xharp Drills

20 short drills for both hands on the xharp, a 6/6 cross-strung harp. Roman numerals name the chords in C.

o = red row: C D E F♯ G♯ A♯ **x** = blue row: F G A B C♯ D♯

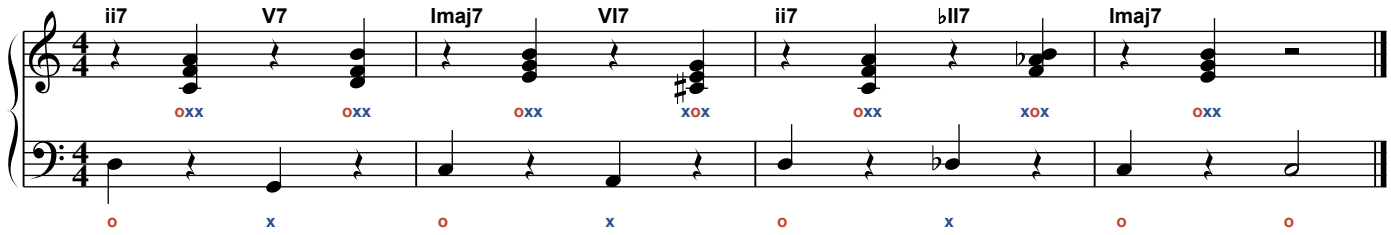
Marks read from the bottom note of each hand up.

Hands. Upper staff is the right hand, lower staff the left. In each hand the thumb (1) takes the top note and fingers 2, 3, 4 follow downward; no hand has more than four notes.

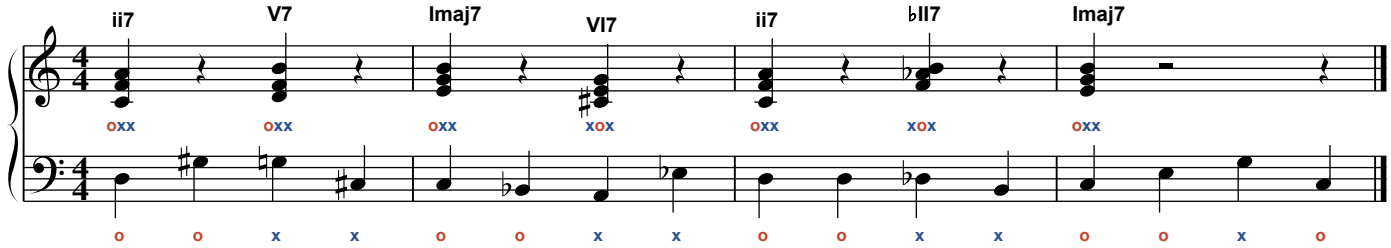
How to practise. Loop each drill slowly until the hands find the shapes by colour, then move it up a whole step (same colours) and up a half step (colours swap).

Patterns

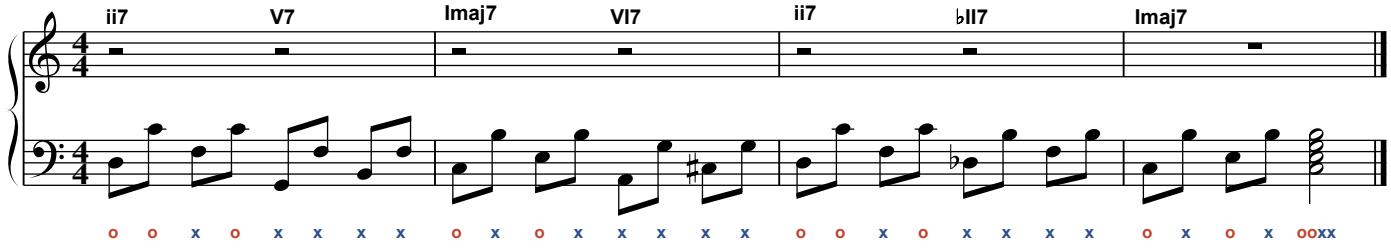
Oom-pah (boom-chick)



