# The Jazz Style Primer

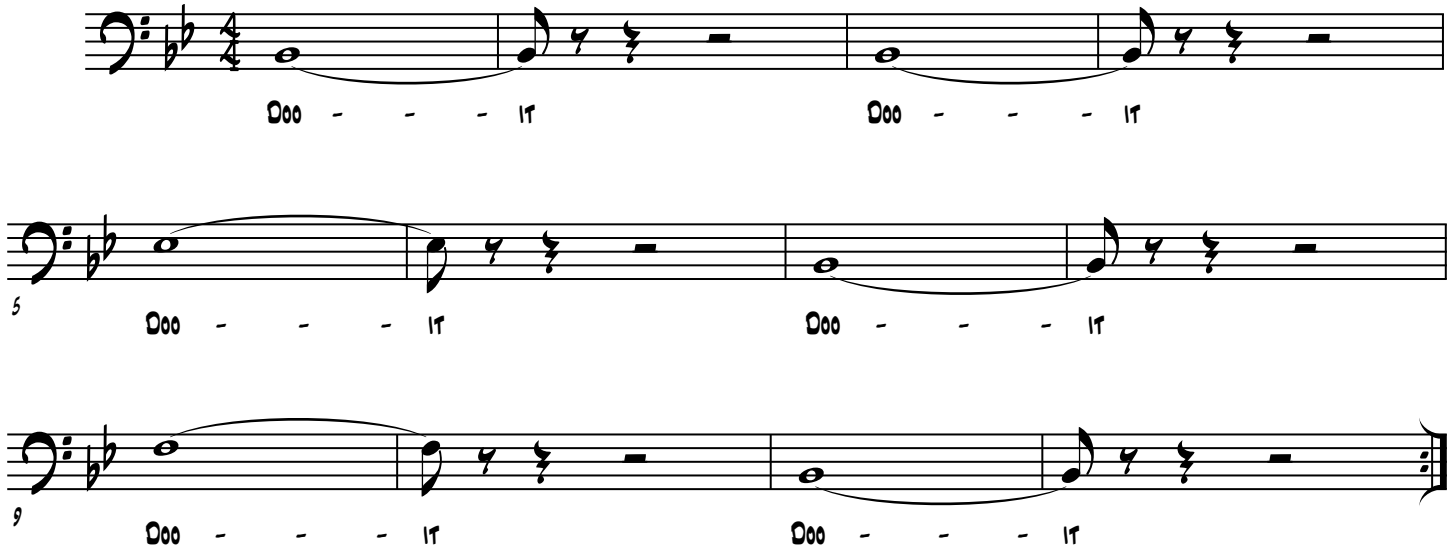
Bass

## A blues based approach to jazz style and improvisation

William Rank

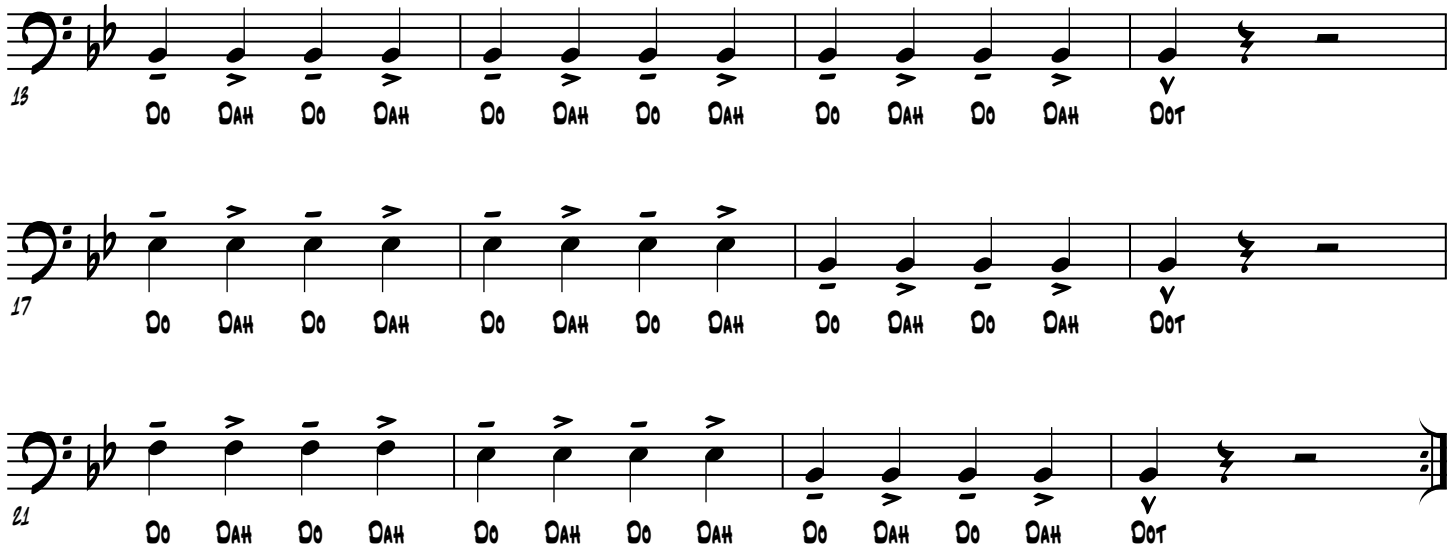
### 1. The Tongued Cut-off

In jazz music use a tongued cut-off
to articulate the end of the note,
giving the end of the note a rhythmic feeling.




### 2. Accenting Beats 2 & 4

The accent in most jazz music is on beats 2 & 4,
whereas classical music generally emphasizes
beats 1 & 3.

