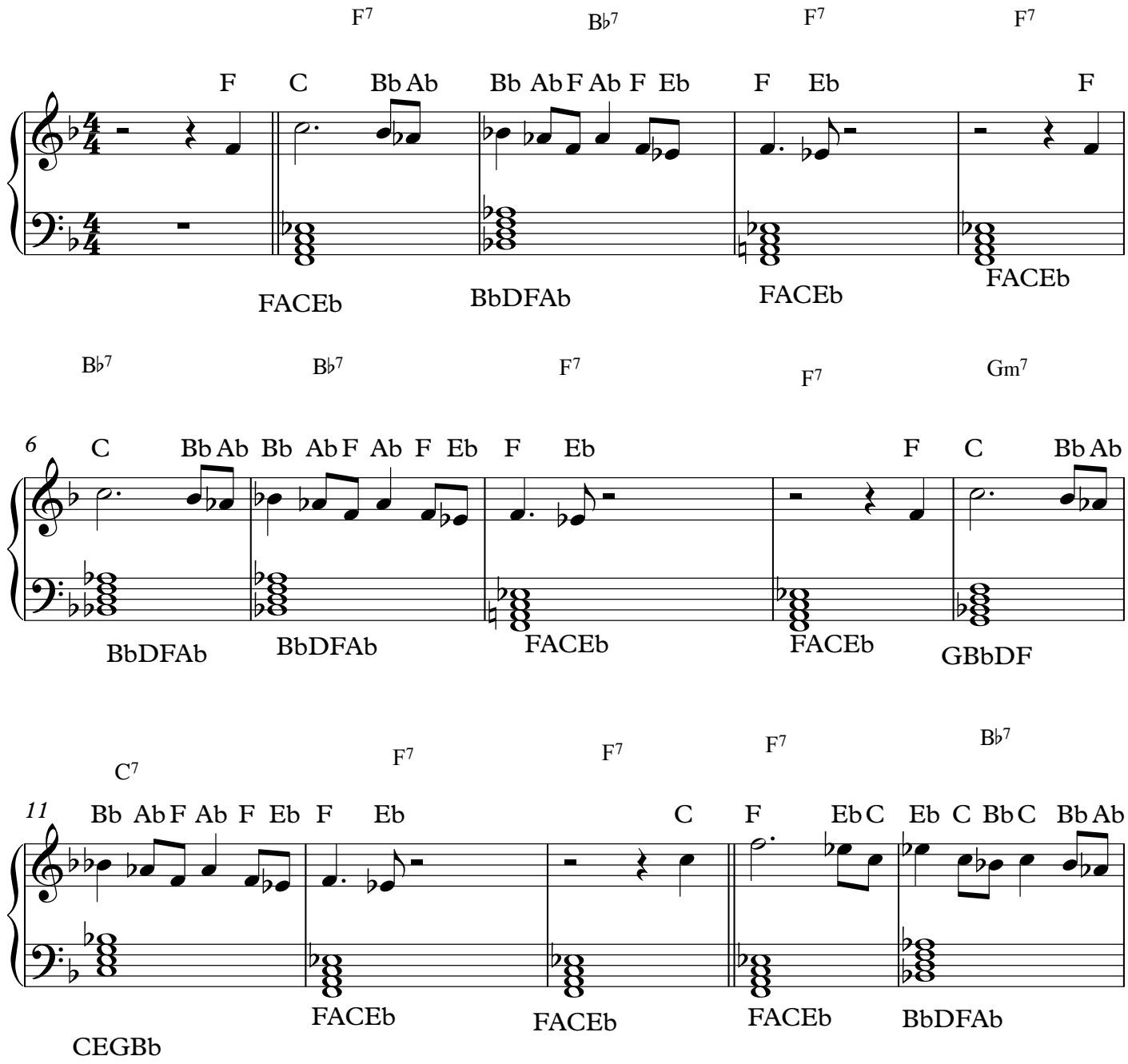
BAG'S GROOVE F BLUES

MILT JACKSON
(LESSON BY BEN PORTNER)

Moving on from the previous lesson "C Jam Blues," Bag's Groove is a 12 bar blues composed by Vibraphonist Milt Jackson. The chords are similar to "C Jam Blues," except the chords have been transposed from the key of C to the key of F. (Fun Fact, Milt Jackson's nickname was "Bags" because after playing jam sessions all night he would have large bags under his eyes.)

