

RHYTHMS IN IMPROVISATION

We usually don't focus on rhythm as much as we focus on jazz vocabulary; (be-bop language, approach tones, jazz licks, pentatonics and so on) All these materials you study have to be combined with rhythmic phrases to establish better musical results. Consistent phrases without rhythm will be exhausting for players to create, as well as your audience to listen.

Rhythm is the heart of music!

In this section, you will learn basic and longer rhythm patterns combined with given chord progressions. A list of rhythmic notations and combined versions of them are given below. After studying the examples, feel free to go ahead and create your own rhythmic patterns and continue your studies. Please note, that moving the rhythms and replacing them on the 2nd, 3rd or 4th beats can provide various musical results. It is worth to try!

All the examples are given in 4/4 time signature.

Rhythm Pattern 1



Remember to apply the swing feel

Ex. a Ex. b Ex. c

Cmaj7 E7^b13 Dmin7

Rhythm Pattern 2



Remember to apply the swing feel

Ex. a Ex. b Ex. c

C7 Ebmin9 Bbmaj9