

# Octave Practice

By  
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In last month's article I discussed how to increase the flexibility in the left hand. Well, afterwards it reminded me of one of my students who started to study with me a year ago. In his first lesson he told me he wanted to learn how to play bebop, so I sent him home with a Charlie Parker transcription. The following week my student showed up and played the solo note for note in octaves, in tempo and memorized. Needless to say, I was very impressed. Because of the progress that was made in a week, I decided to require this kind of exercise for all my students.

The following etude is based on rhythm changes and is in the bebop style. Practice it slowly at first and make sure the phrasing in the left hand matches the right. The left hand melody is written out so you'll be able to mark the fingering in the music. **Remember:** Correct fingering is the key to good technique. Also, note the beginning of the second chorus where added some broken chords in tenths. This style of playing can be very effective. GOOD LUCK.

The musical score is written for piano and consists of four systems of music. Each system contains a treble and bass staff. The key signature is two flats (Bb and Eb). The time signature is 7/8. The first system has chords: BbMaj7, G7, Cm7, F7, Dm7, G7, Cm7, F7. The second system has chords: Fm7, Bb7, EbMaj7, Ab7, Dm7, G7, Cm7, F7. The third system has chords: BbMaj7, Bdim, Cm7, C#dim, Dm7, G7, Cm7, F7. The fourth system has chords: Fm7, Bb7, EbMaj7, Ab7, Cm7, F7, BbMaj7. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and broken chords in tenths.

D7 D7 G7 G7

3 3 3 3

21 C7 C7 F7 F7

3 3 3 3

25 B♭Maj7 G7 Cm7 F7 Dm7 G7 Cm7 F7

29 Fm7 B♭7 E♭Maj7 A♭7 Cm7 F7 B♭Maj7

2nd

Chorus

33 B♭Maj7 Bdim Cm7 C♯dim Dm7 D♭dim Cm7 F7

37 Fm7 B♭7 E♭Maj7 A♭7 Dm7 G7 Cm7 F7

41 B $\flat$ Maj7 B dim Cm7 C $\sharp$ dim Dm7 D $\flat$ m7 Cm7 F7

45 Fm7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ Maj7 A $\flat$ 7 Cm7 F7 B $\flat$ Maj7

49 D7 D7 G7 G7

53 C7 C7 F7 F7

57 B $\flat$ Maj7 G7 Cm7 3 F7 Dm7 G7 Cm7 F7

61 Fm7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ Maj7 A $\flat$ 7 Cm7 F7 B $\flat$ Maj7