

In order to understand the most basic and fundamental aspects of a song or solo, a general analysis of the chord progression is presented. This analysis gives us a consistent starting point to work with before discussing more advanced principles. For example, if part of a song is in F Major, we would expect the soloist to use an F Major scale over those chords. This avoids any long, over-detailed explanations of a song or solo and lets us examine techniques we wouldn't immediately expect, such as using F Lydian in the previous example instead of F Major. This basic harmonic analysis is supplied on an analysis sheet that accompanies every lead sheet or solo. This harmonic analysis is provided separately on the analysis sheet so as not to clutter the lead sheet and leave it clear for you to play through.

Example 1: "Solar" – The lead sheet.

# SOLAR

By Miles Davis

♩ = 165

1 Cm(maj7) Gm7 C7

Musical notation for measures 1-3 of 'Solar'. The key signature has two flats (Bb, Eb) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 1 starts with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, and a quarter note G. Measure 2 has a quarter rest, a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, and a quarter note G. Measure 3 has a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, a quarter note G, and a half note C.

5 Fmaj7 Fm7 Bb7

Musical notation for measures 4-6 of 'Solar'. Measure 4 has a quarter rest, a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, and a quarter note G. Measure 5 has a quarter rest, a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, and a quarter note G. Measure 6 has a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, a quarter note G, and a half note Bb.

9 Ebmaj7 Ebm7 Ab7 Dbmaj7 Dm7(b5) G7b9

Musical notation for measures 7-9 of 'Solar'. Measure 7 has a quarter rest, a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, and a quarter note G. Measure 8 has a quarter rest, a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, and a quarter note G. Measure 9 has a quarter note Bb, a quarter note Eb, a quarter note G, and a half note Bb.

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