We're going to approach the song the same way we did with "C Jam Blues." First we'll work on the melody in the right hand with the chords in root position in the left hand.



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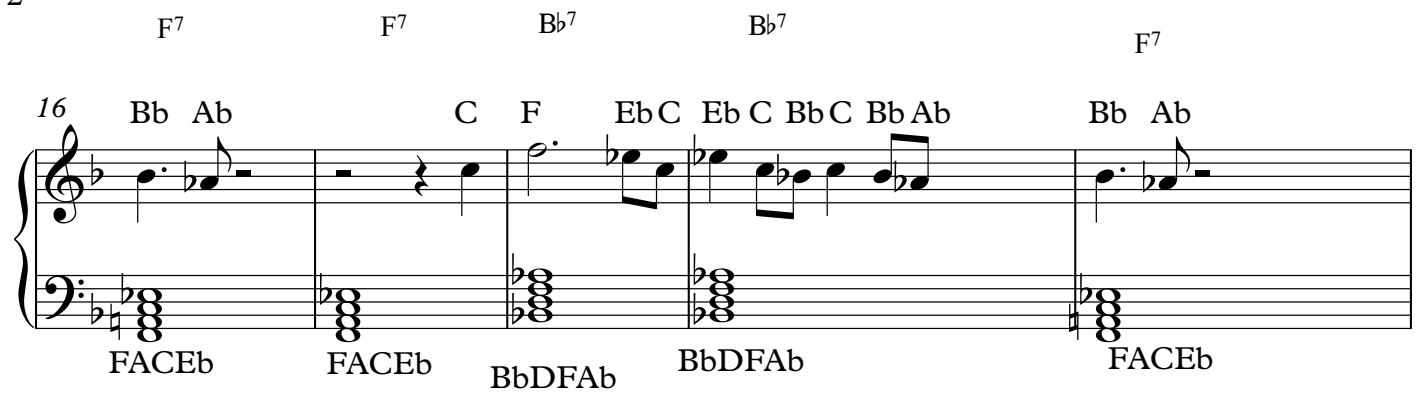
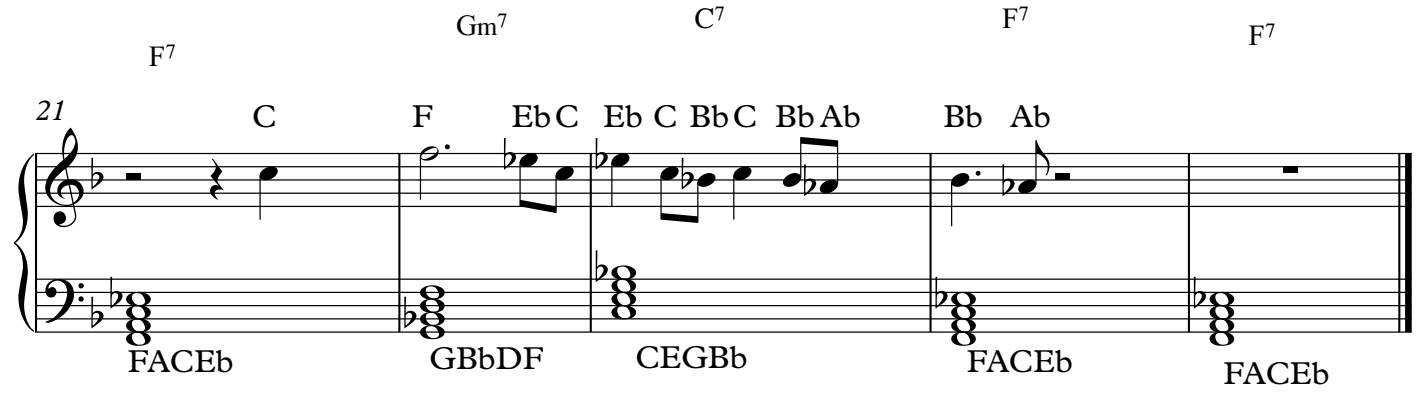
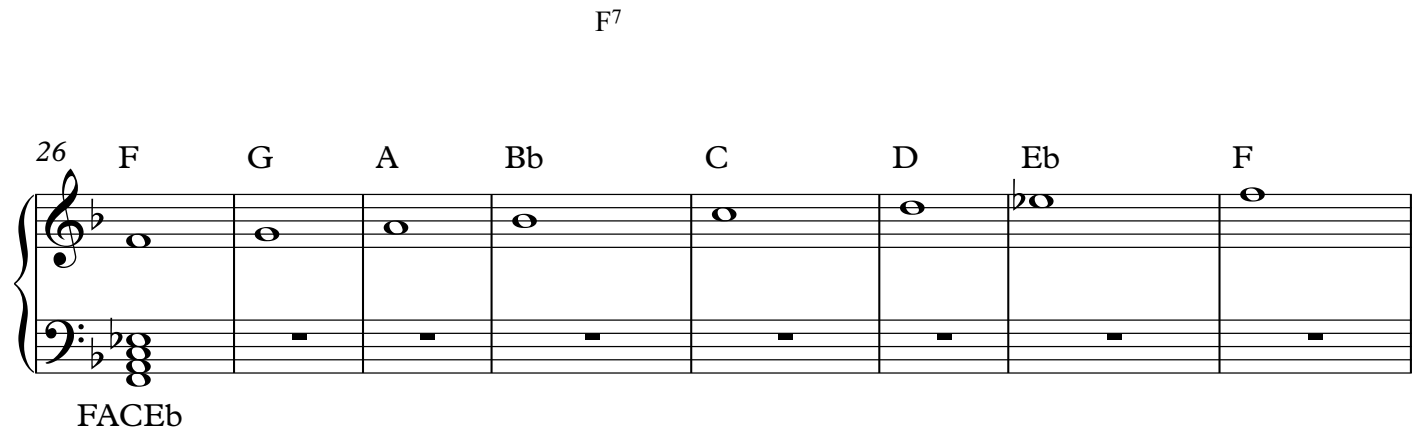




