

Improvisation Motifs Assignment Example

In this example, a single 4-note motive/riff permeates a 12-bar blues form. The riff is used many times at higher and lower registers, on different beats, backwards, and with altered rhythms. By the 11th bar, the figure has returned to its original place (beginning on a G).

- The first, second and notes of the riffs are always chord tones in this case (recommended, but not required for the assignment).
 - Most other notes (but certainly not all) are chord tones
- All prime versions of the riff have boxes around them. Other iterations have ovals around them. You do not need to mark any motifs/riffs on your own assignment.
- Bar 6 uses a new idea (reiterated in bars 8 and 10 and compressed at the very end in bar 12).

The image shows a 12-bar blues melody in 4/4 time, featuring a 4-note riff motif. The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: C7, F7, C7, F7, C7, A7, D-7, G7, C7. The riff motif is circled in bars 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12. A 'new idea' is circled in bar 6. Brackets indicate the placement of the riff motif in bars 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12. A '3' with a slash is written above the riff in bar 4.