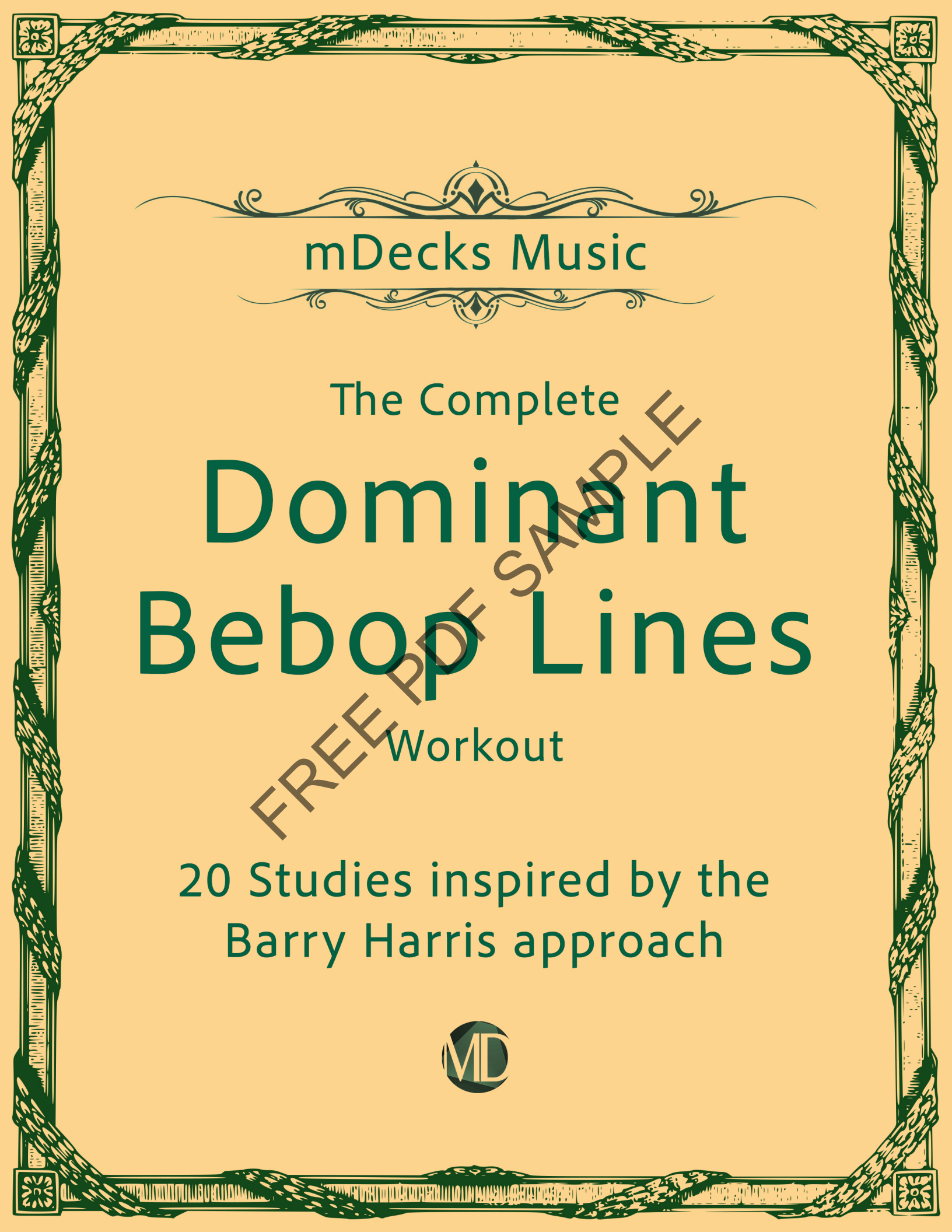




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The Complete

Dominant Bebop Lines

Workout

FREE PDF SAMPLE

20 Studies inspired by the
Barry Harris approach



The Complete
BEBOP LINES
Workout

Inspired by the Bebop Concepts of Barry Harris
20 Original Technical Exercises for Pianists
Arpeggios, Pivots & Enclosures

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Introduction

The Complete Bebop Lines Workout: 20 Original Technical Exercises

Barry Harris developed one of the most influential ways of teaching bebop improvisation—not as a collection of isolated licks, but as a **system for understanding how melodic lines are constructed**. His approach encourages the player to hear dominant harmony as a field of motion: chord tones, related arpeggios, scale notes, chromatic approaches, and resolutions all working together inside a single line.

In this book, we've created **20 original technical exercises** inspired by concepts associated with Barry Harris's bebop pedagogy. The workout focuses on dominant-chord vocabulary and develops a practical set of melodic devices: seventh-chord arpeggios, related ii-chord motion, pivoted arpeggios, double chromatic approaches, enclosures, and the characteristic passing tone of the dominant bebop scale.

The exercises begin with short, transparent formulas and gradually become more elaborate. Each new study reuses material from the previous ones, so you can hear exactly how a basic idea grows into a longer bebop phrase. The goal is not merely to memorize the written lines. It is to **understand the ingredients** well enough to recognize them, transpose them, vary them, and eventually combine them freely in your own improvisations.

All the lines in this workout are written over dominant chords and are practiced through every key. The exercises are original educational studies and are presented as an independent exploration of concepts associated with Barry Harris.

Why 20 Exercises?