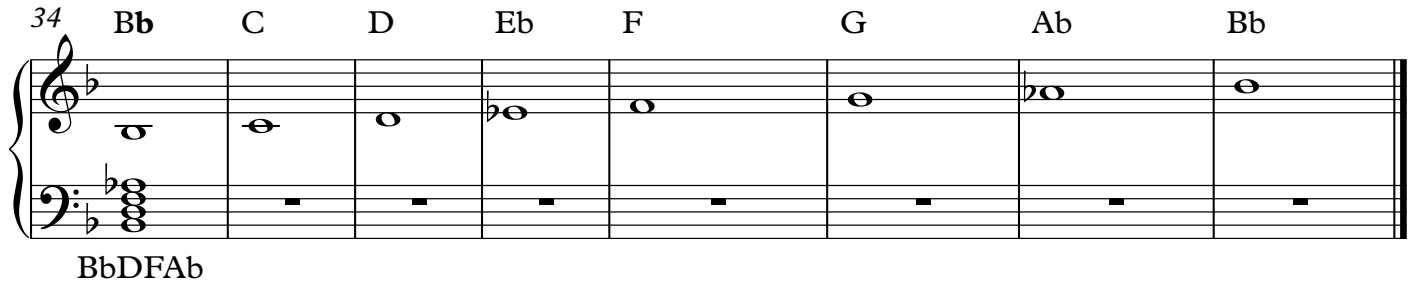
Practice the melody with the chords until you feel comfortable playing with a metronome or recording. Since improvisation makes up most of the composition let's go over the scales to use on each chord. If you struggle with the mixolydian or dorian scales, go back to the previous lessons to work on these scales separately.

