

MOTIVIC IMPROVISATION

FROM DIGGING DEEPER VIDEO #63

Going back to the time of Scarlatti and Mozart, the idea of developing a musical idea has been a key tool of composers. And, if you listen to Sonny Rollins and thousands of other great jazz musicians, you'll find that the tool works just as well in improvised jazz solos. Here we'll look an easy entre into the topic with the use of REPETITION and RHYTHM.

Below are three simple one-measure rhythms, which we'll use as our motif, our idea to develop. We'll take this simple idea and repeat it in each measure of our improvisation. The pitches we use are up to the player. Just be sure that the rhythm, our idea to be developed, stays consistent.

#1



#2



#3



Below is a two measure long rhythmic pattern. It's longer and it's more interesting perhaps, but it's also harder to remember and a bit more unwieldy to use. That said, it has a different sound and feel than the shorter rhythms. Experiment!

#4

