Giant Steps Exercises 1 - F Major

Applying some common chord substitutions over John Coltrane's "Giant Steps" can help make chord connections sound more fluid and less angular. In the following exercises, The tonic augmented scale is used heavily. The eighth note II-V lines are based on the following harmonies:

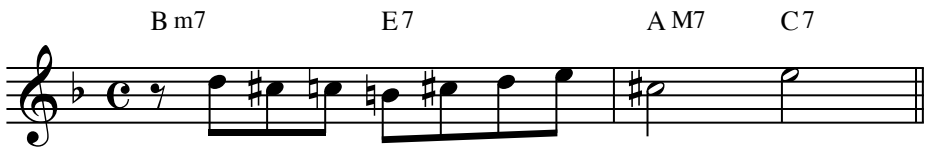
Original Chords: The original II-V, as printed in the original composition
Minor 3rd Substitution: The II-V a minor third interval higher than the original II-V
Tritone Substitution: The II-V a tritone (minor 5th) interval higher than the original II-V

The **lower fragment** of the II is commonly used.
The **upper fragment** of the II is used occasionally and is annotated as "Upper Fragment:"

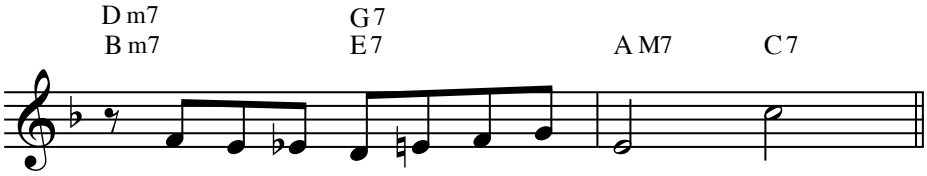
(Measures 4-5)

Note that the chord tone resolution below (measure 5, beat 1) changes with each line:

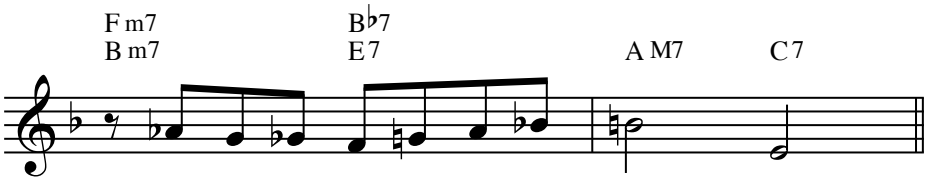
Original Chords (lower fragment):



Minor 3rd Substitution (lower fragment):

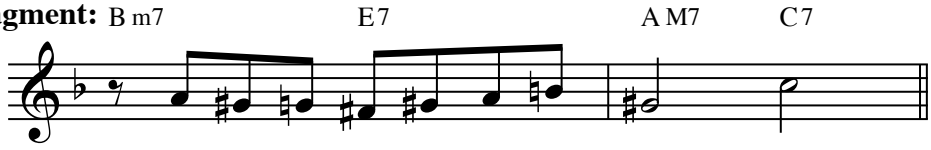


Tritone Substitution (lower fragment):



Upper Fragment:

Original Chords (upper fragment):



Using these exercises to understand the Geometry of Augmented Scale Theory:

The original II-V stems from the Dominant Augmented Scale (Blue triangle to the right).
The minor 3rd sub. (emphasizing II) stems from the Subdominant Augmented Scale (Green triangle to the left).
The tritone sub. (emphasizing II) stems from the Tonic Augmented Scale itself.
The original II chord's upper fragment also implies Subdominant Augmented Scale.

