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# Funk Essentials

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## Going Down Town

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### Semitone Funk!

It's now time to dive a little deeper into our G9 groove. Let's use the tab to take a deeper look at how we manipulate the G9 chord:

This is a cool chromatic slide, which we'll be using a lot in funk, so let's talk about that below...

Much like in blues music, we can use chromatics to expand the basic chord and create something a bit more interesting. In this opening funk groove, we're using the G9 chord as our base, but then using the **same shape down a semitone (Gb9)** and the **same shape up a semitone (Ab9)** to create a fun interplay between the chords.

*"The chord is still G9. You don't count the Gb9 and Ab9 as new chords, just movements around the G9. Pretty cool, right?!"*

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#### Town

In this unit we will work through our first full funk track, learning how the guitar player sits amongst the band in a "James Brown era" style groove.

Lessons:

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#### Town

The key thing to remember is this technique works as long as you quite quickly resolve to the G9 chord. So for example, in this track, we use the Gb9 for just a 16th note beat to slide to the G9. The Ab9 is used a little more intensely, sometimes for a quarter of a bar... But never much more than that. **The G9, therefore, remains the focus and the stable element within the groove.**



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