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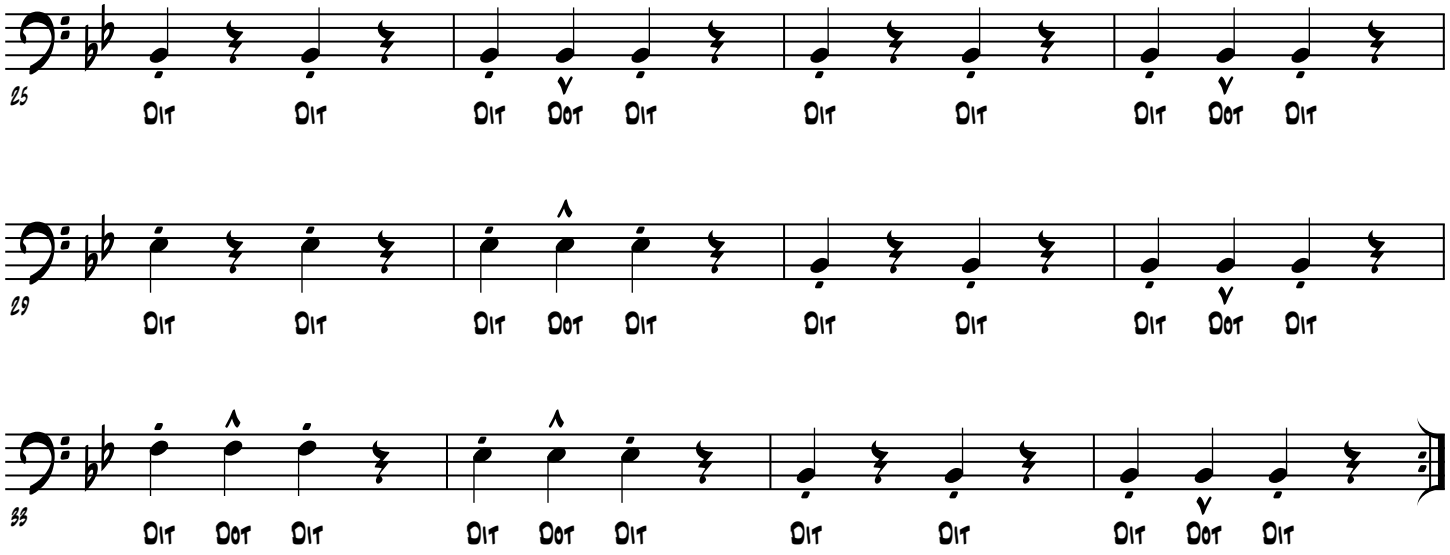
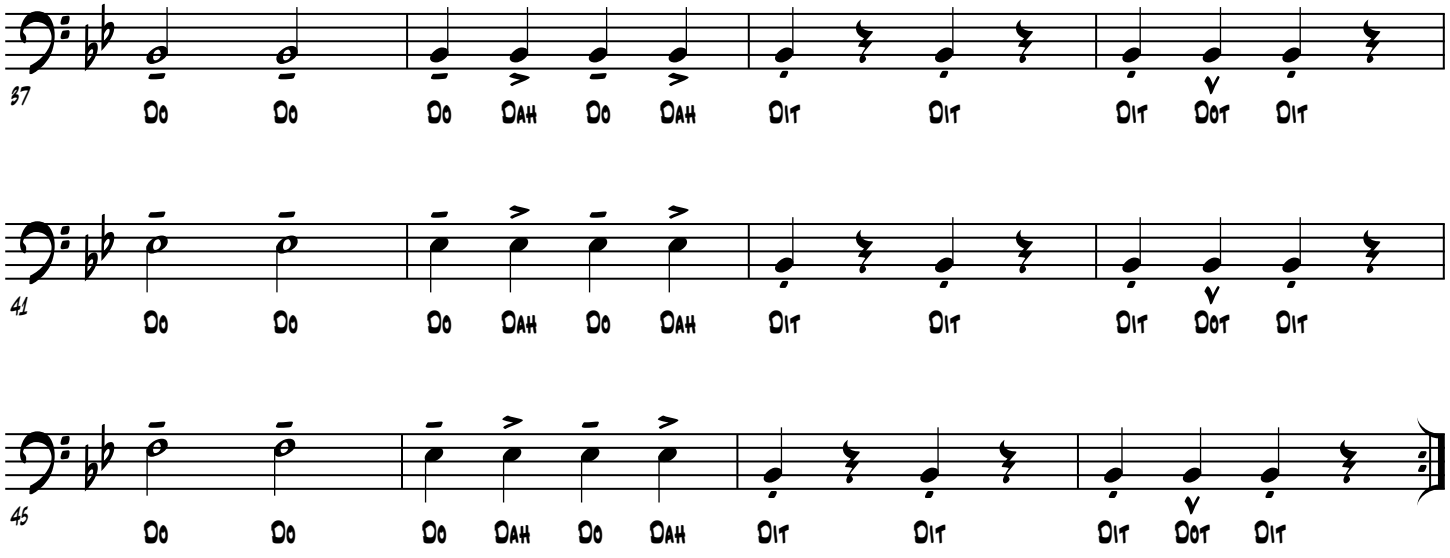
Many quarter notes are played short in jazz. Short un-accented notesare Dit and short accented notes are Dot.

## 3. Dit and Dot

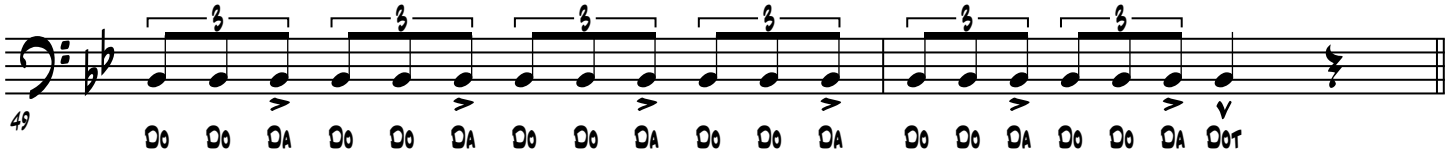



## 4. Do Dah Dit Dot



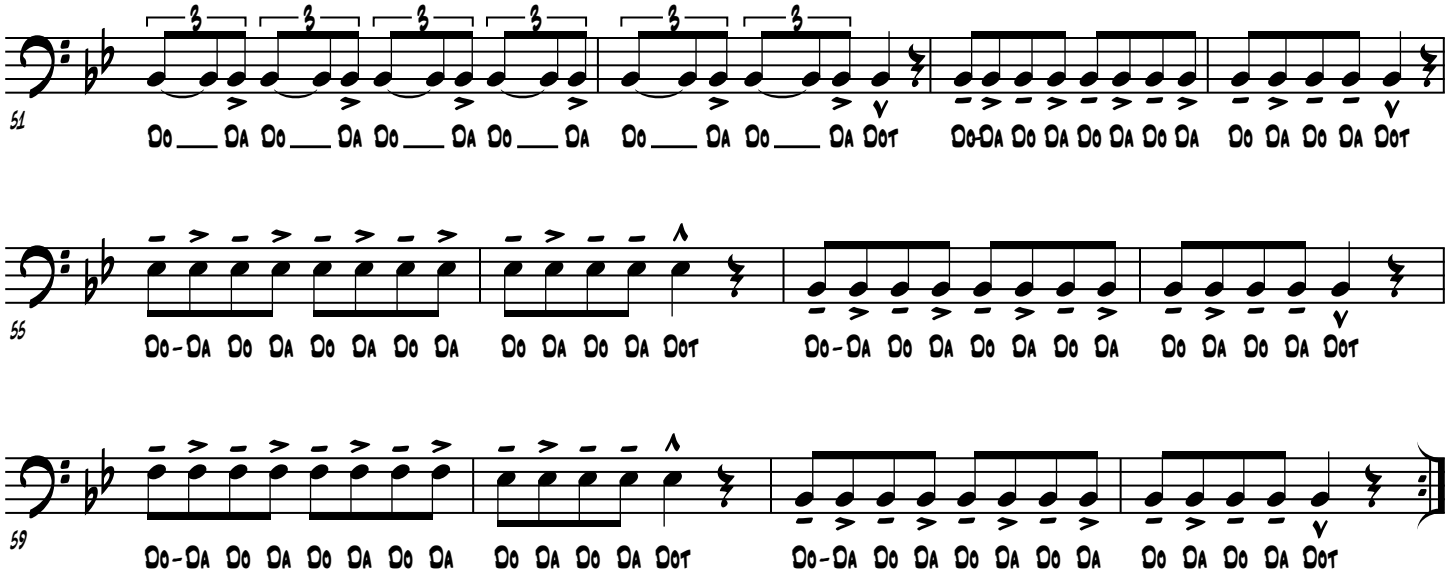
Swing has an underlying triplet feel. Put a slight accent on the last third of the beat.