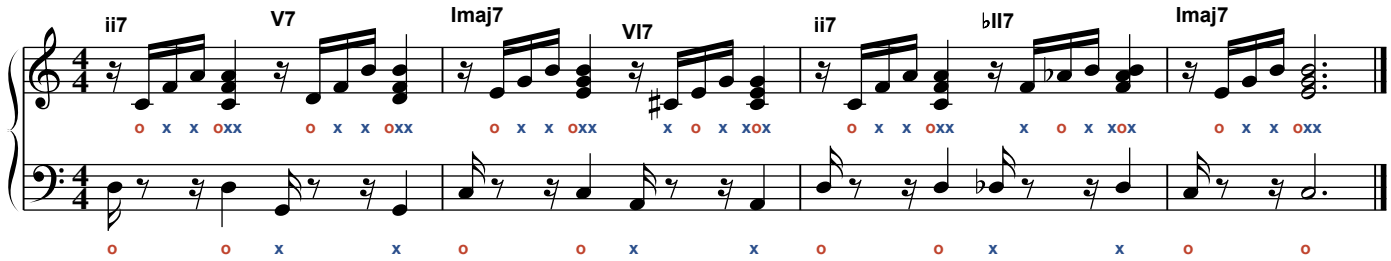
Walking bass, chromatic approaches



Alberti on guide tones



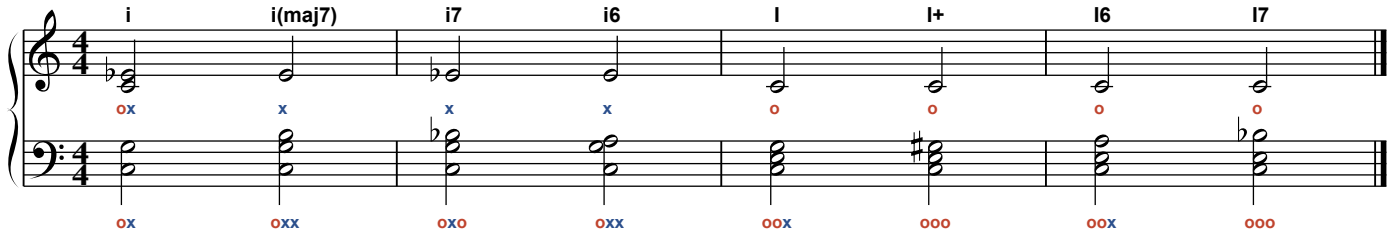
Rolled chords (arpeggiando)



Locked hands: sixth-diminished (A and A♭ trade)

