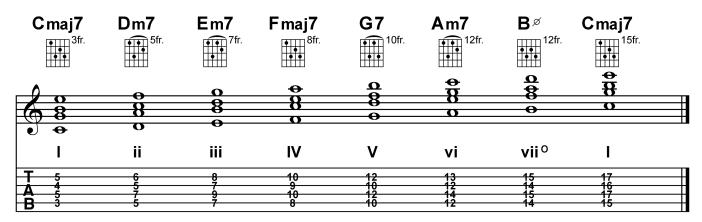
Jazz Guitar: The ii-V-I Progression

The ii-V-I progression is a signature progression in Jazz. The "ii-V-I" come from the roman numerals used to notate chord functions within a key. In C, the ii-V-I would be Dm-G-C. Jazz customarily adds the appropriate sevenths so, in Jazz, the progression would be Dm7-G7-Cmaj7.

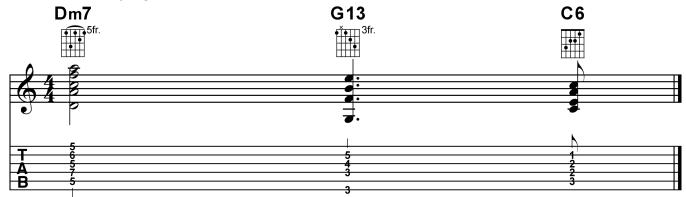
Jazz Seventh Chords in C

If you built four note chords - or chords including the sevenths - on every note of the C major scale, you get a specific pattern of chords. Here are the chords built in sevenths in the key of C. The root of each chord is on the 5th string. Notice how some chords are major7ths, some minor 7ths, and one is half-diminished. This pattern of chords is common to every key.



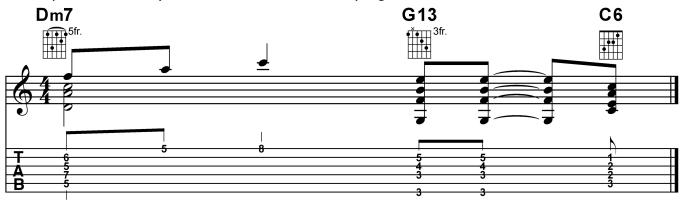
Basic Progression

Here is a basic ii-V-I progression in C with some common color tones added.



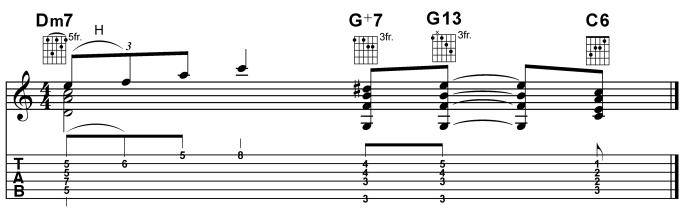
Adding a Simple Melody

Here a simple chord melody has been added to the basic progression.



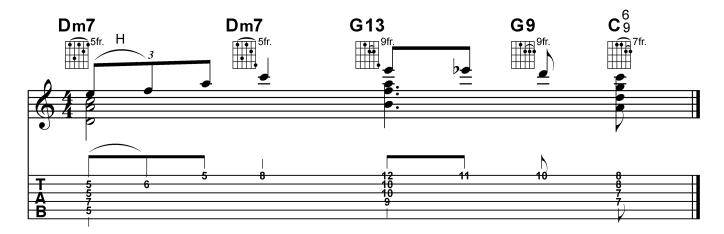
Embellishing the Melody

This example embellishes the original melody and adjusts the chords to create a more interesting melody.



Resolving the Melody High

This final example adjusts the melody and chords from resolving to a low C chord to a different C chord higher up on the guitar at the end of the phrase.



Practice Tips

- I. Learn the New Chord Forms.
- 2. Transpose the Examples to Other Keys.
- 3. Experiment with Different Chord and Melody Variations.