## 5. Triplet Feel

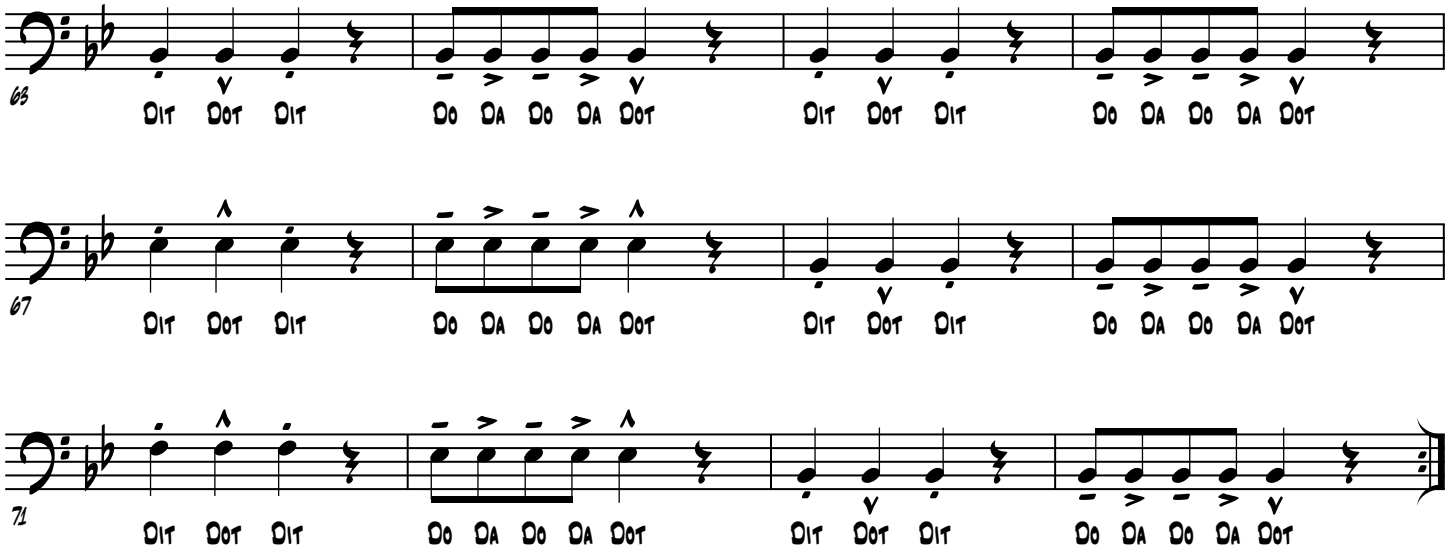



In measures 1 & 2, the first two triplets are tied together to make a quarter note triplet. The rhythm is consistent throughout the entire exercise. Generally this is written as eighth notes, with the last third of the beat slightly accented.