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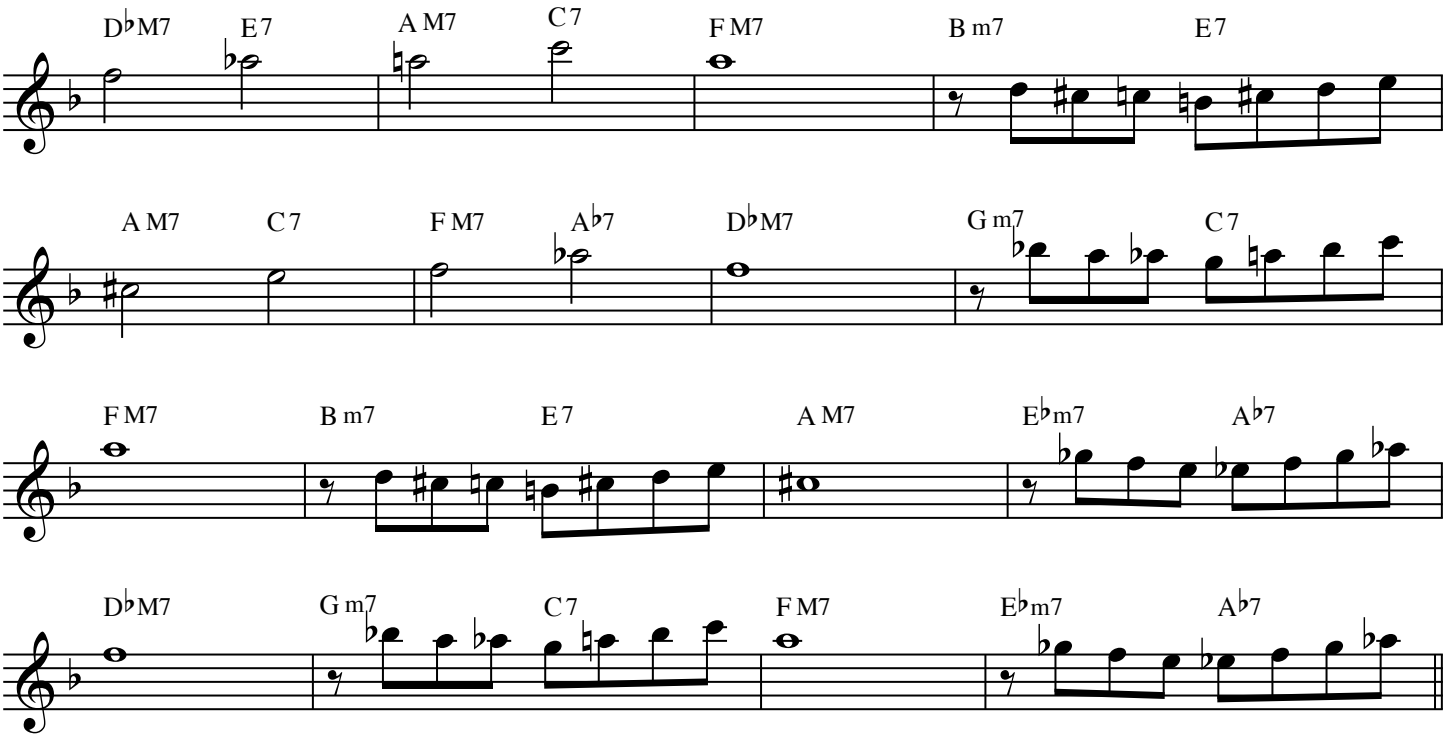
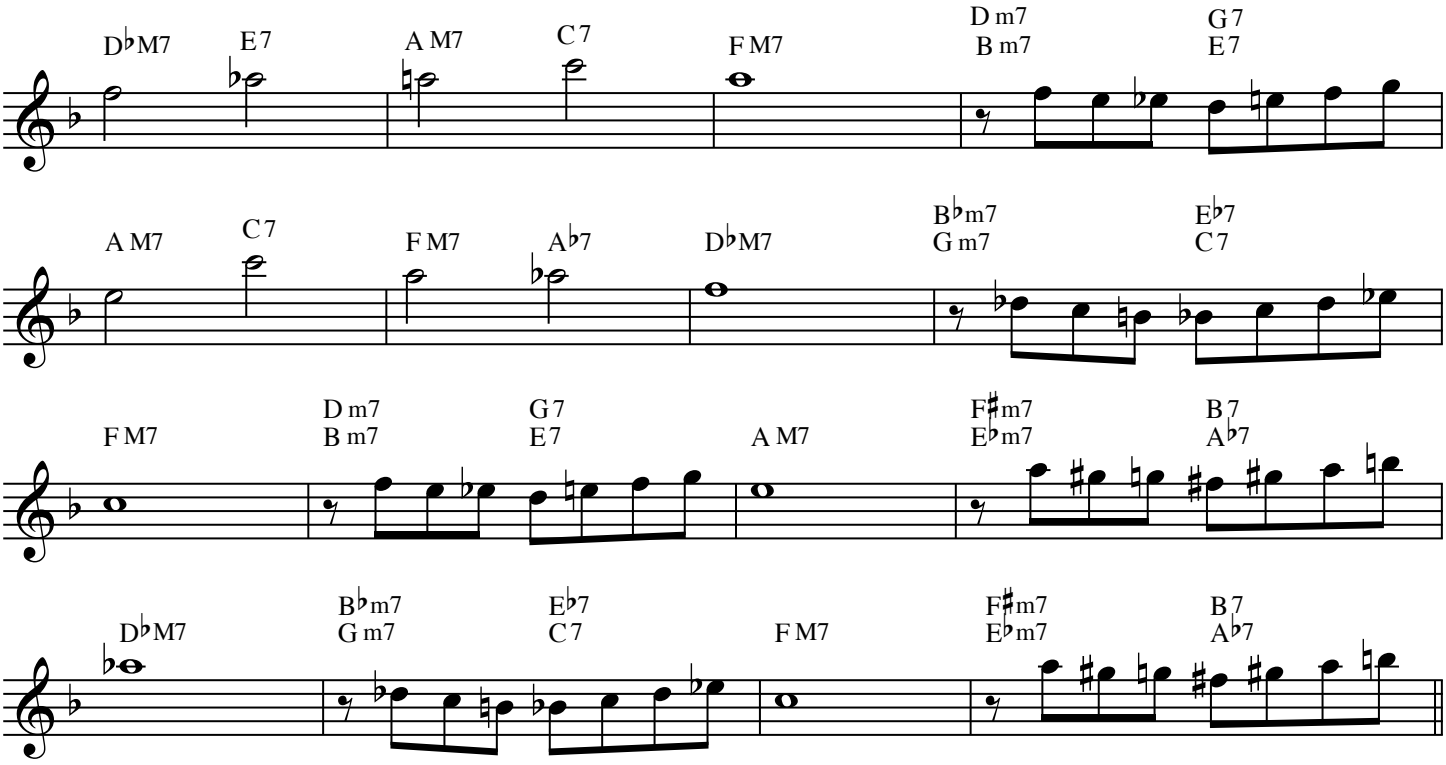
Giant Steps Exercises 1 - F Major

