
3. Inner melodies

### V. “There Will Never Be Another You”:

#### **Example of jazz standard with passing chords (Jazz Fiddle Wizard lesson 24):**

You can ignore certain chords.

1. Analysis: Keys and ii-V-I’s needed for improvisation
2. Inner melody

### VI. “Giant Steps”:

#### **Example of jazz standard with ii-V-I progressions organized in descending and ascending major thirds:**

1. Analysis and keys
2. Inner melodies

**For more information visit:**

**JazzFiddleWizard.com** - includes sample syllabi, interviews, list of favorite arrangements, jazz violin radio station and more

**JazzStringCaucus.org** - official website of the Jazz String Caucus. Includes amplification information, recent jazz string clinic handouts and more

**StringsCentral.com** - list of arrangements and other resources. Maintained by Julie Lyonn Lieberman

**MelBay.com** - New jazz books include The Essential Jazz Lines Series, Improvisation-Bridging the Gap & Essential Jazz Etudes with CD featuring Sara Caswell

Jazz String Method Books by Martin Norgaard:

*Jazz Fiddle Wizard Junior*, Mel Bay Publications Inc., 2002. (Middle School)

*Jazz Viola Wizard Junior*, Mel Bay Publications Inc., 2002. (Middle School)

*Jazz Cello Wizard Junior*, Mel Bay Publications Inc., 2002. (Middle School)

*Jazz Fiddle Wizard Junior, book 2*, Mel Bay Publications Inc., 2005 (Middle School/High School)

*Jazz Viola Wizard Junior, book 2*, Mel Bay Publications Inc., 2005 (Middle School/High School)

*Jazz Cello/Bass Wizard Junior, book 2*, Mel Bay Publications Inc., 2005 (Middle School/High School)

*Jazz Fiddle Wizard*, Pacific: Mel Bay Publications Inc., 2000. (College)

Jazz String Orchestra Arrangements by Martin Norgaard:

*Swing On A String*, FJH Music Company (grade 3)

*Swing There Done That*, FJH Music Company (grade 2.5)

*Stringin' The Blues*, FJH Music Company (grade 3.5) available Spring 06.

Recommended Music-Minus-One products:

*A New Approach to Jazz Improvisation* by Jamey Aebersold (Jazzbooks.com)

Band-In-The-Box (pgmusic.com)

Smart Music (smartmusic.com)

Recommended Tune books:

*The Real Book, sixth edition* (Halleonard.com)

*The Standards Real Book* (Shermusic.com)

# Diatonic Chords in sharp keys

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**C** C D E F G A B Cmaj7 Dm7 Em7 Fmaj7 G7 Am7 Bm7b5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I ii iii IV V vi vii

**G** G A B C D E F# Gmaj7 Am7 Bm7 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 F#m7b5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I ii iii IV V vi vii

**D** D E F# G A B C# Dmaj7 Em7 F#m7 Gmaj7 A7 Bm7 C#m7b5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I ii iii IV V vi vii

**A** A B C# D E F# G# Amaj7 Bm7 C#m7 Dmaj7 E7 F#m7 G#m7b5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I ii iii IV V vi vii

**E** E F# G# A B C# D# Emaj7 F#m7 G#m7 Amaj7 B7 C#m7 D#m7b5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I ii iii IV V vi vii

**B** B C# D# E F# G# A# Bmaj7 C#m7 D#m7 Emaj7 F#7 G#m7 A#m7b5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I ii iii IV V vi vii

# Diatonic Chords in flat keys

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The image displays six musical staves, each representing a different flat key. Each staff is divided into two sections: a scale of seven notes and a set of seven diatonic chords. The chords are labeled with Roman numerals I through VII.

- F Major:** Scale: F, G, A, B<sup>b</sup>, C, D, E. Chords: Fmaj7, Gm7, Am7, B<sup>b</sup>maj7, C7, Dm7, Em7b5.
- B<sup>b</sup> Major:** Scale: B<sup>b</sup>, C, D, E<sup>b</sup>, F, G, A. Chords: B<sup>b</sup>maj7, Cm7, Dm7, E<sup>b</sup>maj7, F7, Gm7, Am7b5.
- E<sup>b</sup> Major:** Scale: E<sup>b</sup>, F, G, A<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, C, D. Chords: E<sup>b</sup>maj7, Fm7, Gm7, A<sup>b</sup>maj7, B<sup>b</sup>7, Cm7, Dm7b5.
- A<sup>b</sup> Major:** Scale: A<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, C, D<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, F, G. Chords: A<sup>b</sup>maj7, B<sup>b</sup>m7, Cm7, D<sup>b</sup>maj7, E<sup>b</sup>7, Fm7, Gm7b5.
- D<sup>b</sup> Major:** Scale: D<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, F, G<sup>b</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, C. Chords: D<sup>b</sup>maj7, E<sup>b</sup>m7, Fm7, G<sup>b</sup>maj7, A<sup>b</sup>7, B<sup>b</sup>m7, Cm7b5.
- G<sup>b</sup> Major:** Scale: G<sup>b</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, C<sup>b</sup>, D<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, F. Chords: G<sup>b</sup>maj7, A<sup>b</sup>m7, B<sup>b</sup>m7, C<sup>b</sup>maj7, D<sup>b</sup>7, E<sup>b</sup>m7, Fm7b5.