

# OLEO

(The Complete Prestige Recordings, 1954)

By Sonny Rollins

In 1954 Sonny Rollins recorded his composition "Oleo," as well as several other of his originals, for Prestige as a member of the Miles Davis group.

The approach to these "rhythm changes" is very relaxed with considerable use of space as well as ghosted and subtone notes. There is an anticipation of the F chord in measure 38 (triplet of beat 4) and an Fm substitution in measure 39. In measures 42–49, Rollins employs  $\flat 5$  and  $\flat 9$  as well as a tritone substitution: C $\sharp$  Lydian for G7 in measure 49.

There are F minor substitutions in measure 51 (beats 3–4, for G7) and measure 55. A series of upbeat notes punctuates the solo in measure 59 (as well as measures 27, 35, and 44), and a  $\sharp 5$  is used for G7 in measure 61 (as well as measures 37 and 53). There are encircling upper and lower chromatic neighbors into the 5th in measure 66 (first three notes), which cause the  $\sharp 5$  to occur on the downbeat and the resolution to the natural 5th to occur on the weaker second beat. Notice the scoop in measure 71 (think blues). Measure 74 features the 9th and 13th; measure 75 has a Bm7 arpeggio resolving down with a 4–3 suspension (preceded by a leading tone A $\sharp$ ). Measure 78 uses the  $\sharp 11$ , and measure 79 makes use of a pivot tone (E). The solo ends with a sequence a half step up (substituting C $\sharp$  major for C major) in measure 89.

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## Head

Fast Swing  $\text{♩} = 220$  ( $\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{♩}$ )

1 C A7 Dm7 G7 Em7 A7 Dm7 G7

5 C7 F Em7 A7 1. Dm7 G7 2. Dm7 G7

## Bridge

10 Bm E7 A7 D7 G7

18 C A7 Dm7 G7 Em7 A7 Dm7 G7