Chorus 1: Original Chords



Chorus 2: Minor 3rd chord substitutions



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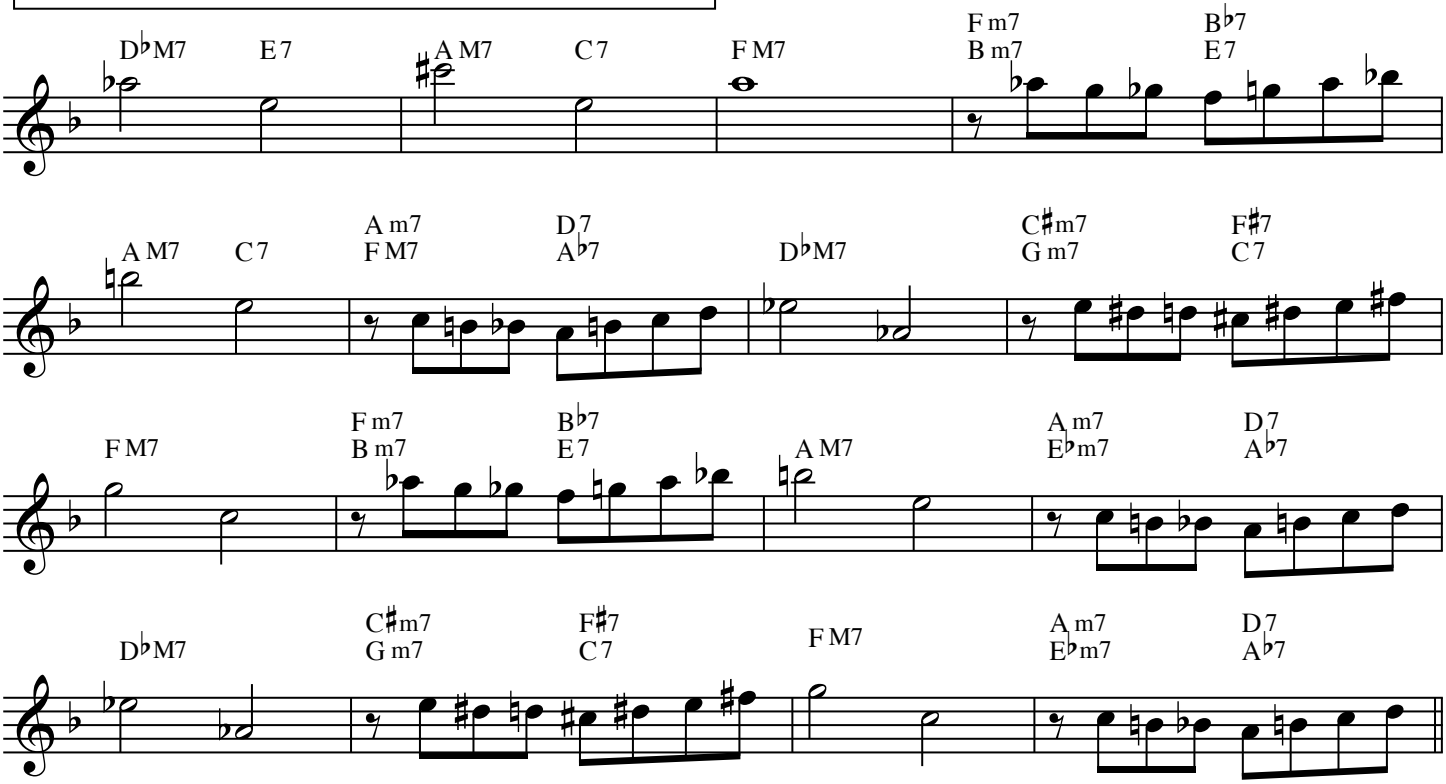
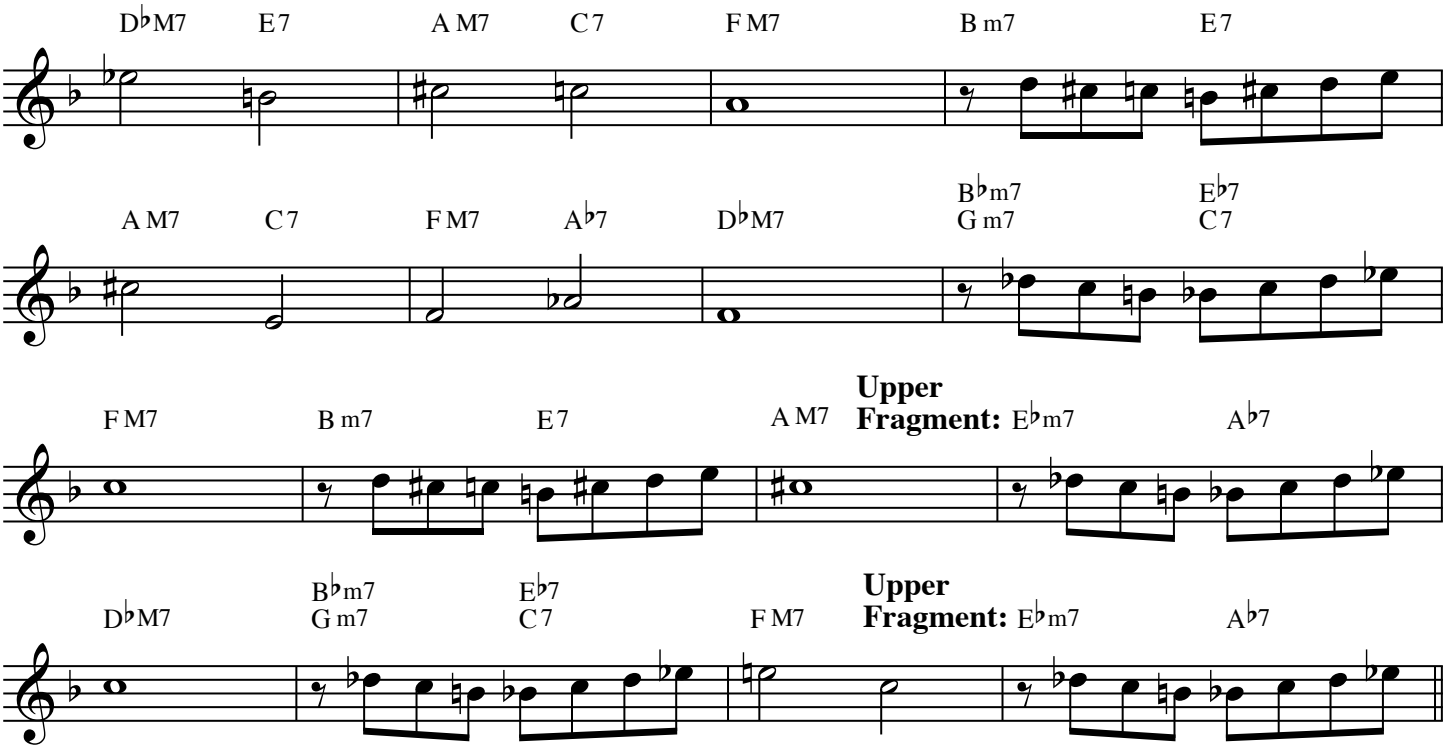
Chorus 3: Tritone chord substitutions



