

QUICK LESSON 11 11th September 20

ENHANCING OUR CHORDS – PASSING CHORDS

So far we have applied a simple technique of lifting a finger from within a chord shape to create interest in our playing.

We are now going to look at **Passing Chords**. This simply means instead of going directly to our next chord we will pass through another chord shape on our way to it.

This technique works well at the end of a line, verse or chorus and when changing to a new chord. It signifies to the listener a change.

We have used Jambalya to help us learn so far, lets continue with this. Now say we are going from C to G7. As we play the C (do remember your finger lifts) we can move through a C4 on our way to the G7 chord. This is done within the count of the song.

To a modest tempo lets start with a C chord (+finger lift) then as we prepare to move to the G7 chord we will add a C4 chord, lift our fingers and play the G7 chord (+finger lifts). 1, 2, 3, 4, play passing chords on the 3, 4, count. Practice this slowly at first speeding up when you are ready. But make sure you can do it pretty consistently.

Do not worry too much about the chord names. Because we are playing the passing chord from the family of C chords it will work. Also, it will become instinctive when to play the passing chord rather than focussing too much on the count.

Again, after the Lesson I will post a video for you to help you learn. I will play it slowly and then speeded up. This way you will get an indicator of the sound.

By now it will become apparent that to enhance our chords we need to be constantly moving our fingers rather than rigidly holding on to chords for dear life.

If you are applying these techniques you should start to hear variation in the song you are playing.