## 6. Eighth Notes

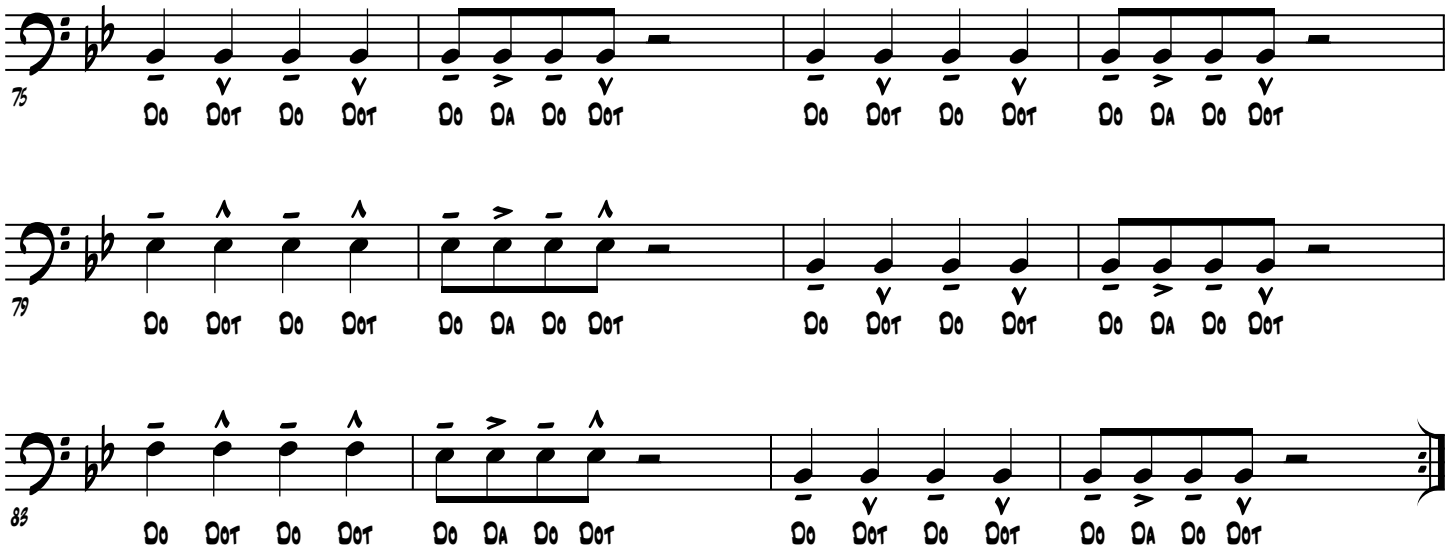



## 7. Quarters and Eighths



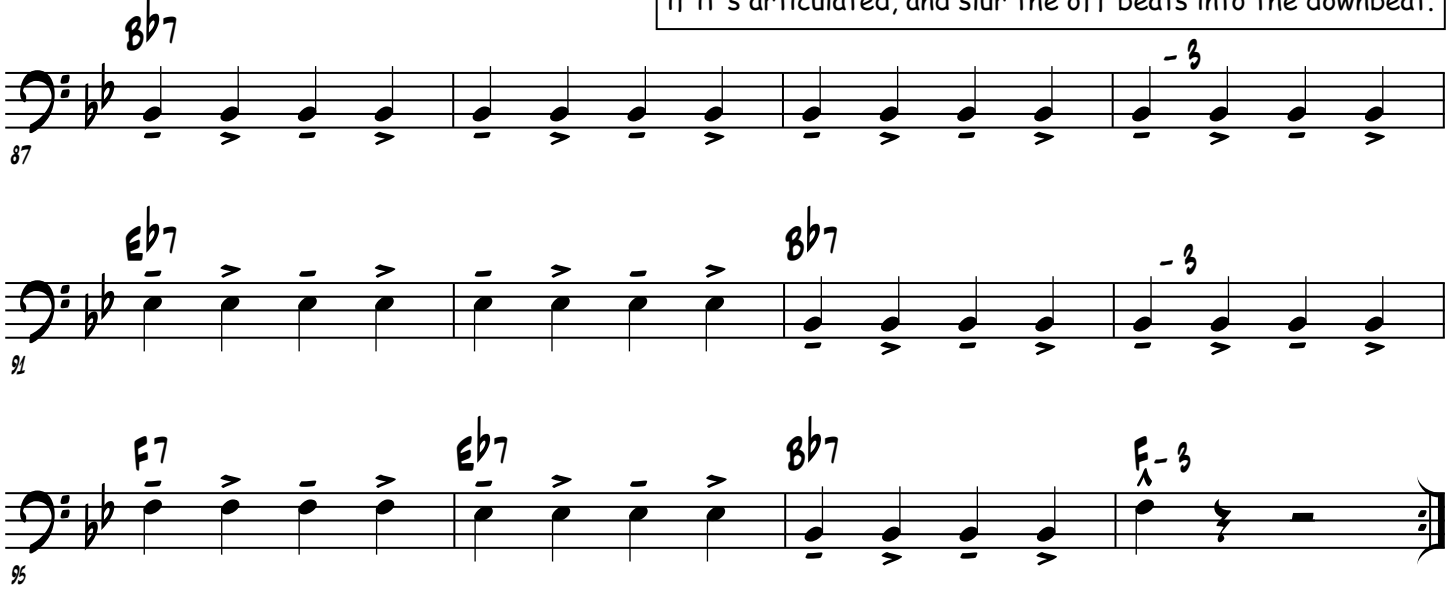
## 8. More Quarters and Eighths

Jazz Rules: Eighth Notes followed by rests are played short!



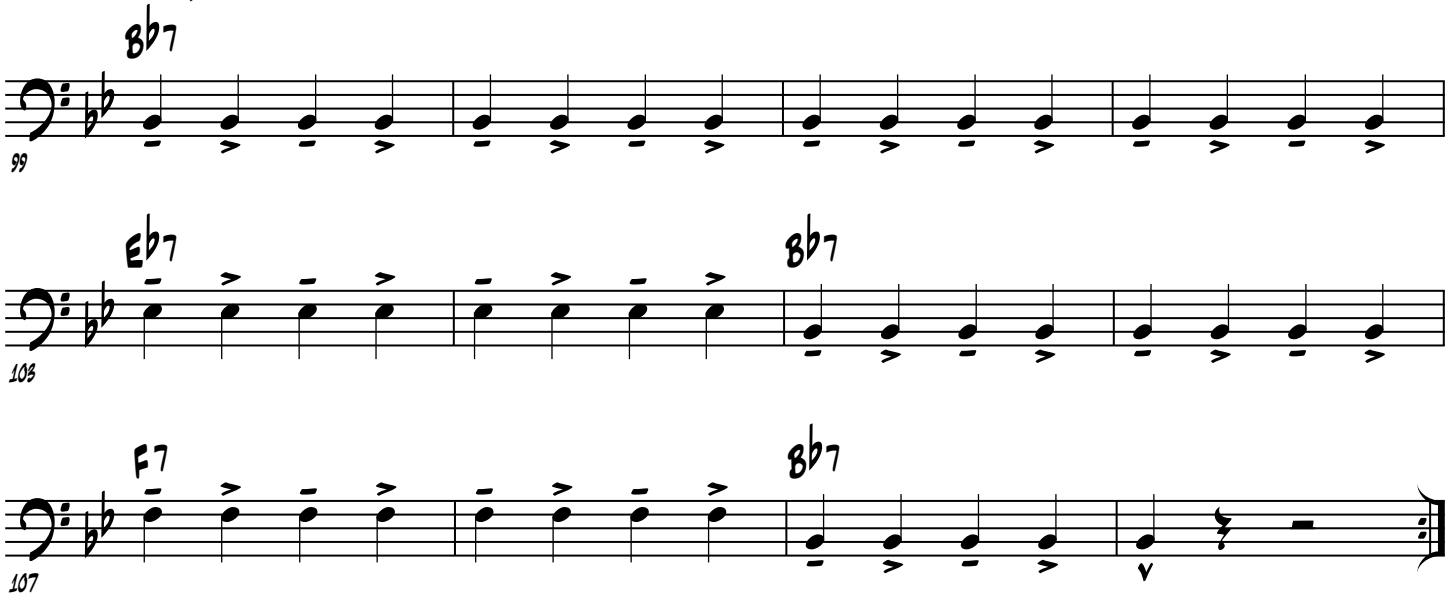

## 9. Back-Accent Tonguing

To create a more fluid style, jazzers use a technique called "back accent tonguing". Legato tongue the downbeat if it's articulated, and slur the off beats into the downbeat.

