

B \flat KMEA State Jazz Improvisation Builder

Tenor Sax and Trumpet

Blue Bossa Changes

Tips for Practicing Improvisation and Making the Changes: Blue Bossa by Kenny Dorham

- 1 – Listen to several recordings of this jazz classic.
- 2 – Learn to play the original melody (by ear if possible).
- 3 – Embellish the melody and play along with the backing track.
- 4 – Slowly play chord tones (filled in notes below) of each chord (Root, 3rd 5th, 7th, 9th) in various ways.
- 5 – Gradually build your scale/chord knowledge at a SLOW tempo (Dorian Minors, Minor ii – V, Major ii – V). Use a metronome and get faster only when you are comfortable.
- 6 – Practice easy patterns over the chord changes with a metronome at a slow tempo. Highlight chord tones (3rds and 7ths) and get those sounds in your brain, ears and fingers.
- 7 – Notice all the common tones through the chord changes and also notice when there are big changes. With a metronome at a slow tempo, try to change your scales, chords, and patterns along with the chord changes.
- 8 – Practice making your own melodies over the changes. Start slow and then gradually get faster. Once you are comfortable, try it with the backing track.

Note: Filled in notes of the recommended scales below are the chord tones: Root, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th

Latin (Straight Eighths) ♩ = 160

The musical notation is presented in four systems, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B \flat). The time signature is 4/4. The notes are filled in, representing chord tones. Slanted lines indicate the end of a phrase.

System 1: Chords D-7 and G-7. The first measure contains notes D, F, A, B \flat , D. The second measure contains notes G, B \flat , D, F, G. The third measure contains notes D, F, A, B \flat , D. The fourth measure contains notes G, B \flat , D, F, G.

System 2: Chords E δ 7, A7b9, and D-7. The first measure contains notes E, G, B, D, E. The second measure contains notes A, C, E, G, A. The third measure contains notes D, F, A, B \flat , D. The fourth measure contains notes D, F, A, B \flat , D.

System 3: Chords F-7, B \flat 7, and E \flat Maj7. The first measure contains notes F, A, C, E, F. The second measure contains notes B \flat , D, F, A, B \flat . The third measure contains notes E, G, B, D, E. The fourth measure contains notes E, G, B, D, E.

System 4: Chords E δ 7, A7b9, and D-7. The first measure contains notes E, G, B, D, E. The second measure contains notes A, C, E, G, A. The third measure contains notes D, F, A, B \flat , D. The fourth measure contains notes D, F, A, B \flat , D.