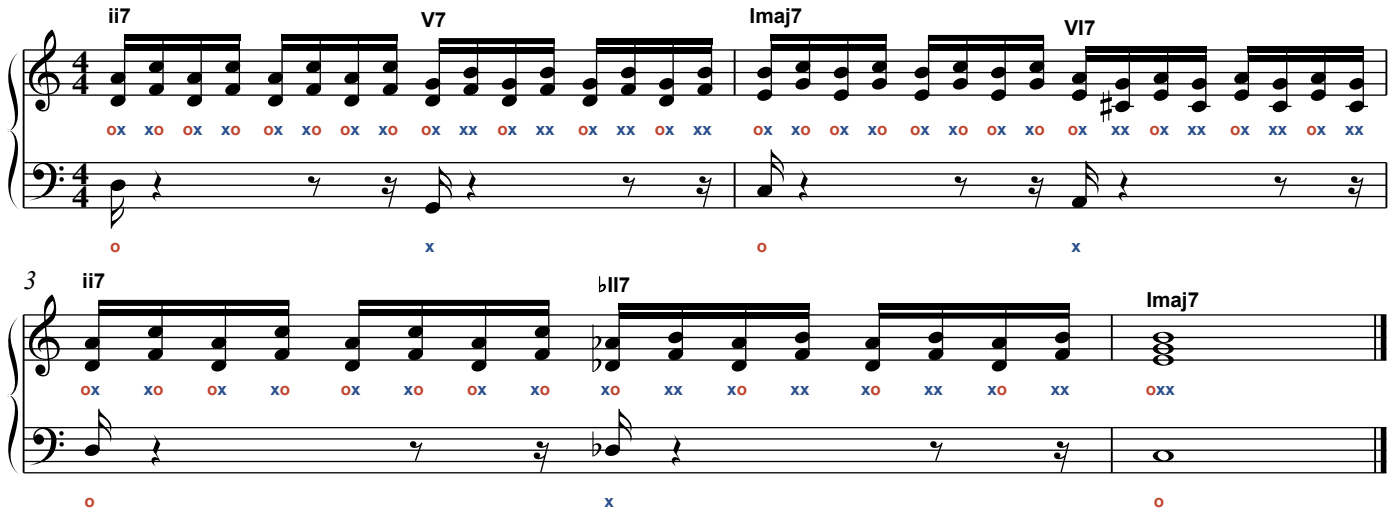


Line cliché: chromatic inner voice



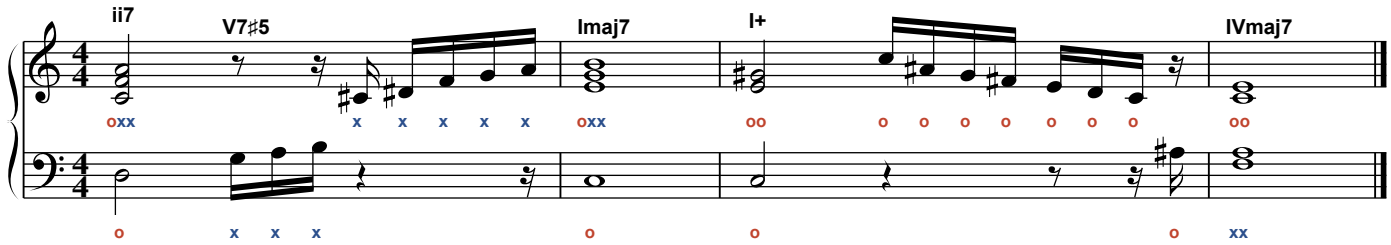
Bisbigliando (whisper tremolo)

The hands alternate on the upper staff: left hand takes the lower pair, right hand the upper pair, as fast and soft as you can.



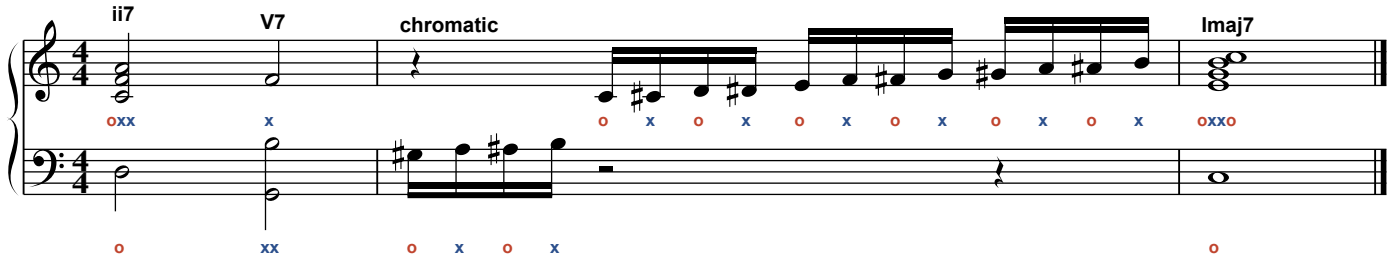
Rowsweep: one-row whole-tone glissando

A run that stays in one colour is a whole-tone scale: sweep it with one finger.

