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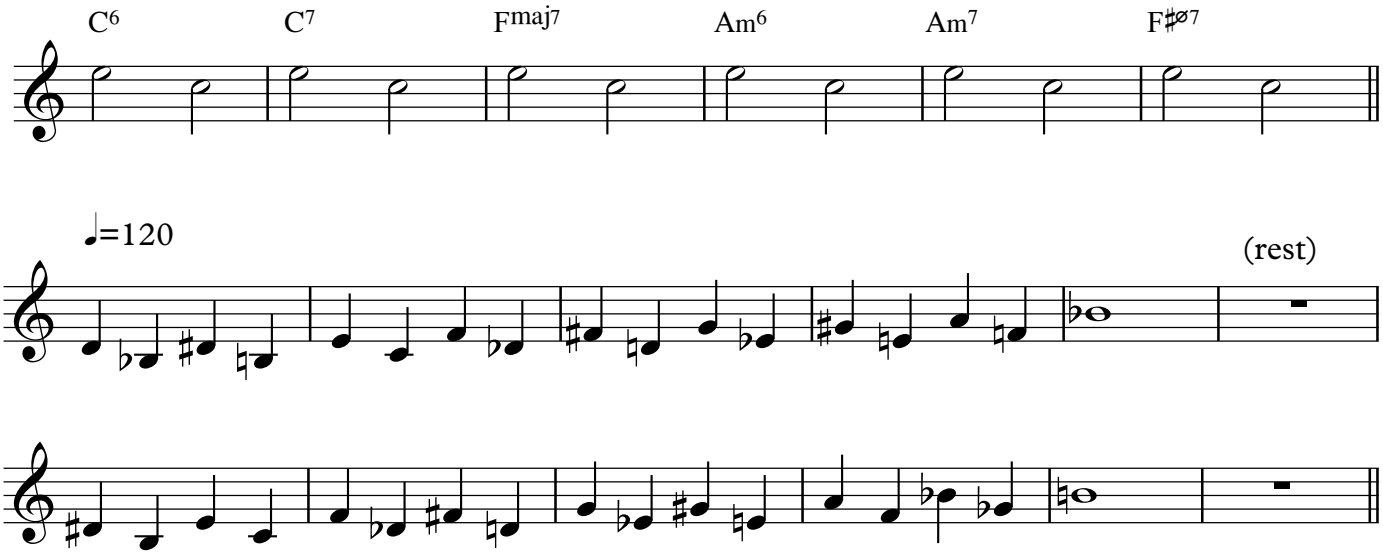
Fun with 3rds - part 1

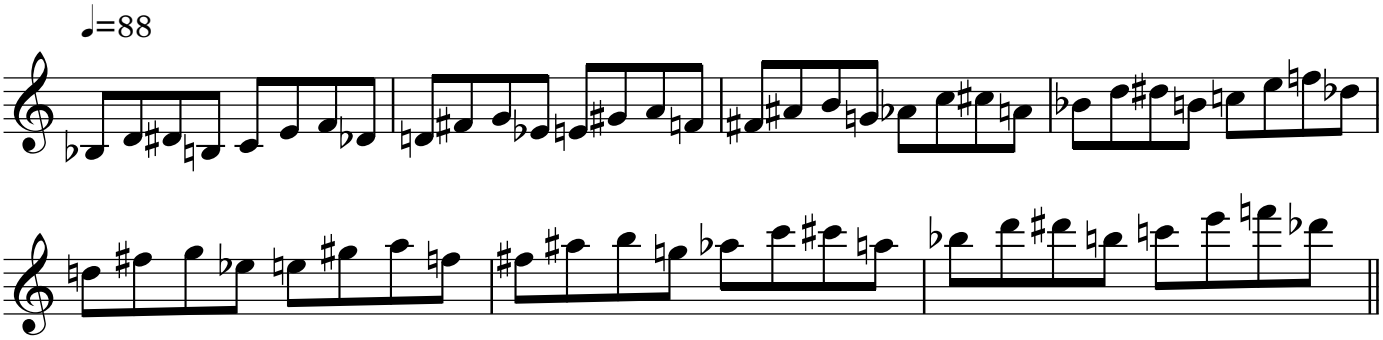
Because so much harmony is built in thirds, getting comfortable with this interval is a big help as an improvisor. These exercises should help increase your overall technical ability too.

Major 3rds

this interval is found between the root and 3rd of major and dominant chords, and between the 3rd and 5th of minor (and minor 7th) chords, and the 5th and the 7th of ø7 chords. As you play each major 3rd, try and picture it in each of these places. This is a great way to improve your ability to find good landing spots when playing on changes. For example....

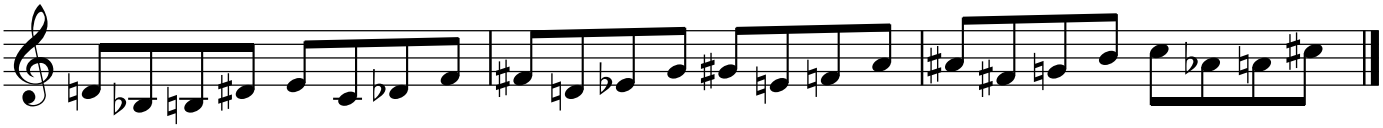


Continue, starting a semi-tone higher each time, until you reach the top of your range (which will vary from player to player). You'll probably want a little break at this point... a good time to listen to Quartet #1 from the Chick Corea "Three Quartets" album. Then, move on to this.



and this variation

(continue...)



More fun with 3rds coming - stay tuned!