

## Autumn Leaves (Les Feuilles Mortes)

Here are the fingerings that I use to play a chord-melody arrangement of Joseph Kosma, Johnny Mercer, and Jacques Prevert's 1947 standard *Autumn Leaves (Les Feuilles Mortes)*. I play it in the original key of Em/G. The song is played in medium 4/4 jazz time. The A section was created using a Diatonic Circle Progression. This is a form of Circle Progression that is constructed using only those chords from the diatonic scale. Dominic Pedler in his book "The Songwriting Secrets of The Beatles" talks about the diatonic circle of fifths like this: "If there is one winning formula at the 'poppy' end of popular music, it is those progressions whose roots follow a predetermined movement descending in intervals of a fifth... Applicable to jazz and classical music as well as to pop, the cycle is an unashamedly formulaic system for exploiting the natural tendency of diatonic chords to follow this predetermined path. It provides a very simple way of appreciating how generations of classic pop songs actually work in practice..." K. J. McElrath from JazzStandards.com explains the harmony this way: the "Chord progression makes use of the circle of fifths, but in a way quite different than most tunes. The initial progression is ii7- V7- I, followed by a IV chord (similar to *All the Things You Are*), but then it uses a viiø7 in order to modulate to the relative minor (the viiø7 begins a iiø7-V7 in E minor). In general, however, the voice leading is quite orthodox and poses few surprises to the ear. The only place that may pose difficulty comes six measures before the end, where the composer uses chords descending chromatically from the tonic minor key down to the VI chord. In the original key, this is Em7 - Eb7 – Dm7 – Db7 – CMaj7. This is really the same "circle of fifths," disguised using tri-tone substitutions. In the foregoing example, Eb7 and Db7 are substituted for the functional voice-leading chords of A7 and G7 (which would work just as well, but sound far less interesting)."

### A

(Am7Bm7CM9)

EmF#mG6	Am7 Eb13	D7b9 Ab7	GM7Db7b9	CM7
E-0-2-3-	--8---8--	--8-----	--7---7--	--7-----
B-3-5-5-	--8---6--	--7-----7--	--7---6--	--5-----5--
G-0-2-4-	--9---6--	--8-7-9-8--	--7---7--	--5-5-7-4--
D-2-4-5-	--7---5--	--7-----6--	--5---6--	--5-----5--
A-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
E-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1.	2.	3.	4.	

F#m7b5	B7	GM7F#m7F7	Em	EmM7	Em7	Em6	CM7/E
E-----5-----	--5-----	-----	--3---3--	--0---2---3--			
B-----5-----	--4-----2---4--	-----	--0---0--	--0---0---0--			
G-----5-----	--4---4---2---2--	-----	--0---0--	--0---0---0--			
D-----4-----	--4---4---2-----	-----	--2---1--	--0-----2--			
A-----	--2-----3--	-----	--2---2--	--2---4---3--			
E-----	-----3---2---1--	-----	--0---0--	--0---0---0--			
5.	6.	7.	8.				

**A**

Am7 Eb13 D7Ab7b5Am7Ab7 GM7 Db7 CM7 Gb7b5

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E--8-----8--|--8-----|--7-----7--|--7-----0---|
B--5-----6--|--7--3--5--7--|--7-----6--|--5-----3-1---|
G--5-----6--|--7--5--5--5--|--4-----6--|--5-5-----3---|
D--5-----5--|--7--4--5-----|-----6--|--5-----2---|
A--7-----6--|--5-----6--|--5-----4--|--3-----|
E--5-----|--4--5--4--|--3-----|-----2---|
9.          10.          11.          12.

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F#m7b5C13#11 B7b9 Em9

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E--5-----5--|--5-----5-3--|-----0-----|---0-----0---|
B--5-----2--|--4-7--4--1--|-----0-----|---0--4--0---|
G--5-----3--|--5-----5-2--|-----0-----|---0-----0---|
D--4-----2--|--4-----4-1--|-----4-----|---4-----4---|
A-----|-----|-----2-----|---2-----2---|
E-----|-----|-----0-----|---0-----0---|
13.          14.          15.          16.

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**B**

(F#m7b5 B11 B7b9 Em )  
B9 B7b9 Em EmM7 Em7 Em6

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E--2---2---|---2-2-0-2---|---3---3---|---3-3-2---3---|
B--2---2---|---2-----1---|---0---0---|---0-----0---|
G--2-4-2---|---2-----2---|---0---0---|---0-----0---|
D--2---2---|---1-----1---|---2---1---|---0-----|
A--2---2---|---2-----|---2---2---|---2-----4---|
E-----|-----|---0---0---|---0-----0---|
17.          18.          19.          20.

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Am AmM7 Am7 Ab7b5 D9 D7b9 GM7 G6 Gb7 G6

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E--5---5---|---5-----10--8--|-----7-----|---7--6--7---|
B--5---5---|---5---3---7--7--|-----7-----|---5--4--5---|
G--5---5---|---5---5---9--8--|-----7-----|---7--6--7---|
D--7---6---|---5---4--10--7--|-----5-----|---5--4--5---|
A--7---7---|-----|-----|-----|
E--5---5---|---5---4-----|-----|-----|
21.          22.          23.          24.

```

**C**

			(A13)	(G7)
F#m7b5	B7b9	Em7	Eb9#5	Dm6 Db7#9
E---8-8--5-5---   ---2---8---   ---7---7---   ---7-----				
B---10---5-----   ---1---7---   ---8---6---   ---6---5---				
G---9---5-----   ---2---8---   ---7---6---   ---5---4---				
D-----4-----   ---1---7---   ---9---5---   ---7---3---				
A---9-----   -----   ---7---6---   ---5---4---				
E-----   -----   -----   -----				
25.	26.	27.	28.	

			(Bb7b5Bm7E7#9)
C6 CM7	B7b9 B7#5	Em9	
E---5---3---   --2---3-----   -----0-----   -----(0-2-3)---			
B---5---0---   --1---0--0--   -----0-----   -----			
G---5---0---   --2---2-----   -----0-----   -----			
D---5---2---   --1---1-----   -----4-----   -----			
A---3---3---   --2---2-----   -----2-----   -----			
E-----   -----   -----0-----   -----			
29.	30.	31.	32.

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