

# GET ON THE RIGHT TRACK

## with the Jazzwise Improviser's Roadmap

Learning to improvise is a life-long journey but how is it some players make such quick progress? To improve fast you need to stay focused on reaching the next milestone and not keep running over the same ground. With this in mind we've drawn up The Improviser's Roadmap to help you stay on track. Go well, and remember if you need directions, we are always happy to offer advice.

### 1. LISTEN TO JAZZ RECORDINGS

Spend as much time as you can listening repeatedly to classic solos, absorbing sound, feel, rhythms, articulation, and memorising song forms. Remember, the answer to all your questions is on the records!



### 2. TRAIN YOUR EAR

Spend time ear training and soon you will recognise intervals, triads and chords. Your ability to hear chord changes and play what you hear will also dramatically improve.



### 3. MASTER THE BLUES

Learn some simple blues phrases and work on getting good sound and strong rhythm (swing feel) around the blues form. The blues is the most commonly played song form in jazz and popular music, and most great solos are packed full of bluesy phrases.



### 4. IMITATE YOUR HEROES

Get the transcribing habit: steal simple melodic phrases from your favourite recordings. Work on copying the 'sound' and use play along CDs to practise playing the phrases over the blues, favourite standards and through all 12 keys.

### 5. MEMORISE 10 SONGS

Memorise the melody and chord progressions for 10 commonly played songs. The melody is the most important ingredient in any solo, and playing from memory will really boost your confidence. Don't put this off - it is a key step!

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# ROADMAP CHECKLIST

Fast track the next stage in your journey with these star buys. Just tick off the products you need on the handy checklist below and order from Jazzwise today!

## 6. PRACTISE RIGHT

With limited time, a clear, written plan is essential. Make it goal based, achievable and time-bound. Write it down and resist the temptation to keep playing things you already know. Remember little and often beats occasional marathon sessions!

## 7. LEARN THE THEORY

You need to learn basic jazz theory so you can understand what you practise and play, and communicate with other musicians effectively. Remember, let theory follow practice and you will find it much easier to digest!

## 8. BUILD YOUR VOCABULARY

To improvise fluently, you need to spend time assimilating stock phrases and real world language into your musical vocabulary. Practise each phrase through the cycle of fourths and then play over your favourite chord progressions.

## 9. DEVELOP KEYBOARD SKILLS

All jazz players and vocalists benefit from learning basic keyboard skills. The piano keyboard is an essential visual aid for understanding scales, intervals and chords. Practising chords and voice leading on piano will also help you internalise the sound of chord progressions as you learn songs.

## 10. LEARN ADVANCED SONG FORMS

Musicians looking for new challenges can focus on applying their practice routines to intermediate and advanced song forms such as: I Got Rhythm; All The Things You Are; Giant Steps and Stella By Starlight.

## 1. LISTEN TO JAZZ RECORDINGS

- Cork: Harmony With Lego Bricks £25.00 TL058T
- Coker: How To Listen to Jazz £10.50 TL006T
- Jazzwise magazine 100th issue featuring 'The 100 Jazz Albums That Shook the world' £5.95 MZ100T

## 2. TRAIN YOUR EAR

- Aebersold: Jazz Ear Training £16.50 ET013C
- Dickinson: The Ears Have Walls £45.00 ET040C

## 3. MASTER THE BLUES

- Aebersold vol. 2: Nothin' But Blues £16.50 JA002C
- Hal Leonard vol. 3: The Blues £10.95 PA390C
- Aebersold vol. 42: Blues in All Keys £16.50 JA042C

## 4. IMITATE YOUR HEROES

- Transcribel 7 (PC version) £39.95 AC081H
- Transcribel 7 (Mac version) £39.95 AC082H

## 5. MEMORISE 10 SONGS

- Aebersold vol. 54: Maiden Voyage £16.50 JA054C
- The Best of Sher Real Books (C version) £23.00 FB106T
- Real Jazz Book (C version) £24.95 FB087T

## 6. PRACTISE RIGHT

- Crook: How To Improvise £36.00 IT059C
- Aebersold vol. 1: How To Play Jazz & Improvise £17.50 JA001C
- Aebersold vol. 24: Major & Minor £21.50 JA024C
- Aebersold vol. 3: II-V-I Progression vol. 3 £16.50 JA003C
- Finnerty: The Serious Jazz Practice Book £25.95 IT142C

## 7. LEARN THE THEORY

- LEVINE: Jazz Theory Book £37.00 TH024T

## 8. BUILD YOUR VOCABULARY

- Steinel: Building a Jazz Vocabulary £14.95 IT066T
- Nelson: Patterns For Improvisation £10.95 JP001T
- Green: Inside Outside - A Shortcut... £10.50 JP003T
- Baker: How to Play Bebop Volume 1 £7.95 IT003T
- Baker: How to Play Bebop Volume 2 £9.95 IT004T
- Coker: Elements of the Jazz Language £17.95 IT045C

## 9. DEVELOP KEYBOARD SKILLS

- DeGreg: Jazz Keyboard Harmony £24.95 PT111C
- Weir: Jazz Piano Handbook £15.95 PT286C
- Lamont: Play Chords in 15 Minutes £6.95 PT269T

## 10. LEARN ADVANCED SONG FORMS

- Aebersold vol. 47: I Got Rhythm £16.50 JA047C
- Aebersold vol. 75: Countdown to Giant Steps £19.95 JA075C
- Aebersold vol. 68: Giant Steps - Standards in all Keys £14.95 JA068C

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