Chapter 2 – Picking Hand Patterns

To expand your chord work over the ii V I progression, you now work on picking hand patterns that bring out the bass and melody notes in each chord.

Often times you learn chords and then strum and pluck them without altering the picking.

This is leaving a lot of room to explore in your comping by expanding on your picking hand approach to these chords.

Start by learning the bass first pattern, then melody first pattern, then blend them together to take things to the next level in your comping.
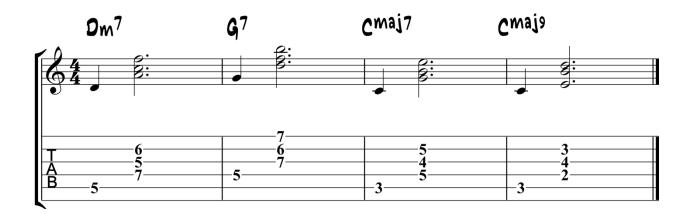
Bringing Out the Bass

The first picking exercise separates the bass from the melody.

This type of comping pattern is helpful when there's no bassist in your group, when you play solo guitar, or for technical development.

Work this pattern as written, then play with the rhythms and take it to other keys if you're ready.

Have fun with this picking pattern as you expand your comping vocabulary and picking technique at the same time.

Bringing Out the Melody

The next picking pattern brings out the top note, the melody note, of each chord, as you focus on the opposite end of the chord as the previous workout.

Bringing out the melody is useful for comping, chord soloing, and especially chord melody playing.

So, work this technique, take it to different keys if ready, and keep this skill around as it will become useful as you progress in your jazz guitar journey.