

CHAPTER 10 :

EMBELLISHING THE BASS LINE (1)

Combination note on beat 4

When approaching the root note of the following bar you have two options to choose from :
 a scalar note (a note belonging to the scale) from any step above or below, or
 a chromatic note (a note not belonging to the scale) a half step from above or below.
 Let's name those notes for the sake of simplicity 'combination notes'
 If it's possible, it is much easier to play the combination notes on the same course as the target note.

Play the third of the chord on beat 3 and the combination note on the beat 4

We will use on the same progression as from chapter 9.

Cm ⁷	F ⁷	B ^b maj ⁷	E ^b maj ⁷
♪ ♪	♪ ♪	♪ ♪	♪ ♪
<i>a</i> <i>d</i>	<i>a</i> <i>c</i>	<i>d</i> <i>c</i>	<i>d</i> <i>c</i>

Am ^{7(b5)}	D ⁷	Gm	Gm
♪ ♪	♪ ♪	♪ ♪	○
<i>c</i> <i>a</i>	<i>c</i> <i>b</i>	<i>a</i> <i>d</i>	<i>c</i>

Only scalar notes

Cm ⁷	F ⁷	B ^b maj ⁷	E ^b maj ⁷
♪	♪	♪	♪
<i>a</i> <i>d</i> <i>c</i>	<i>a</i> <i>c</i> <i>a</i>	<i>d</i> <i>c</i> <i>a</i>	<i>d</i> <i>c</i> <i>d</i>

Am ^{7(b5)}	D ⁷	Gm	Gm
♪	♪	♪	○
<i>c</i> <i>a</i> <i>d</i>	<i>c</i> <i>b</i> <i>c</i>	<i>a</i> <i>d</i>	<i>c</i>

Example

Cm⁷ F⁷ B^bmaj⁷ E^bmaj⁷

		┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐						
<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>d</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>

Am^{7(b5)} D⁷ Gm Gm

		┌───┐			┌───┐			┌───┐			o					
<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>

Your turn

Write down the root - third alteration, add the combination note and then try improvising a melodic line as you begin to feel comfortable.

Only scalar notes

Cm⁷ F⁷ B^bmaj⁷ E^bmaj⁷

<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>

Am^{7(b5)} D⁷ Gm Gm

<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>

Only chromatic notes

Cm⁷ | F⁷ | B^bmaj⁷ | E^bmaj⁷

a	d	b	a	c	e	d	c	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Am^{7(b5)} | D⁷ | Gm | Gm

e	a	b	c	b	b	a	d	c
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Example

Cm⁷ | F⁷ | B^bmaj⁷ | E^bmaj⁷

b	a	d	a	a	d	b	a	c	a	a	d	d	c	a	a	a	b	d
a	d	a	b	a	a	a	a	c	a	d	c	e	d	c	e	d	c	d
					c	e	d	c	e	d	c	e	d	c	e	d	c	d

Am^{7(b5)} | D⁷ | Gm | Gm

a	d	b	a	d	e	a	a	a	d	b	b	a	d	c	a	
e	d	a	b	a	c	b	a	d	a	b	b	a	d	c	a	a
					c	b	a	d	a	b	b	a	d	c	a	a

Your turn

Write down the root - third alteration, add the combination note and then try improvising a melodic line until you feel comfortable.

Only chromatic notes

Cm ⁷	F ⁷	B ^b maj ⁷	E ^b maj ⁷
a	a	d	d

Am ^{7(b5)}	D ⁷	Gm	Gm
c	c	a	c

Scalar and chromatic notes

Cm ⁷	F ⁷	B ^b maj ⁷	E ^b maj ⁷
a d c	a c a	d c e	d a b

Am ^{7(b5)}	D ⁷	Gm	Gm
c a d	c b c	a c b	c

Example

Cm ⁷	F ⁷	B ^b maj ⁷	E ^b maj ⁷
b a d a a	d b a c a	a d d c a	a d a b d
a d c	a c a	d c e	d a b

Am ^{7(b5)}	D ⁷	Gm	Gm
d d b a d	e a a a d	b b a d c	a o
c a d	c b a d	a c b	c

Your turn

Write down the root - third alteration, add the combination note and then try improvising a melodic line until you feel comfortable

Scalar and chromatic notes

Cm ⁷	F ⁷	B ^b maj ⁷	E ^b maj ⁷
a	a	d	d

Am ^{7(b5)}	D ⁷	Gm	Gm
c	c	a	c

Another example of a mix of scalar and chromatic combination notes

Cm⁷ | F⁷ | B^bmaj⁷ | E^bmaj⁷

a a b d b a b | d a b a a b | d a a b d a a | b a b a d c a

a d | c a | d c a | d a b

Am^{7(b5)} | D⁷ | Gm | Gm

d b b a a b | e a c a d a a | d d a f d d c a | a

c c a d | c b d | c d a | c

Another example with a mix of scale and chromatic notes but with a dotted quarter note

Cm⁷ | F⁷ | B^bmaj⁷ | E^bmaj⁷

a d c | a | c a | d c a

Am^{7(b5)} | D⁷ | Gm | Gm

a d | c b a | c d | a

c a d | c b a | c d | c

Your turn

Write down the root - third alteration, add the combination note and then try improvising a melodic line until you feel comfortable.

