Here are some thoughts from Nathan Graybeal's YouTube post 9 Steps to Mastering Any Jazz Standard.

Learn the Melody

Serves as the melodic basis of your solo. Embellish the melody.

- Change the rhythm
- Add repeated notes and accents
- Add extra notes and pitches
- Improvise over long notes or rests

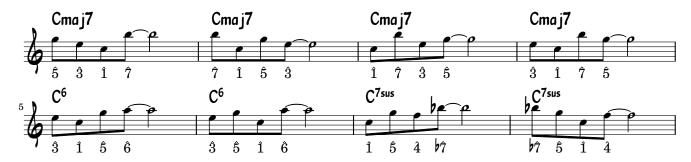
Learn arpeggios of every chord

Learn basic 4 note arpeggios for every chord



Try a different permutation

Rearrange the order of the chord tones.



Add 9th to the arpeggios

Create a constrant stream of 8th notes



Four Rules to remember

Half dim chord

- \(\bar{9} \) is an avoid tone
- 9 is a color tone
- Just play the root at the top So, in a minor ii-v-i, we'd have



Diminished chord

The diminished chord comes from the diminished scale (whole/half dim).



In this case, just go up to the root again.



Minor 7 chords that are functioning as iii-7 chords

• In this case, you should also go up to the root, not the 9th

Chords that only last 2 beats

• In this case, only arpeggiate up 4 notes since that's all we have time for.