

section 1

2. **STARTING TO WALK** - Once you have a good grasp of the sound of the root movement, try (slowly) to start walking using the roots of each chord on beat 1. Find paths between the roots using the following principles:

◆ Connect the roots using scale tones:

Two staves of music in bass clef, 4/4 time, key of Bb. The first staff shows a sequence of four chords: Bb7, Eb7, Bb7, and Eb7. The second staff shows a sequence of six chords: Bb7, GMI7, CMI7, F7, Bb7, and F7. The notes on the staves represent the root movements between these chords, showing how they can be connected using the scale tones of the key.

◆ Connect the roots using only chord tones:

Two staves of music in bass clef, 4/4 time, key of Bb. The first staff shows a sequence of four chords: Bb7, Eb7, Bb7, and Eb7. The second staff shows a sequence of six chords: Bb7, GMI7, CMI7, F7, Bb7, and F7. The notes on the staves represent the root movements between these chords, showing how they can be connected using only the chord tones (3rds, 7ths, and 9ths) of the key.

◆ Connect the roots using either of the above with a chromatic leading tone a half-step away from the root on beat 4, right before the chord changes.

Two staves of music in bass clef, 4/4 time, key of Bb. The first staff shows a sequence of four chords: Bb7, Eb7, Bb7, and Eb7. The second staff shows a sequence of six chords: Bb7, GMI7, CMI7, F7, Bb7, and F7. The notes on the staves represent the root movements between these chords, showing how they can be connected using either of the above methods with a chromatic leading tone a half-step away from the root on beat 4, right before the chord changes.

- ◆ Connect the roots using either scales or arpeggios, but instead of a chromatic leading tone on beat 4, use the fifth of the new chord on beat 4 of the bar leading up to it.

B^b7 **E^b7** **B^b7** **E^b7**

B^b7 **G_MI⁷** **C_MI⁷** **F⁷** **B^b7** **F⁷**

- ◆ Now mix up these four basic principles in the same line. Please start this exercise slowly so that you give your ear a chance to really tell you what note choices will actually sound the best to connect the roots. As a general guideline, you shouldn't use scale notes exclusively or chord notes exclusively for more than a bar (or two at the very most), before switching to the other one. Chromatic lead-in notes and V to I resolutions will be less frequently used (more like spice in the stew)—unless there are two chords per bar, in which case these devices will be used much more frequently.

B^b7 **E^b7** **B^b7** **E^b7**

B^b7 **G_MI⁷** **C_MI⁷** **F⁷** **B^b7** **F⁷**

- ◆ Once you find strong paths between the roots of the chords, try playing the same chord progression in a different key, using the same paths between the roots.

C⁷ **F⁷** **C⁷** **F⁷**

C⁷ **A_MI⁷** **D_MI⁷** **G⁷** **C⁷** **G⁷**