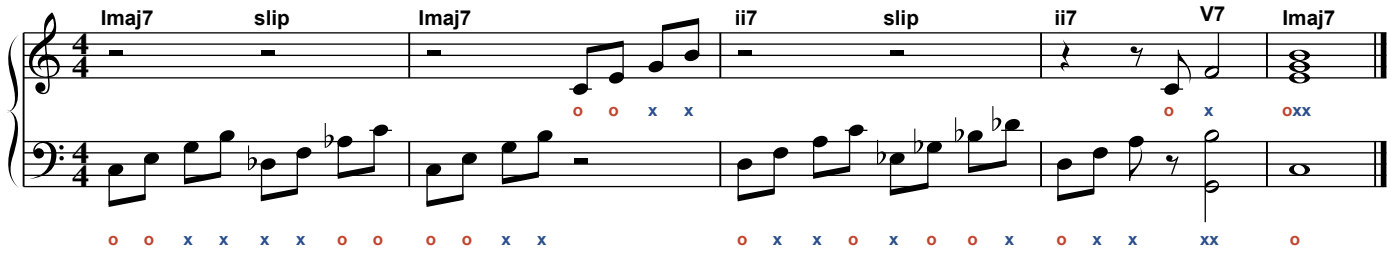


Crossing glissando: chromatic sweep

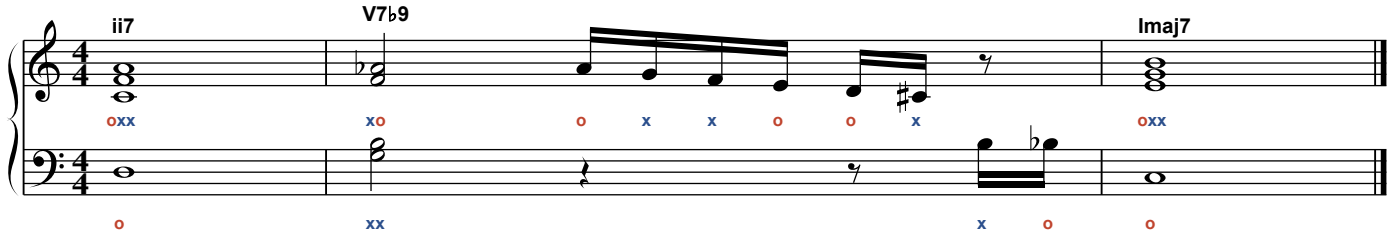
Every string in turn, crossing from row to row.



