

## How to Play from a Fake book



1. Listen to a professional recording of the piece. Learn to sing the melody without reference to the leadsheet. Then seek out a leadsheet. (The best strategy though is to figure out the melody by ear and forget the lead sheet altogether. This was the strategy of Rosario Giuliani at the Roma Summer Jazz Workshop. Try it, it may save you years of effort and frustration.)

2. Clap the melody- no swing to start, then the clap the melody in swing rhythm if appropriate. Use a metronome,

count out loud. Notice differences between what you heard and what you see. Adjust match the recording.

3. Play the melody with the jazz chords roots in the left hand. Write in the fingering for the melody if appropriate. Write out the chords under the melody. The time spent doing this activity will reap rewards.

4. Play the basic chord voicing of tri-tone or 3rd/7th in right hand and a bass line of roots in the left. The right-hand plays in the middle C area. The bass 2 octaves lower in the left.

5. Play either root/7th or root/3rd in the left hand with the melody in the right hand. Aim for smooth voice leading in the left hand. I call this Sonny's thumbs, in honor of Sonny Stitt who showed them to me as a kid.

6. Play the melody supported with the tri-tone or 3rd/7th intervals in the left hand.

7. Play the rootless chords in right hand and bass line of roots in the left.

8. Play the melody in right hand and rootless voicing in the left.

9. Play scales in the right hand and rootless voicing in the left.

10. Repeat all steps from memory.

Cheers,

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