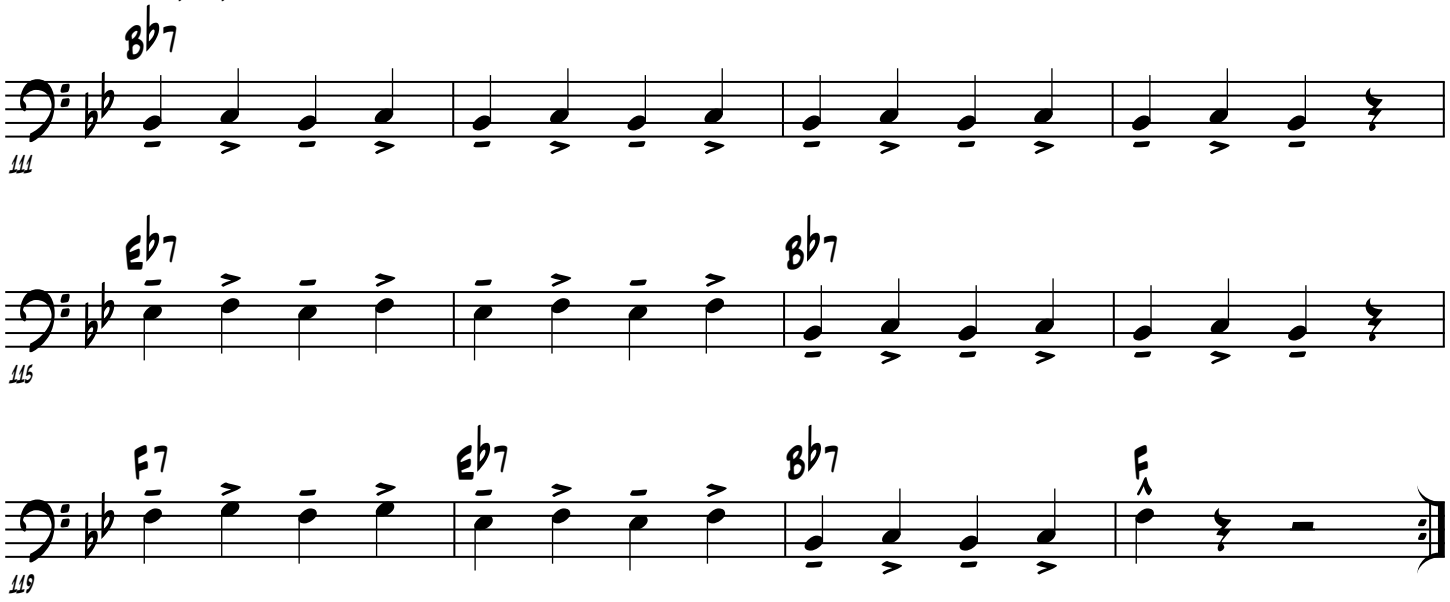



The Bass plays an important role in the ensemble, the pulse and harmonic foundation. Walking Bass lines are important in Jazz. This exercise starts with just Root movements.

