

"OFF BEAT" JAZZ ARTICULATION

FROM DIGGING DEEPER JAZZ VIDEO #22

Off-beat articulation is a good way to get momentum and energy into our 8th note lines. It builds a subtle syncopation into our playing, and makes faster (straighter) 8th notes have a swing feel to them.

Don't worry so much about where you will use this quite yet. Just have it be like a linguistic accent that you speak a language with. Practice it regularly and very specifically, and then just let it come out in a natural way.

G Dominant BeBop Scale



G Major BeBop Scale



PRACTICE IDEAS AND TIPS:

Make sure to accent the off-beat, and make the "on-beat" unaccented.

- 1) Tongue and make the accented notes louder.
- 2) Do NOT tongue the unaccented beats. Play them much softer.

Do not make the note you slur to (the on beats) short. They are full length notes.

Make all the accented notes (the off beats) the same (loud) volume as each other. Make the unaccented notes (the on beats) the same (soft) volume as each other.

Practise this articulation on all scales you play, and as you improvise. It is a new concept and uses new muscles, and takes PRACTISE to get fluid. The goal is to sound VERY LEGATO, even though we are changing volume and articulation quite drastically with every note.

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