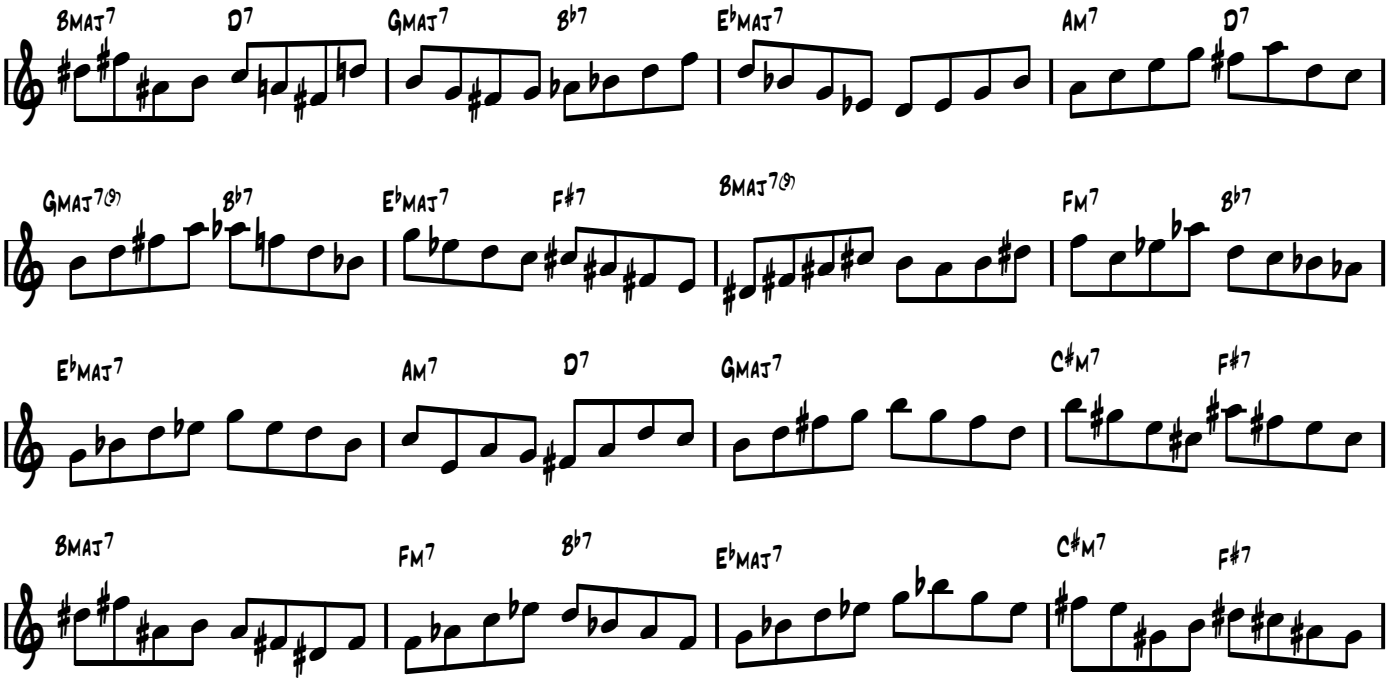
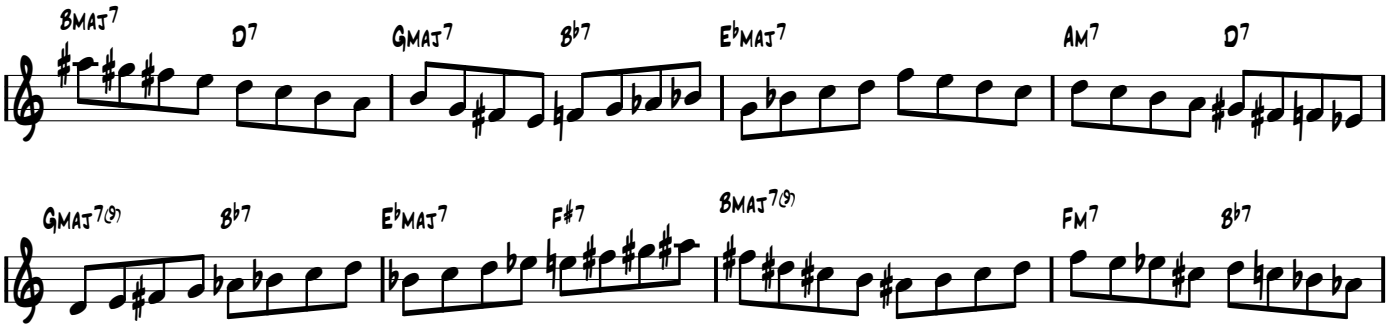
PART 4 Coltrane's Changes: Giant Steps and Countdown

Most of you are probably already familiar with these tunes from John Coltrane's famous "Giant Steps" album—which was released in 1959—and contained some innovative harmonic sequences for soloing that jazz players have been grappling with ever since!

These chord changes require a lot of practicing - needless to say - to master. But the same principles that we have already discussed apply to them as well. We can use melodic variations on the exact arpeggios for each chord (which is the best way to make sure the harmony is *absolutely clearly stated* in our solos) as in this example on 16 bars of "Giant Steps":



Or we can use our various scale options, while making *sure* to place a chord tone—or if need be, a color tone that *resolves* to a chord tone—on every strong beat:



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