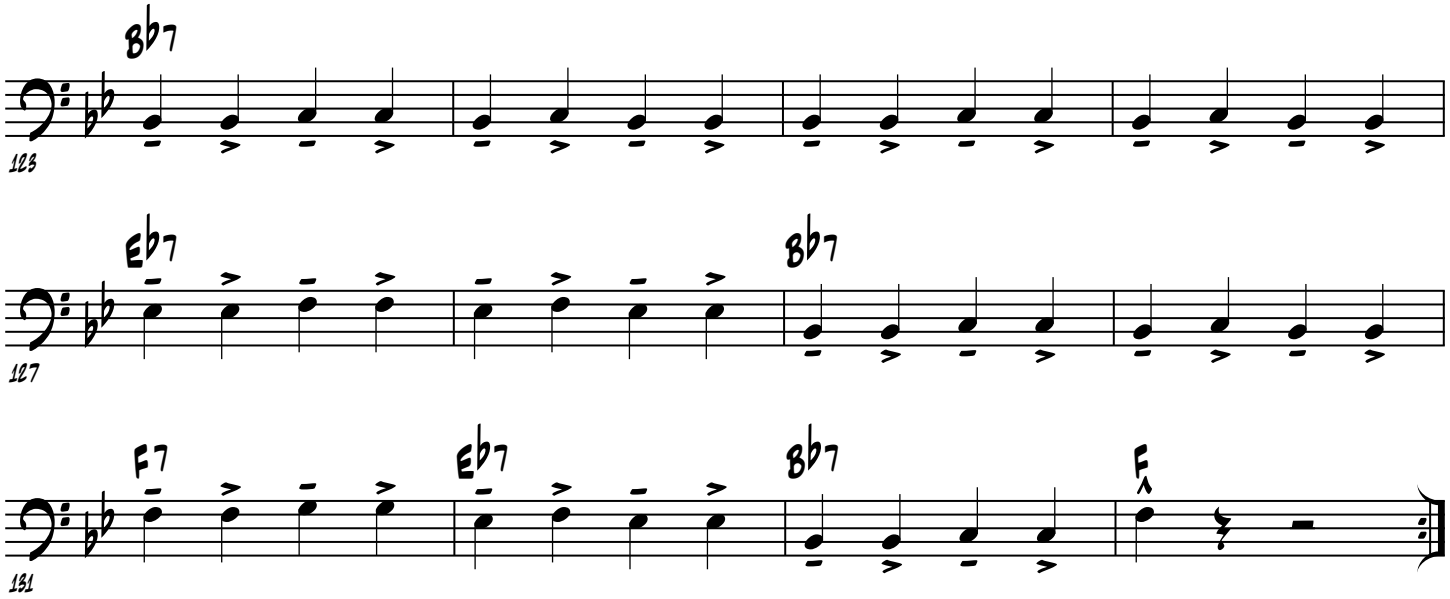
## 10. Moving Around




## 11. Swinging Free

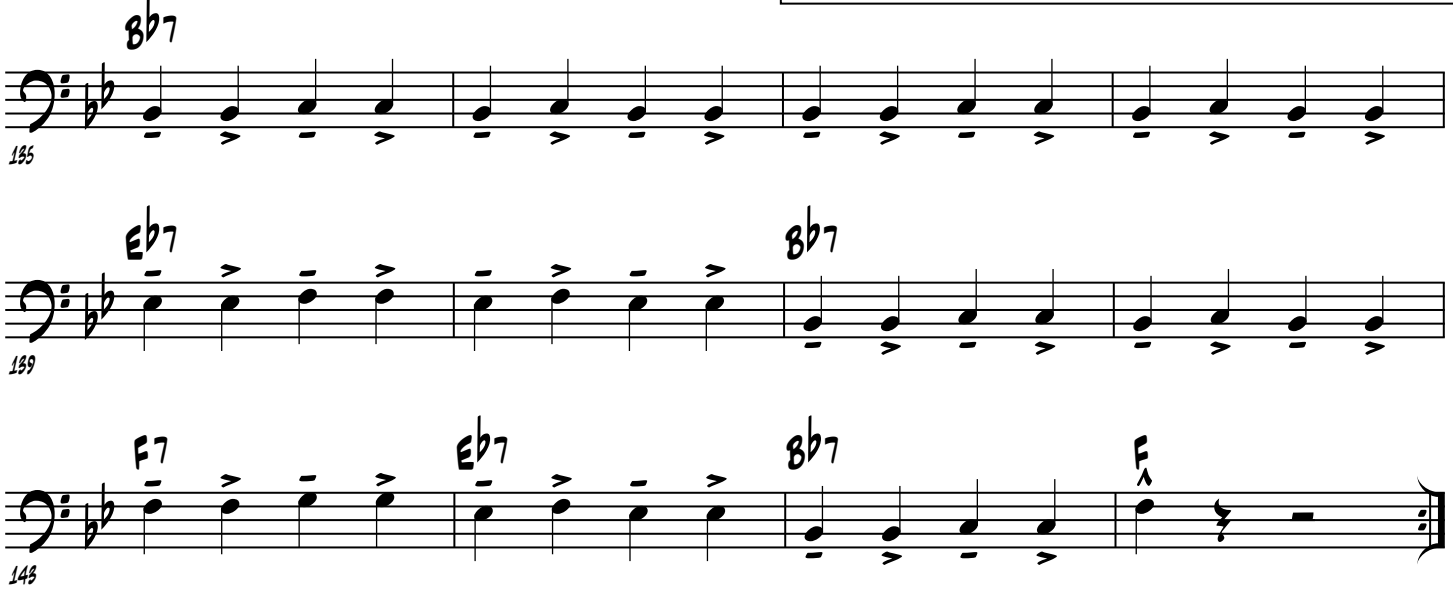


## 12. Before Thirteen

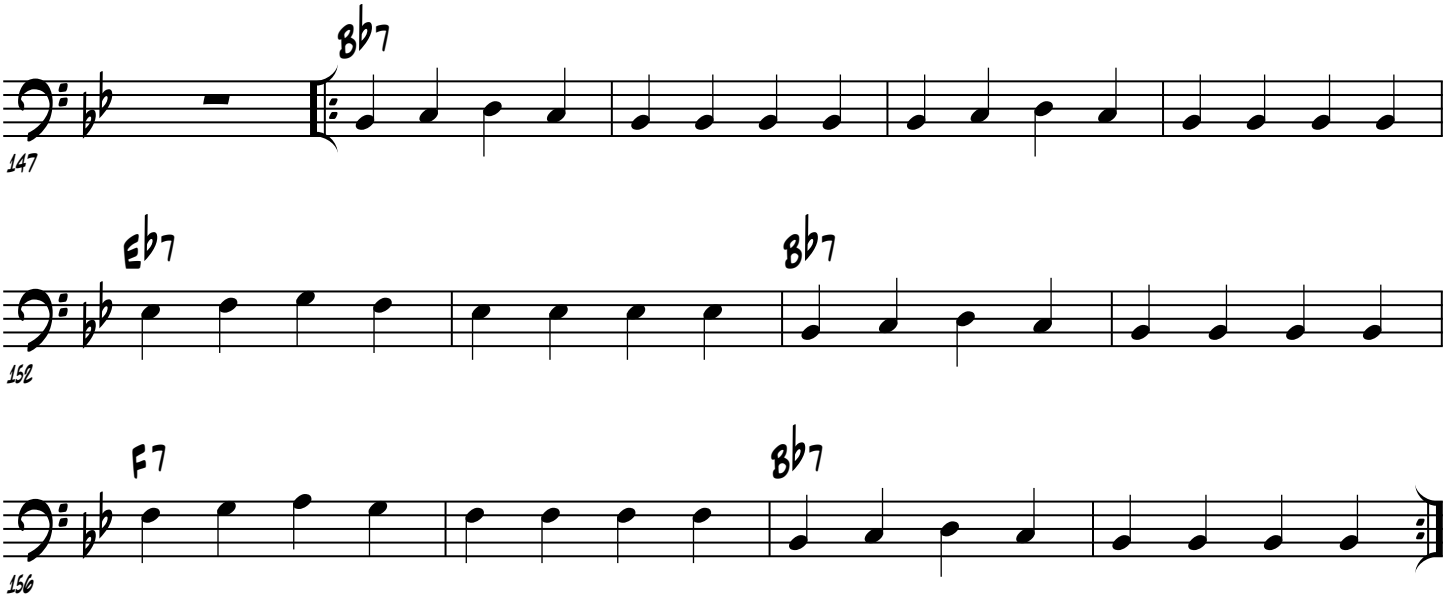



Entering on the And of the beat is a little confusing. If you have a rest on the downbeat, think "n".