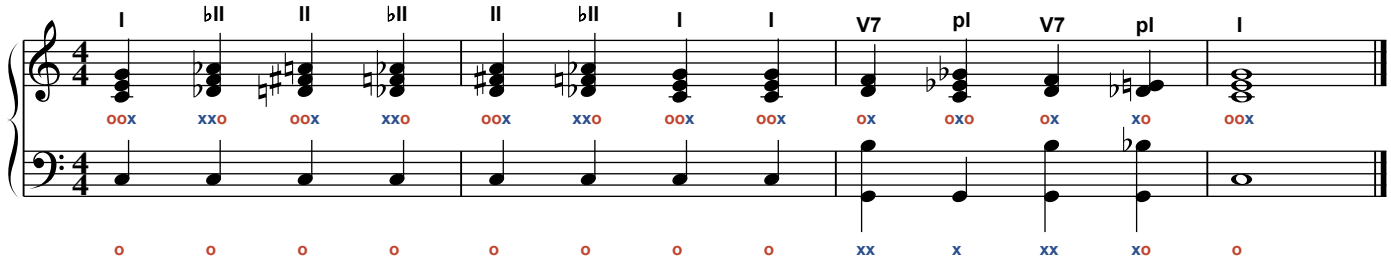
Slip arpeggio: same shape, other row



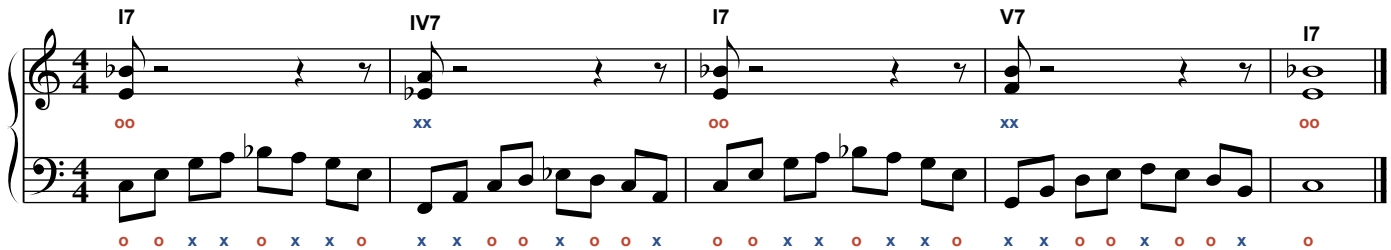
Pair-walk: octatonic run over V7♭9



Chromatic planing over a pedal

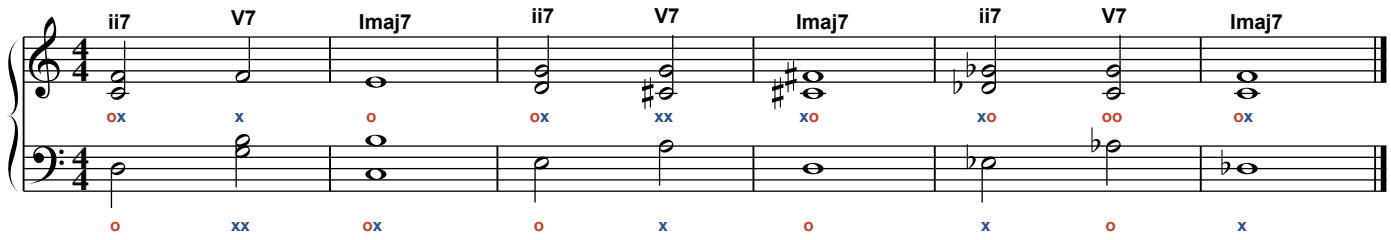


Boogie bass on I7–IV7–V7

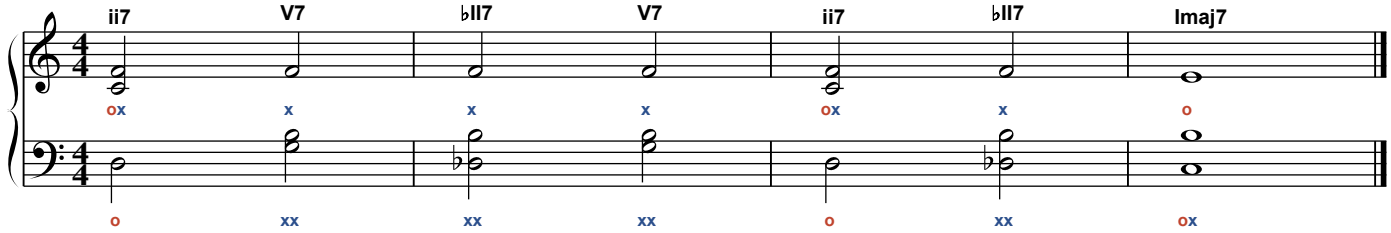


Jazz moves

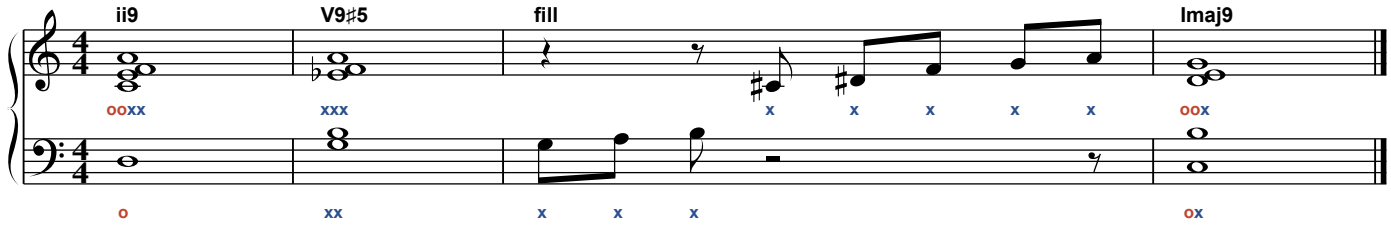
Guide tones: ii–V–I up a whole step, then a half step



