

Tenor
Saxophone 1



Chop-Monster 1

JAZZ LANGUAGE TUTOR

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Welcome

As you go through this Chop-Monster book, you will find that improvising jazz is easy and fun, making use of your own inner creativity. Learning to improvise is just like learning to speak. You learned to talk by listening to and imitating your parents, family members and friends. And now you all speak the same language, but you speak it in your own, unique voice.

You will enjoy learning the language of jazz improvisation by listening to and imitating a play-along Compact Disc*. As you listen to the recorded examples, all you have to do is trust your ear. Sing the melodies back, and then find them on your instrument. Soon, these melodies will become your language, and you will be speaking jazz in your own, unique voice. The more you practice the easier and more fun it will be. In the end, you'll be the Chop-Monster!

Have fun!

*Your teacher will play the CD during class. You may also purchase your own CD (sold separately, #251028).



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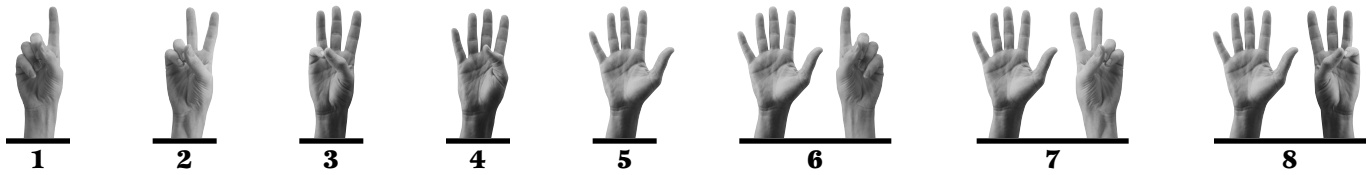
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Finding Your Chops

Great jazz improvisers have great **chops**. Your chops are your abilities: tone, technique, and most important for improvisers, the ability to create melodies on the spot. When a musician has the highest abilities (the most chops), the other musicians call him or her a "monster."

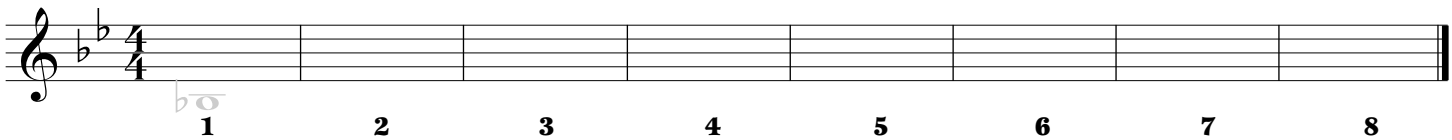
① SING

Sing the concert B \flat scale, watching your teacher's conducting cues to change to each new note. Your teacher will use the hand signs below. As you sing, say the scale numbers, "One–Two–Three," and so on.



② TRANSCRIBE

Using whole notes, **transcribe** (write down) the concert B \flat scale you just sang.



③ PRACTICE

Follow your teacher's hand signs and **sing** Exercises A and B below. Once again, say the scale numbers as you sing.

Ⓐ



Ⓑ



P

utting It All Together

"That's Cool!" gets its name from the **cool** style of jazz, which was played by monster musicians like trumpeter Miles Davis and saxophonists Lester Young and Stan Getz. Cool style playing uses relatively few notes and little or no vibrato.

1 GETTING READY

Now you are ready to improvise on your own to the changes of "That's Cool!" using *all* of the elements you've learned so far! Once again the chord changes are:



The chord changes for your instrument are:



2 IMPROVISE



Call-and-Response

CD Track 15 features call-and-response melodies using scales and chromatic notes.

- (A) **Sing** in response to the CD, listening carefully to the style and inflection.
- (B) **Play** in response to the CD at least 20 times before trying the next section.



Try It On Your Own!

Now **play** with CD Track 9 to improvise to "That's Cool!" using the call-and-response melodies you've learned so far to help form your solo.

CHOP-MONSTER CHALLENGE 9

Monsters listen to other musicians play, not just a little, but a lot! They also transcribe solos from recordings as a way to learn about other musicians' styles. You're going to have a chance to transcribe an entire solo in the cool style, much like Miles Davis would have played.

Developing your transcribing chops will take practice. So, don't be discouraged if this Chop-Monster Challenge takes a while!



Transcribe the Solo

Before you begin, it will help you to know that the chord changes are exactly the same as the solo section for "That's Cool!" Plus, every melody is derived from the call-and-response melodies you've already played!

- (A) Find some music manuscript paper and a pencil, in case you want to make notes.
- (B) **Listen** to CD Track 16 several times through before you transcribe any of it.
- (C) **Review** small sections of the solo. Listen and sing to one melody at a time.
- (D) **Play** the melodies that you hear, doing your best to get the rhythms right.
- (E) Once you think you've got it, play along with the trumpet player on CD Track 16 and see how you did. (You can also play your transcription with CD Track 9 and give it your own interpretation!)
- (F) If you can, write down the solo that you have transcribed.

SPEAK IN YOUR BEST VOICE: *Be sure you are listening to yourself, and in the process using your best sound. The melodies you have learned "belong" to you now, and you can be proud to say them, with your own personality.*