A convincing bebop line is rarely built from one idea alone. Beneath the surface are several small devices that can be practiced separately and then combined:

- **Related ii-chord arpeggios** superimposed over a dominant chord
- **Chord-tone arpeggios** beginning on the root, 3rd, 5th, and 7th
- **Pivoted arpeggios** that break the expected contour and create angular motion
- **Double chromatic approaches** that delay and intensify a target note
- **Trapping and enclosures** that surround chord tones from above and below
- **Dominant bebop-scale connections** using the chromatic passing tone between the root and the flat 7th
- **Concept combinations** that turn short cells into longer, more idiomatic phrases

Each exercise isolates one or two of these devices, develops them systematically, and then places them in a line that can be transposed through all twelve keys. By the end of the

collection, you will have practiced the same vocabulary from many angles rather than learning twenty unrelated patterns.

Practicing With [Tessitura Pro Scales](#)

If you own **Tessitura Pro Scales**, you can load all 20 exercises as interactive practice modules:

- **Practice Every Key** – Let Tessitura transpose each pattern automatically through all twelve dominant chords.
- **Auto-Increase Tempos** – Begin slowly and let the app raise the tempo gradually while saving your progress.
- **Call & Response** – Hear each pattern first, then play it over the accompaniment during the response measure.
- **Backing Tracks** – Practice each line in harmonic and rhythmic context instead of as an isolated finger exercise.
- **Journey to Mastery** – Track your fluency as the material becomes comfortable in every key.

With Tessitura, the written studies become a progressive practice routine: listen, imitate, transpose, increase the tempo, and return to any key that still feels less secure.

One Hand First, Then Expand

Begin with the right hand unless another fingering or texture is indicated. Once the line is comfortable, try it with the left hand, in octaves, or with both hands separated by one or two octaves. The musical concept should remain clear even when the register or fingering changes.

Octave Flexibility

Each pattern is notated in a practical register, but transposition will sometimes push the line too high or too low. Move individual phrases by an octave whenever necessary. Focus on the **intervallic shape, harmonic function, rhythmic placement, and resolution** rather than rigid octave placement.

The Concept Before the Notes

It is essential that you do more than reproduce the pitches. Before playing an exercise, identify what the line is doing. Ask:

- *Which arpeggio is being outlined?*
- *What is the target note, and how is it approached?*
- *Where does the line pivot or change direction?*

- *Which notes belong to the dominant scale, and which are chromatic?*
- *How are two or more devices being combined?*

This is a practice method, not a prescription for what to think about during a real solo. In performance, you should not be consciously naming every enclosure or deciding where to insert a pivot. The analytical work happens in the practice room so that the sound and physical motion become available without calculation.

The Goal

By the end of this workout, you will:

- **Play all 20 dominant bebop studies fluently through every key**
- **Hear the related ii chord as an internal source of motion over a dominant**
- **Use pivoted arpeggios to create more angular melodic contours**
- **Control double chromatic approaches, trapping figures, and enclosures**
- **Connect arpeggios with the dominant bebop scale**
- **Analyze unfamiliar patterns by identifying the devices inside them**
- **Build original bebop lines by recombining the same vocabulary**

This is more than a collection of finger exercises. It is a concept-based workout designed to help you hear how bebop lines are assembled—and to make those materials part of your own musical language.

The complete video lesson is included with the workout. Use the QR code to watch the lesson and hear the exercises demonstrated.



This is your complete dominant bebop-lines workout: 20 exercises, a small set of essential devices, and hundreds of possible combinations.

Now let's begin.

The First Building Blocks

Exercises 1–4: Related ii Arpeggios, Chromatic Approaches & Pivots

The first four exercises establish the basic grammar of the workout. We begin with one related arpeggio, aim it at a strong chord tone, and then alter either the approach or the contour. These four studies introduce three devices that will return throughout the book:

- The minor-seven arpeggio built on the 5th of the dominant
- A double chromatic approach into the 3rd
- A pivoted arpeggio created by displacing the opening note by an octave

Exercise 1 — The Related ii Arpeggio Resolving to the 3rd

Primary concept: Minor-seven arpeggio on the 5th of the dominant, resolving to the dominant's 3rd.

Over C7: Outline Gm7—G, B $\flat$, D, F—and resolve to E.

Scale-degree view: 5 – $\flat 7$ – 9 – 11 – 3

Instead of beginning with a C7 arpeggio, this exercise starts with **Gm7**, the minor-seven chord built on the 5th of C7. The notes G, B $\flat$, D, and F create the sound of C7's related ii chord. The line then resolves to E, the 3rd of C7.

This creates harmonic movement inside a single dominant chord. Although the accompaniment remains on C7, the melodic line briefly suggests Gm7 moving into C7. In other words, the dominant is treated not as a static sonority but as a place where an internal ii–V gesture can occur.

The final E is crucial. It clarifies the dominant quality and gives the arpeggio a destination. Without that resolution, the opening four notes could simply sound like an isolated Gm7 shape.



With the E, the entire phrase is heard in relation to C7.

Bebop Lines Ex.1

Mixolydian add#9 Bebop

The image displays a musical exercise titled "Bebop Lines Ex.1" in 4/4 time, featuring the Mixolydian add#9 Bebop scale. The exercise is presented in 12 measures, organized into six pairs, each with a specific 7th chord indicated above the staff. The chords are: C7, F7, Bb7, Eb7, Ab7, Db7, F#7, B7, E7, A7, D7, and G7. Each measure contains a melodic line consisting of eighth and quarter notes, with rests in the second and fourth measures of each pair. A large, diagonal watermark reading "FREE PDF SAMPLE" is overlaid across the center of the page.



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