

Jazz Improvisation Basics: Enclosures Demystified by Demarius Jackson



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★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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What are Enclosures?

In jazz improvisation, enclosures are a melodic technique that involves playing a note outside of the current chord, then immediately resolving it to a note within the chord. This creates a sense of tension and release, and can be used to add melodic interest and harmonic complexity to your improvisations.

Enclosures can be played in any direction (above or below the target note), and can be used to target any note within the chord. The most common types of enclosures are:

- **Chromatic enclosures:** Played using the chromatic scale, targeting the nearest note within the chord.

- **Diatonic enclosures:** Played using the diatonic scale of the chord, targeting any note within the chord.

How to Play Enclosures

To play enclosures, follow these steps:

1. Identify the target note within the chord.
2. Play a note outside of the chord, either above or below the target note.
3. Immediately resolve the note to the target note.

Here are some examples of enclosures:

Chromatic enclosure:

12 BAR BLUES WITH ENCLOSURE TARGETING THE 3RD

The image shows a 12-bar blues progression in G major, with enclosures targeting the 3rd of the chords. The chords and their corresponding enclosures are as follows:

- Bar 1: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 2: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 3: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 4: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 5: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 6: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 7: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 8: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 9: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 10: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 11: G7 (enclosure: F#7)
- Bar 12: G7 (enclosure: F#7)

The enclosures are played as eighth notes, starting on the 2nd of the chord and moving chromatically to the 3rd.

Diatonic enclosure:

12 BAR BLUES WITH ENCLOSURE TARGETING THE 3RD

The image shows a 12-bar blues progression in E-flat major. The chords are: Bb7 (bars 1-2), Eb7 (bars 3-4), Bb7 (bars 5-6), Eb7 (bars 7-8), F7 (bars 9-10), Eb7 (bars 11-12). The melody features enclosures (trills) targeting the 3rd of the chords. A watermark 'theorydeedeebook.com' is visible across the notation.

When to Use Enclosures

Enclosures can be used in a variety of situations, including:

- To add melodic interest to a solo.
- To create harmonic tension and release.
- To connect two different chords.
- To emphasize a particular note within the chord.

Tips for Using Enclosures

Here are a few tips for using enclosures effectively:

- **Use enclosures sparingly.** Too many enclosures can make your solo sound cluttered and unfocused.
- **Choose your target notes carefully.** The target note should be a logical choice within the chord, and should help to create the desired effect.

- **Practice your enclosures.** The more you practice, the more comfortable you will become with using them in your improvisations.

Enclosures are a powerful tool that can be used to add melodic interest and harmonic complexity to your jazz improvisations. By following the tips in this article, you can learn to use enclosures effectively and improve your overall improvisation skills.



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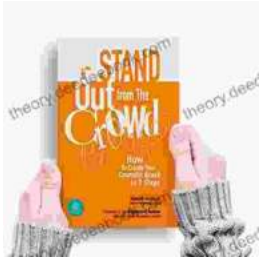
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