## 13. And of One

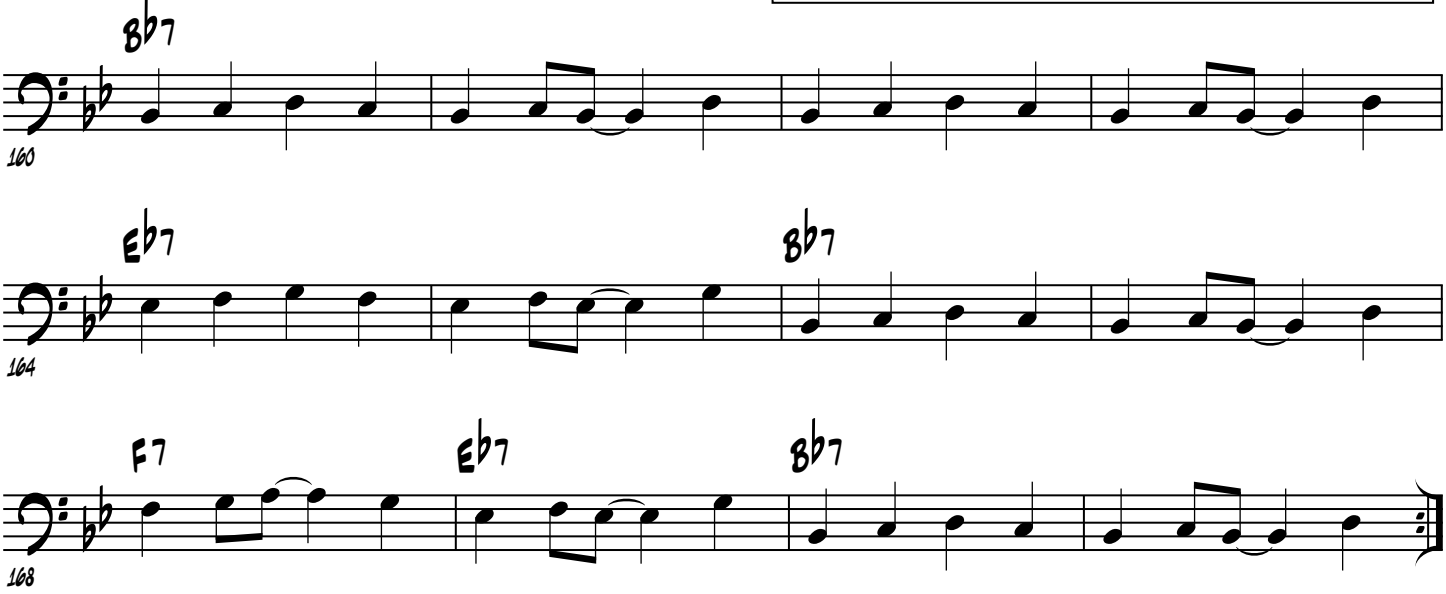


## 14. Quarter Til One



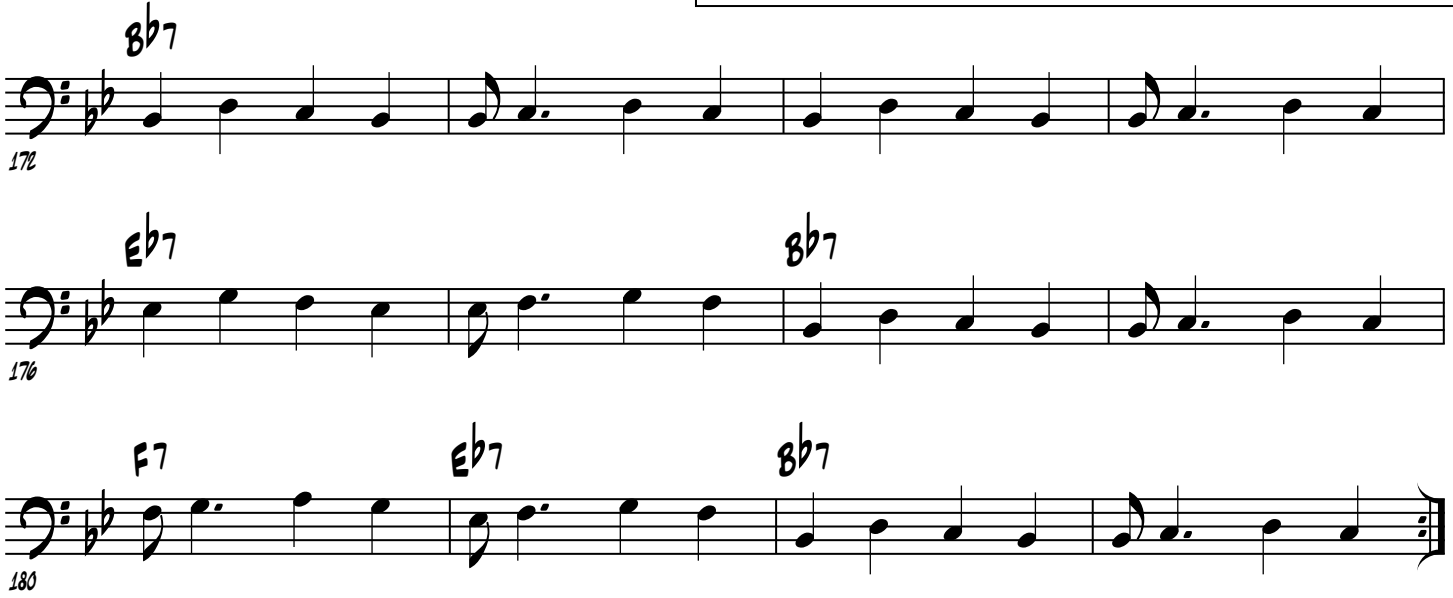

To create syncopation, one method that jazzers tend to use is anticipation. Keep the "doo-dle-da" triplet feel in your head to be sure that you don't rush the anticipation.