Tritone sub: hold the tritone, hop the root

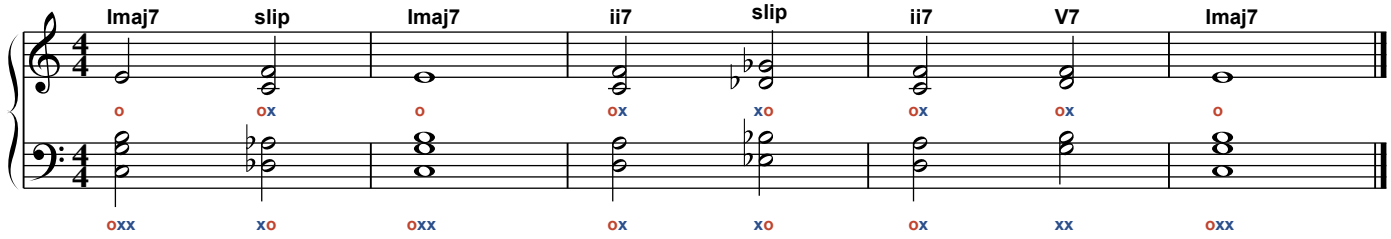


Whole-tone dominant: one row only

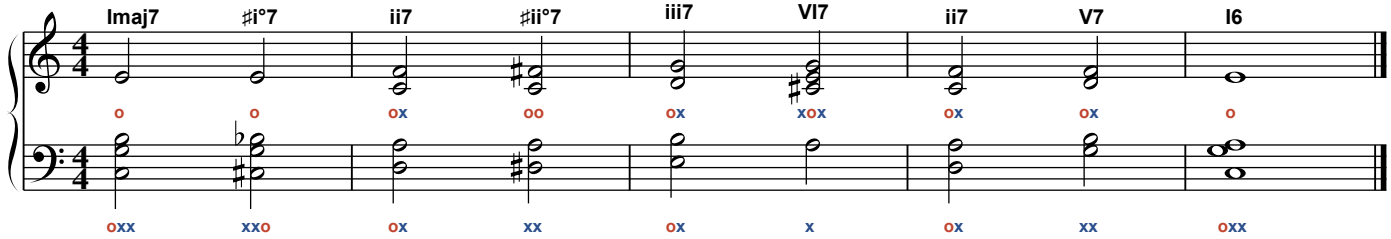


Side-slip: same shape, other row

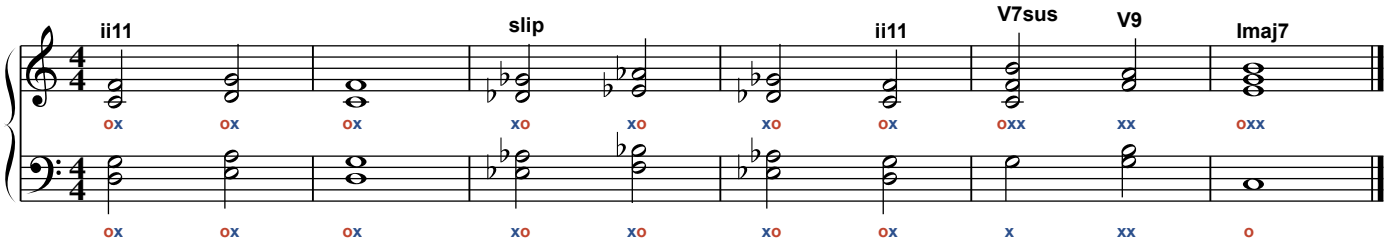
Move the whole shape up a half step: every finger changes row, nothing else changes.



Diminished passing chords (2+2)



Quartal planing: fourths alternate rows



Rootless ii–V–I: two notes move

