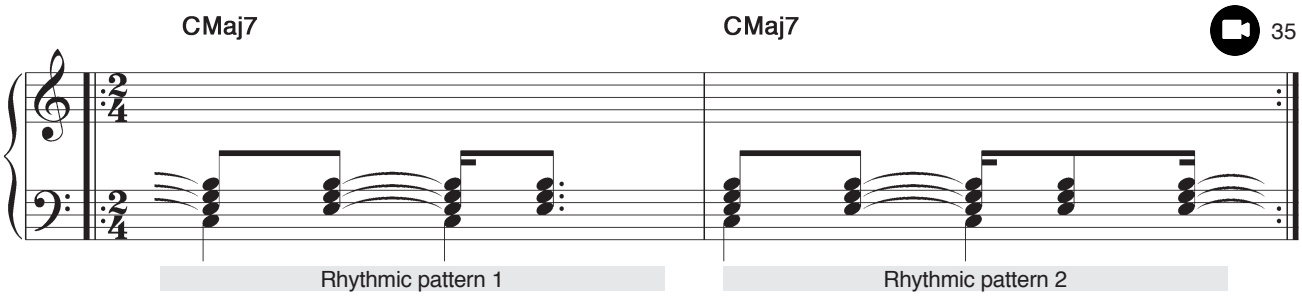
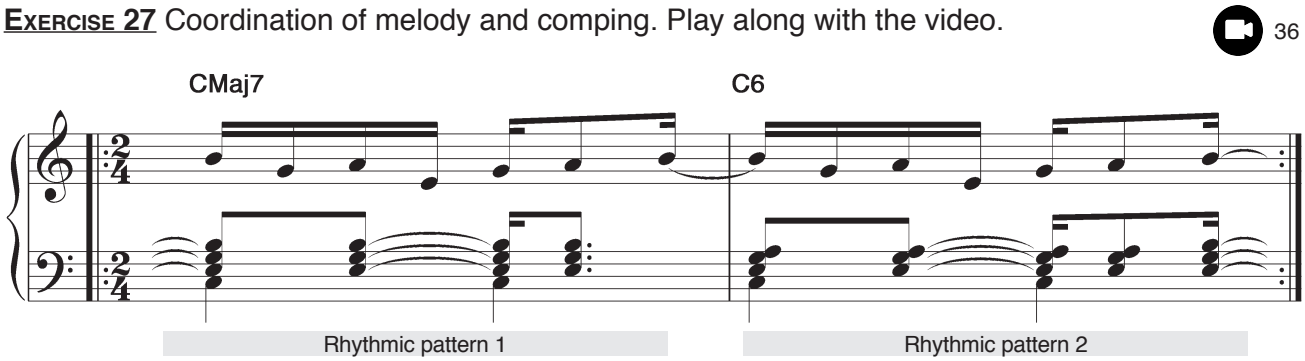
Left-hand comping (part one)

Thus far, we have studied three rhythmic patterns played with both hands. These patterns can also be performed with only the left hand. Think of your hand as composed of two parts (see the image): the fifth finger plays the bass part, while the other fingers are responsible for the rhythmic part, which was previously performed by the right hand:

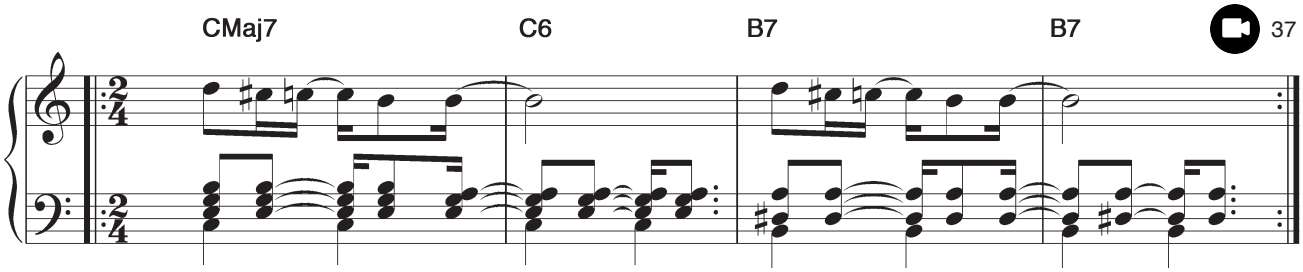


Try playing exercise 14 (page 19) by using this kind of left-hand comping.

Exercise 27 Coordination of melody and comping. Play along with the video.



Exercise 28 Coordination of melody and comping. Notice the inversion of rhythmic patterns on the left hand: rhythmic pattern 2 comes before rhythmic pattern 1. Play along with the video.



Exercise 29 Practice one more exercise of coordinating melody and comping while playing along with the video. In version b), the right hand plays third intervals that can be used by bossa nova pianists to enrich a melody.