Chorus 4: Mixing chord substitutions

Note that each chorus that mixes chord substitutions includes eighth-note lines that are separated only by half step.



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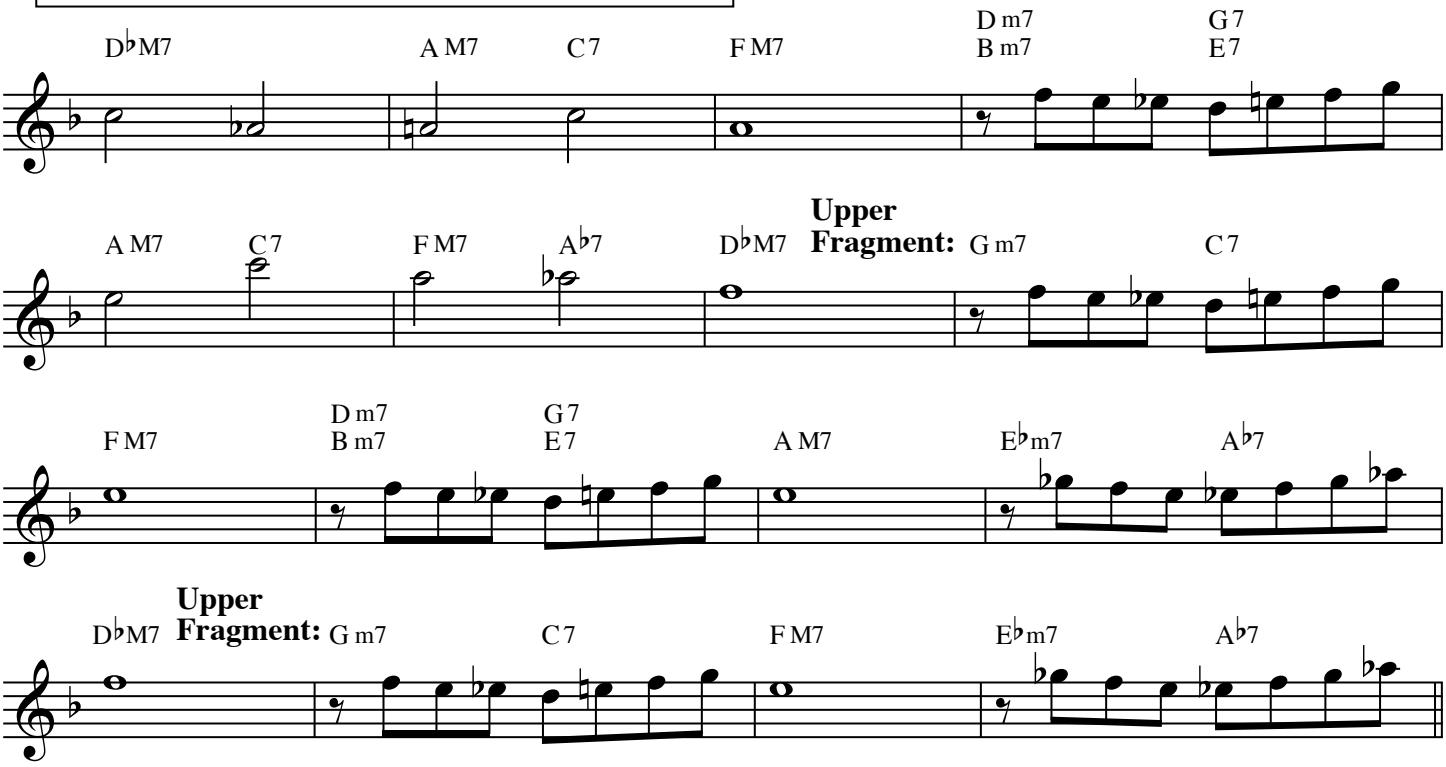
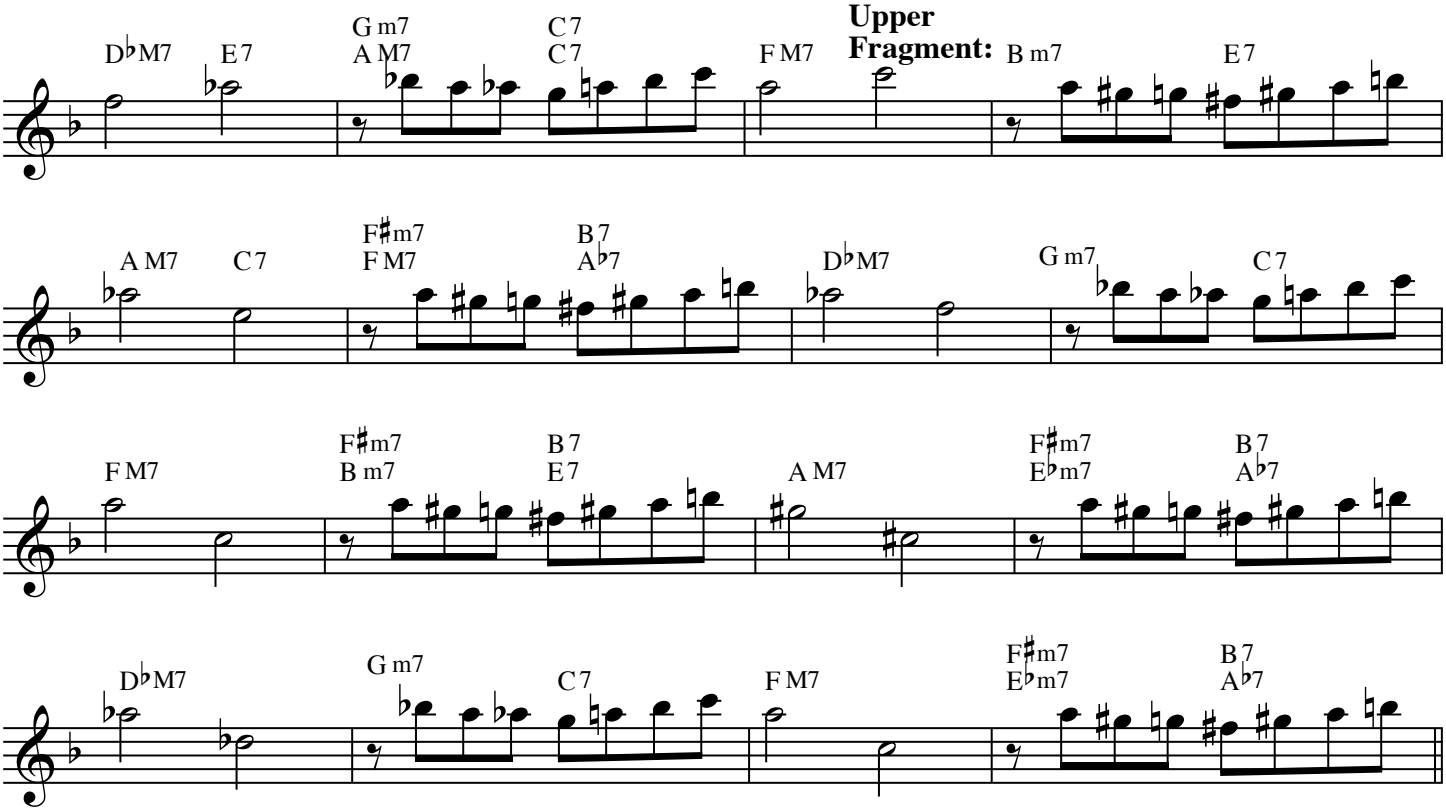
Chorus 5: Mixing chord substitutions