## 15. Syncopation by Anticipation

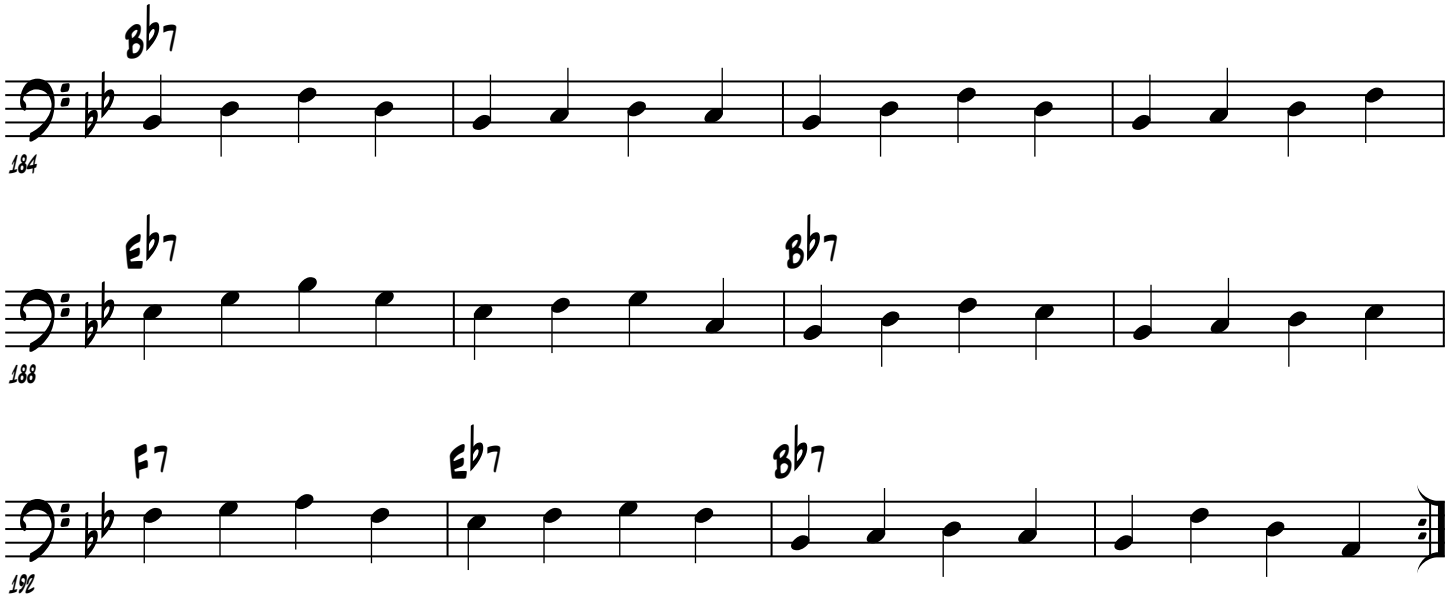


## 16. Syncopation by Delay

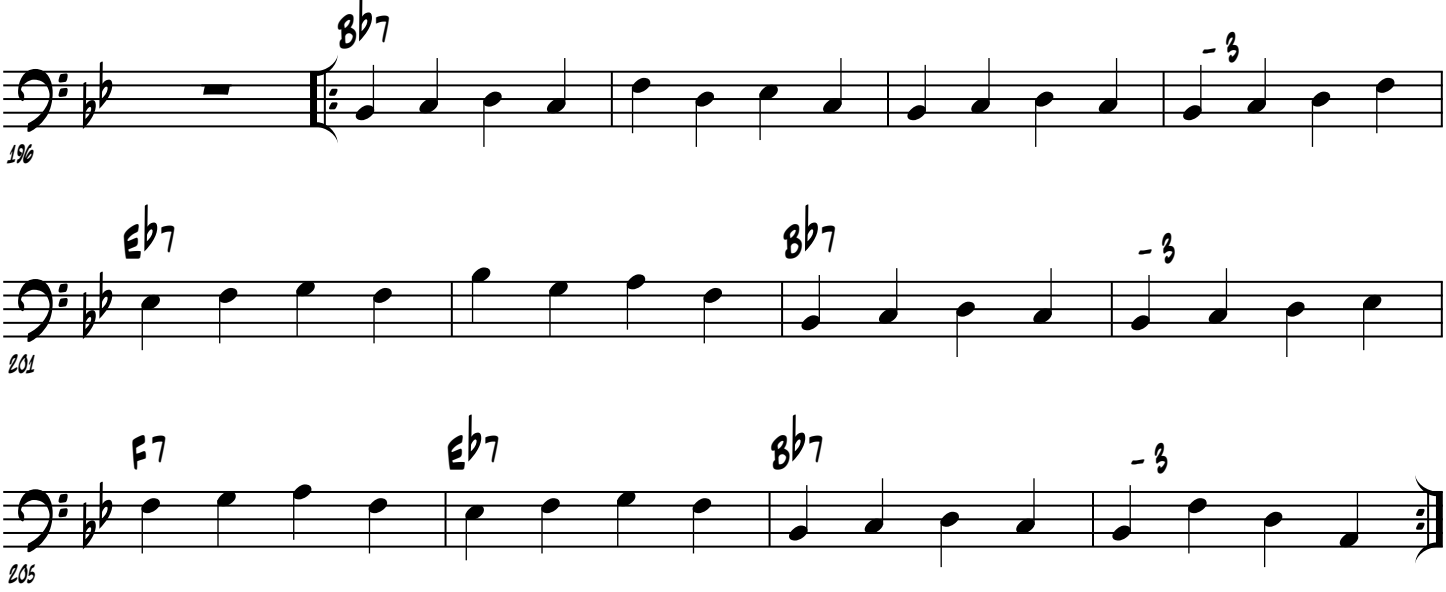
Another method of syncopation is to delay an entrance. This is usually accomplished by adding a rest on the downbeat.

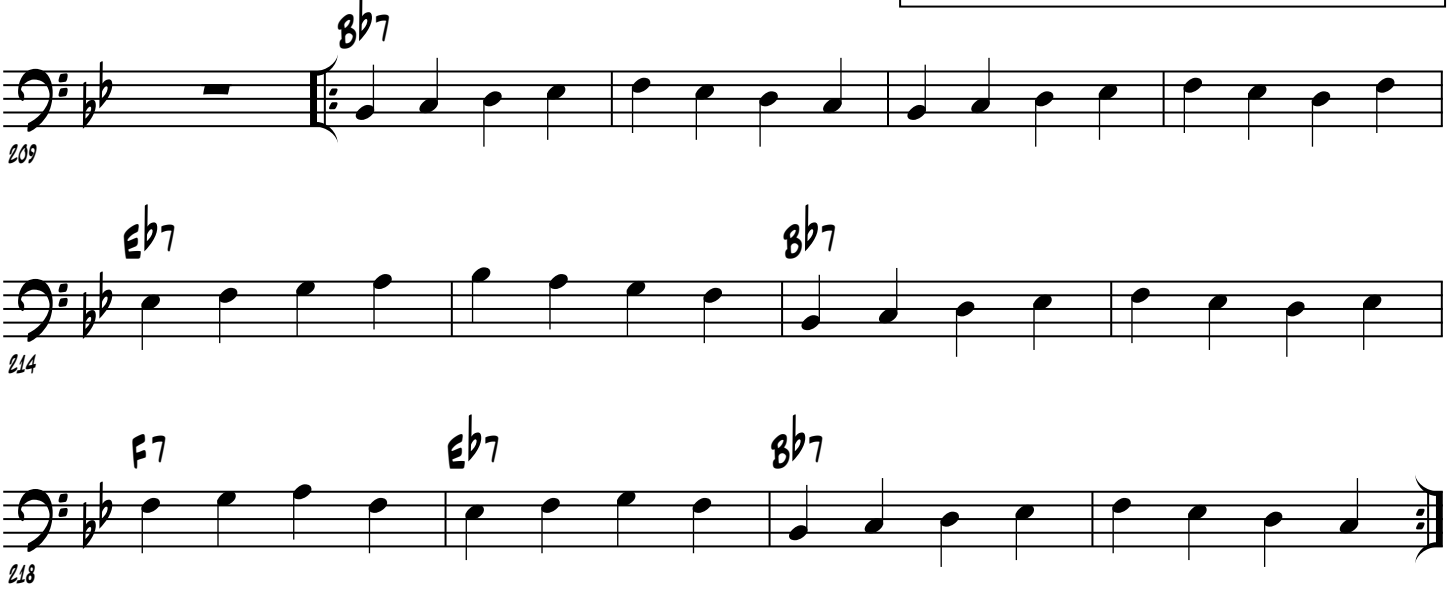



## 17. Repetitive Syncopation



## 18. Pick-up Game




## 19. GREEN LIGHT GO!

Apply ALL the style rules covered so far.
Write in your syllables, Sing and Play!