

Montuno Circles Makes Blues Scale



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Moderato tranquillo

Slow Cha Cha Cha

syncopated yet flowing

♩ = 100

Piano

Dm11 G7 CΔ(add9) FΔ(add6)

Bm11 E7 Am11 D7 Em11 A7

Blues Scale in A occurs automatically when double-time walking VI-II-III-VI

II V I IV VII III VI II III VI

- 1) As is common with a good montuno, the octave takes the leading tone through the progression. This version is interesting because of the perfect 2nd throughout the pattern; a standard montuno would have the note JUST ABOVE this one, for example the first notes would be F and A instead of F and G. Our method above also produces the interesting 11th, add9 and add6 chords.
- 2) The montuno has no "side," since it is just like a pleasant shaker pattern, as they would say: "1 bar instead of 2" so there is no right or wrong clave for this montuno-the glossary has more about this.
- 3) The "Blues Scale" is perfectly demonstrated by the walking bass figure above. In fact, blues often shifts major and minor modes and the example above ends on the c# or major third.
- 4) This is one of the elegant ways to complete the circle of fifths, going above it and predicting it with Em-A7. Some cycles would just make the Am into A7 leaving out the II and III above.
- 5) Could it be that some teacher, in an effort to have students play this Super-Complete-Circle-of-Fifths gave as a practice, the exact notes of this walking bass to practice, and it then created the blues scale?

Cha Cha & Salsa Romantica

Clave

Shekere

Conga

slap tone tone tone slap tone tone