Chorus 6: Mixing chord substitutions



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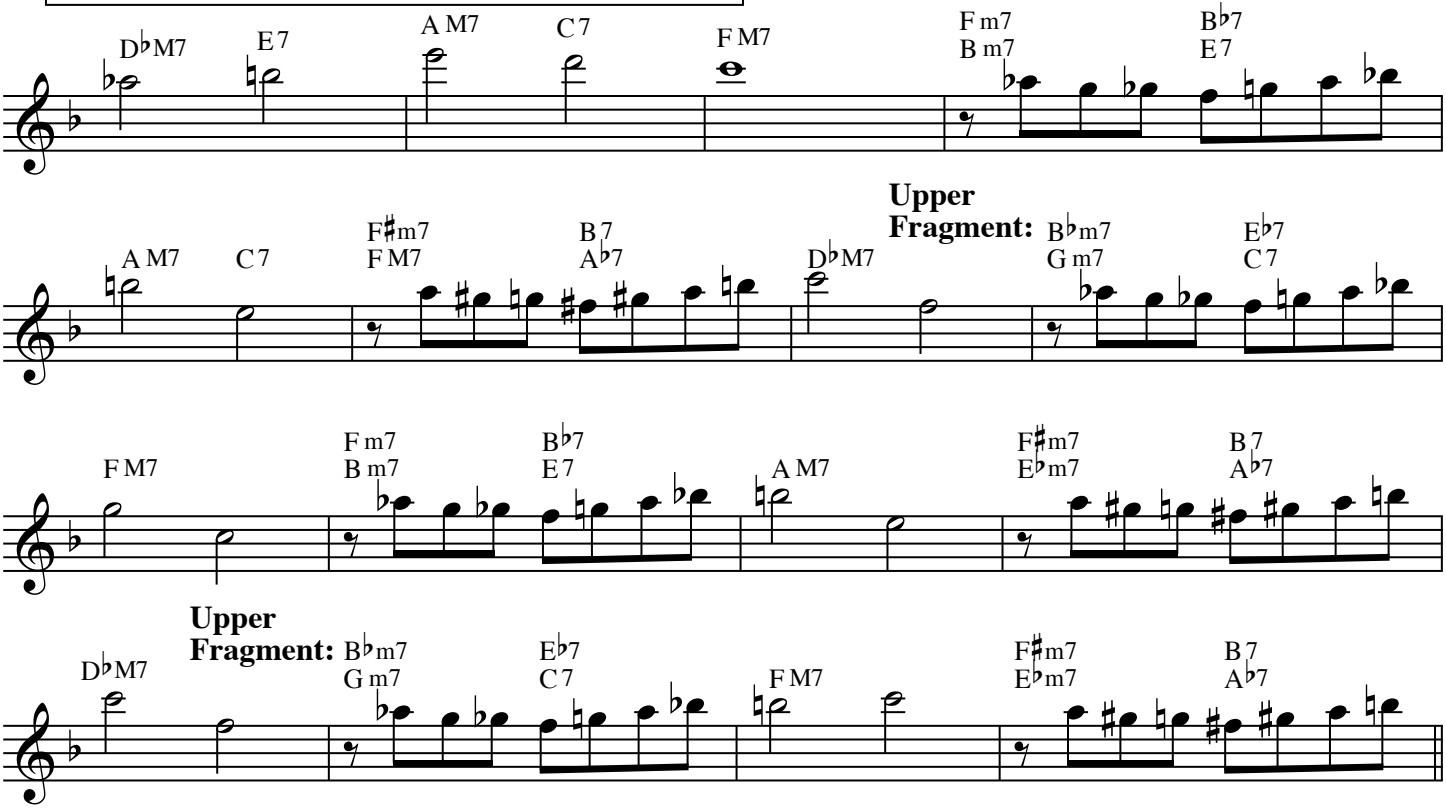