F7 uses an F7 Mixolydian Scale.



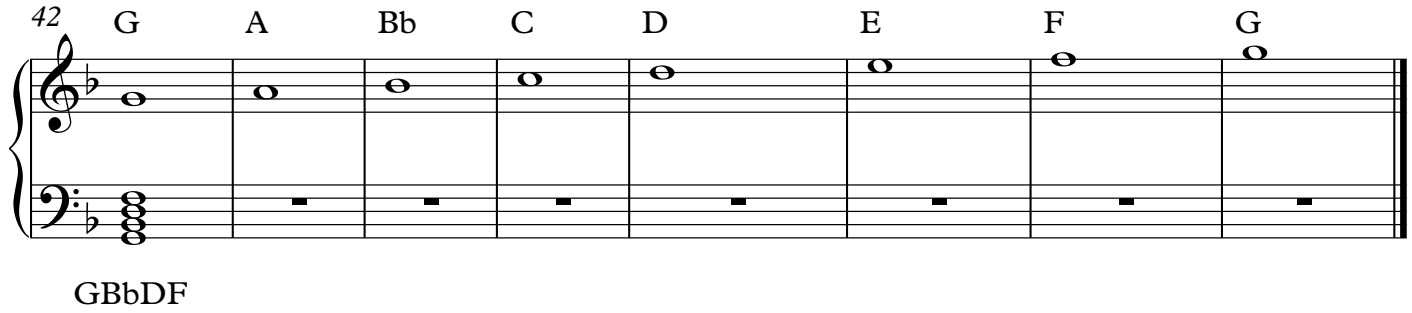
Bb7 uses a Bb7 Mixolydian scale.

