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George Benson

Player Studies

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George's Jazz

UNIT 3 • **LESSON 14** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab Diagrams

B Flat 9 Rootless Voicing

The chord progression for this tune is:

$Bb9$ | $Em7b5$ | $Ebmaj7$ | $Ab13$ |

The first chord of the loop, the $Bb9$, is played using a really cool voicing that doesn't use the root note. This is simply because the bass player is playing the root note and therefore suggesting the chord. 9th chords usually have the 1st, 3rd, 5th, b7th and 9th in them, but here we are omitting the root and 5th to create the chord. The chord shape itself can be found in the Chord Boxes.

The Charleston Rhythm

Throughout the entire progression, we are using a typical jazz groove called the Charleston rhythm. For that groove, we basically hit the 'one' and 'two and' beats, and specifically with downstrokes. This means you are essentially running in 16th notes, but you don't need to constantly play strict 16th movements

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UNIT 3

George's Jazz

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To play jazz at the level Mr Benson does you need to have a firm grasp of theory and chord construction. In this section Dion will be breaking down a typical Benson jazz progression to get you mastering the rhythm side of his playing as well as the lead.

Lessons:

- "George's Jazz"
- Theory
- Bb9 Chord
- Em7b5 & Ebmaj7
- Ab13 Chord

UNIT 4

Benson's Blues

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UNIT 5

Getting The
Tone

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with the arm. The rhythm pattern looks like as shown below. Focus on getting the Bb9 and rhythm together before moving on.



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