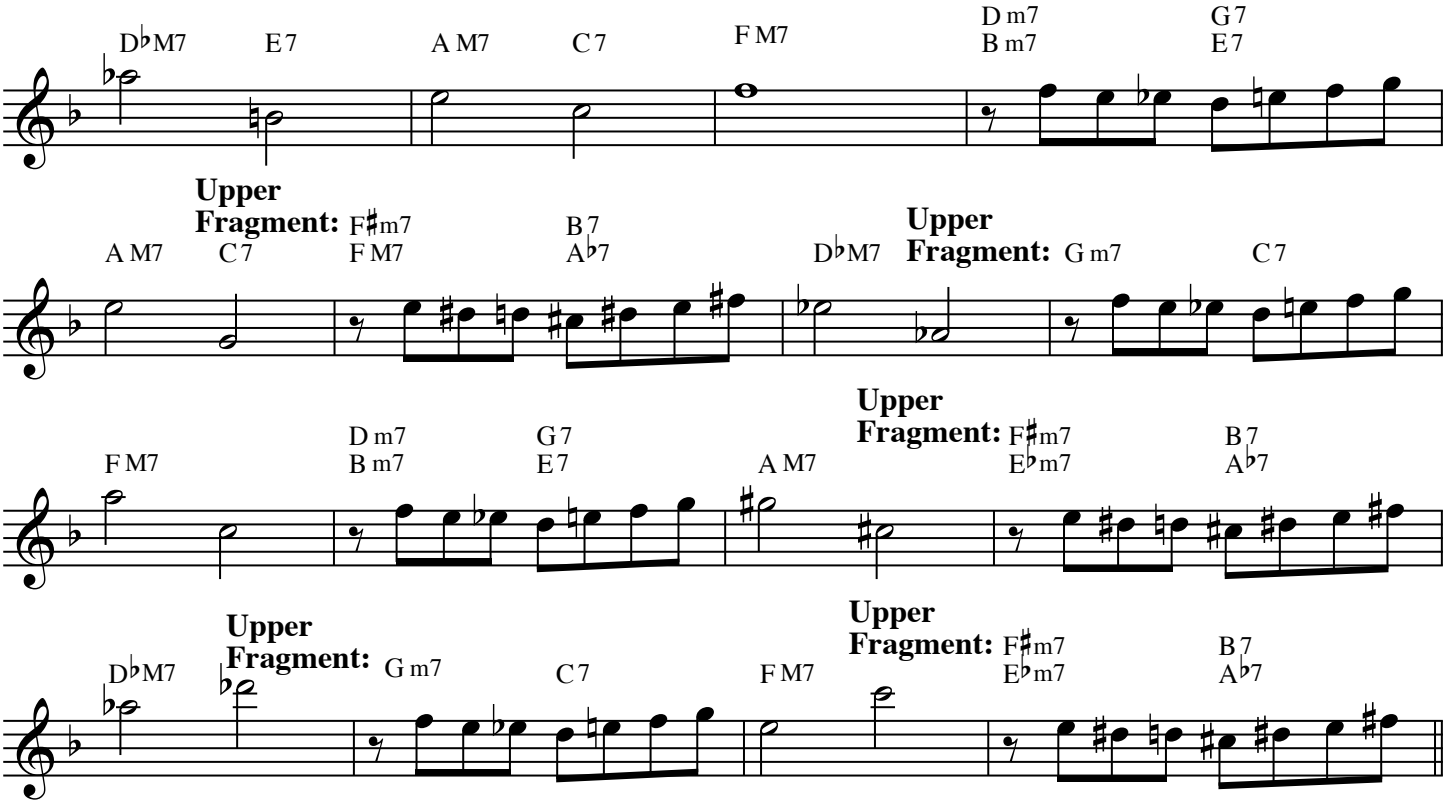
Chorus 7: Mixing chord substitutions



Chorus 8: Mixing chord substitutions



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