$B\flat^7$

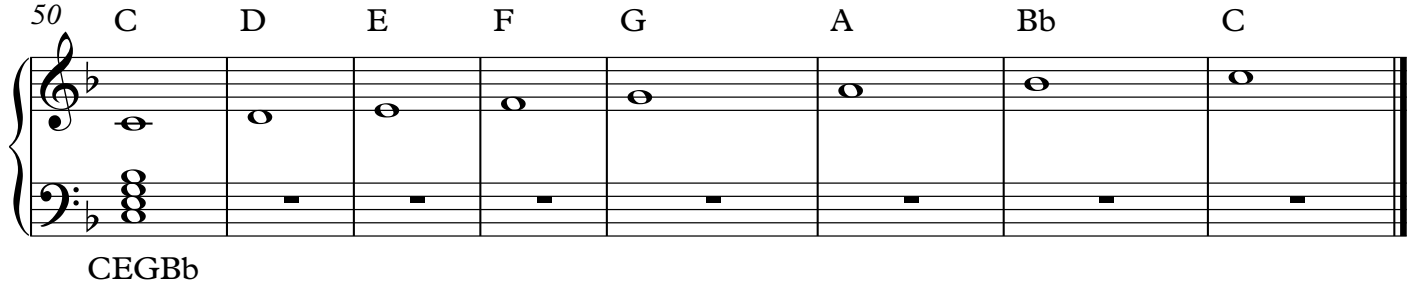


Lastly let's work on the 2-5-1 at the end of the form, Gmin7 and C7

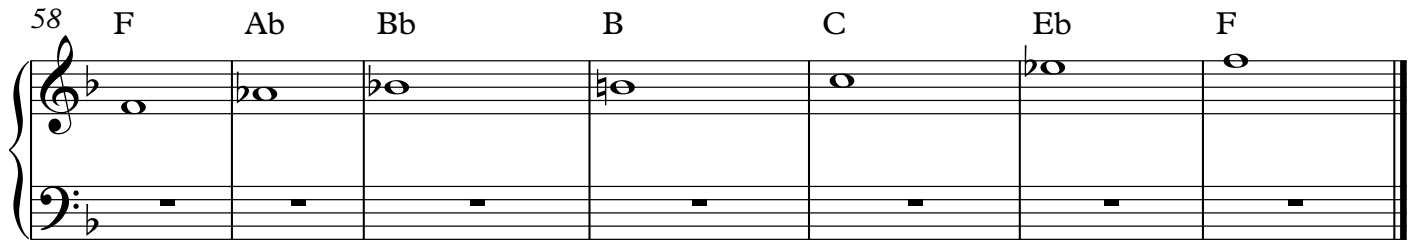
Gm^7



C^7

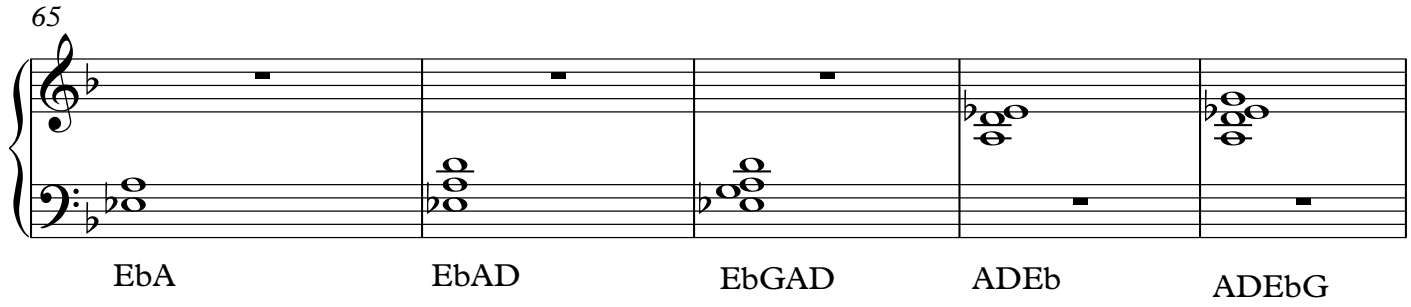


Lastly, we'll look at the F blues scale. The melody centers around this scale and is a great way to come up with ideas for improvising. Refer back to pentatonic and blues scales in the curriculum if you struggle with this scale.



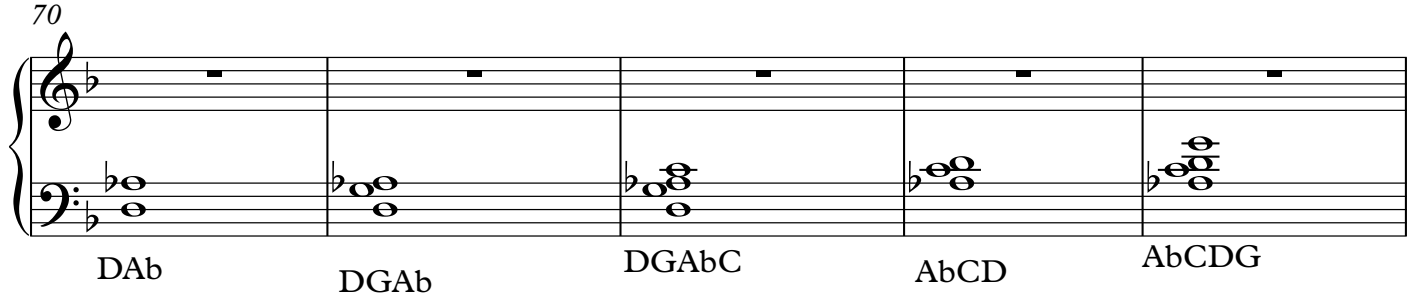
Now that you've gotten used to root position voicings let's take a look at some better sounding non root position voicings. First we'll start with F7

F7

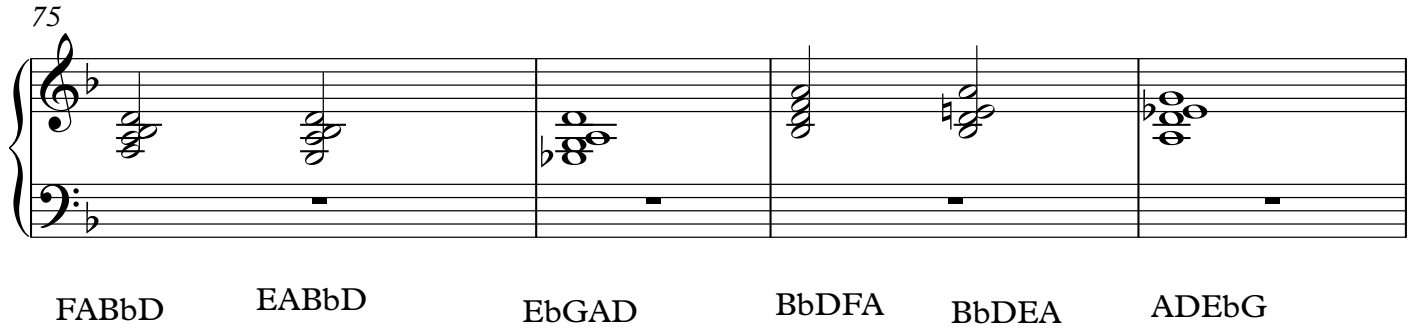


Next is Bb7

B♭7

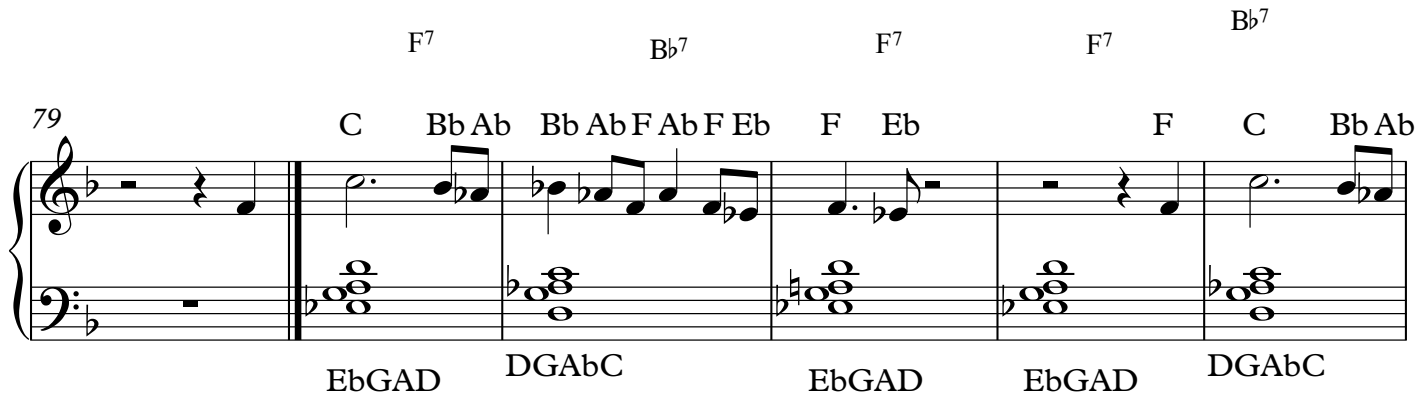


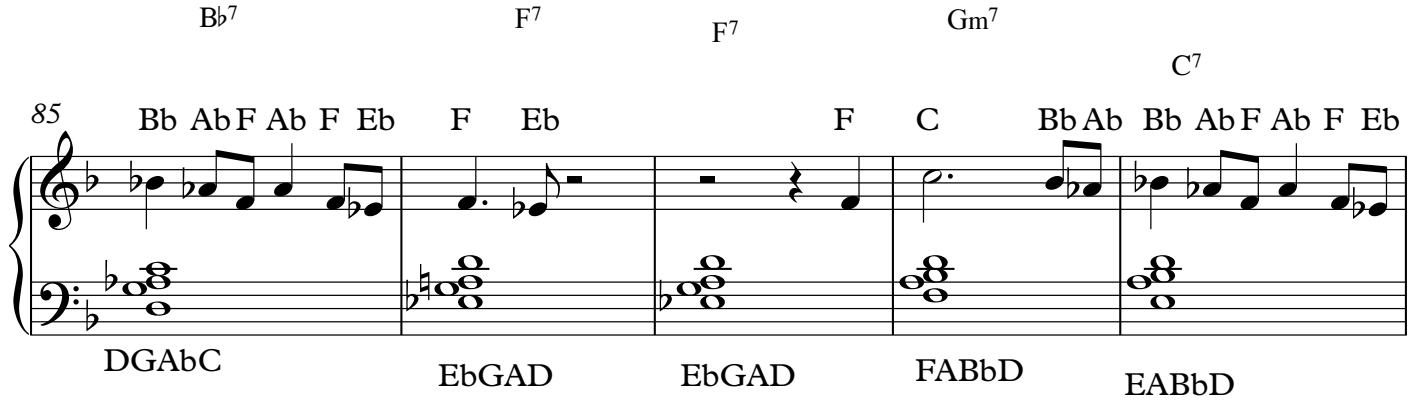
Lastly is the 2-5-1 leading back in to F7. Gmin7 to C7

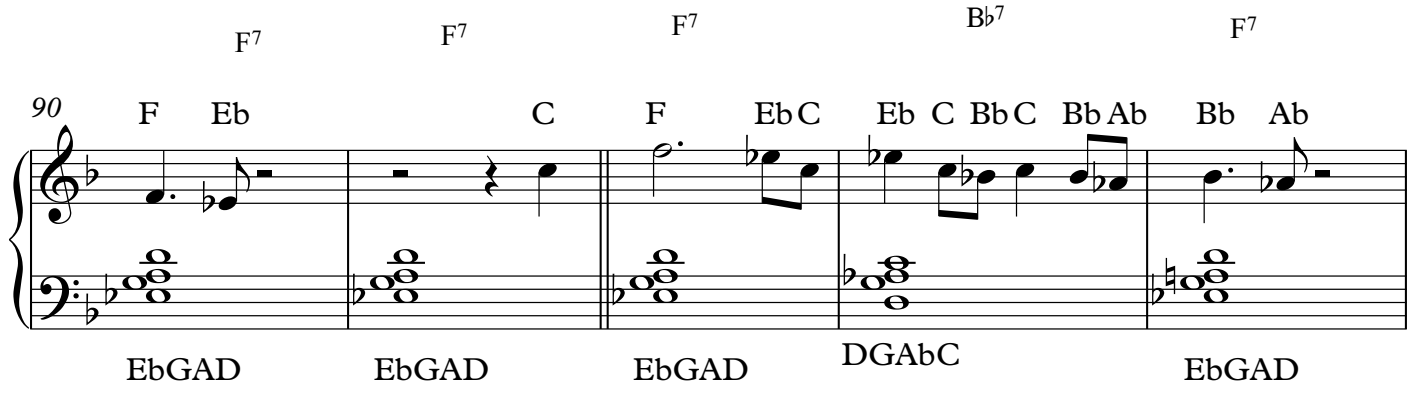


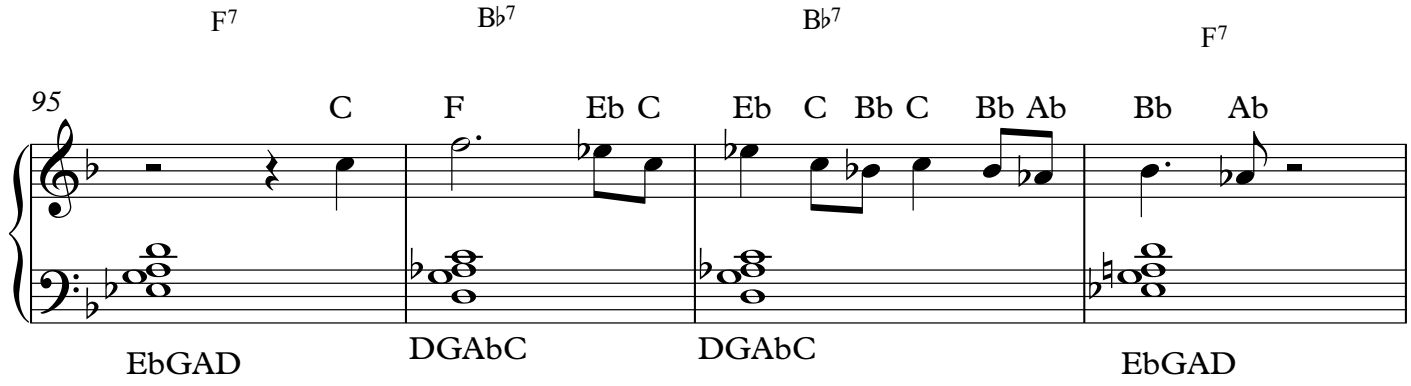
For more 2-5-1 options refer back to the 2-5-1 voicings exercise in the curriculum.

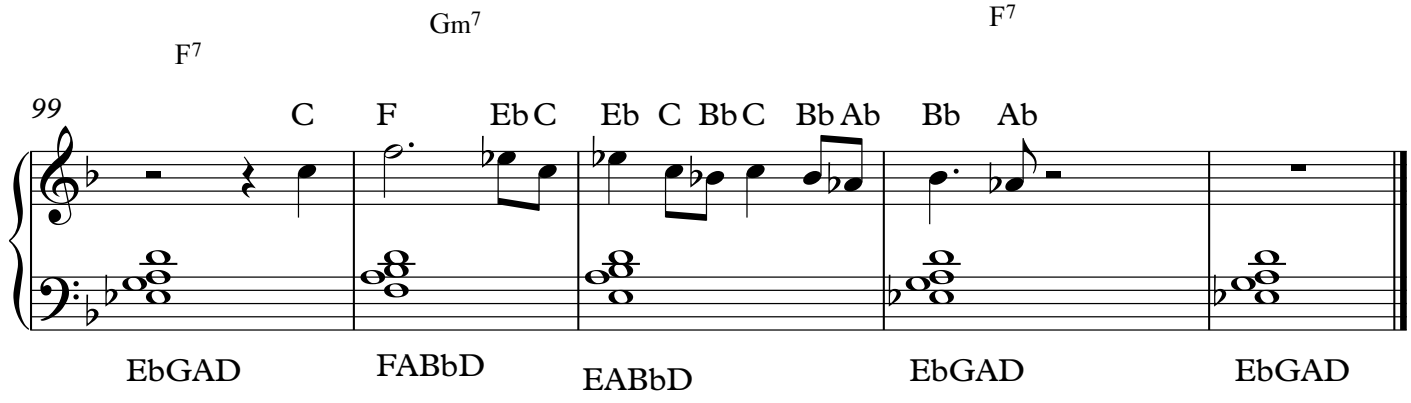
After practicing these voicings in the left hand, now try playing the melody along with the rootless voicings. Once you are comfortable playing the melody and voicings, practice soloing over the form using the scales discussed earlier. It is recommended that the student listen to and transcribe solos of master players to work on vocabulary, rhythm and phrasing.






F7
F7
F7
B♭7
F7
90
F Eb
C
F Eb C
Eb C Bb C Bb Ab
Bb Ab
EbGAD
EbGAD
EbGAD
DGAbC
EbGAD


F7
B♭7
B♭7
F7
95
C
F Eb C
Eb C Bb C Bb Ab
Bb Ab
EbGAD
DGAbC
DGAbC
EbGAD


F7
Gm7
F7
99
C
F Eb C
Eb C Bb C Bb Ab
Bb Ab
EbGAD
FABbD
EABbD
EbGAD
EbGAD