

The most important part of funk music is the groove. After practicing voicings, chord progressions, and licks, the feel of the groove itself is what you should work on. The power of the groove lies in its ability to make people dance. This music is uptempo, driving, and energetic, and it should pulsate through the musician and lock into a single groove engine. This chapter focuses on various keyboard grooves that are found in many funk recordings. Start out by tapping the rhythms out before you begin to play. It helps to play both the left and right hands at once at a very slow tempo; because there are so many rests and dotted notes, it may be more difficult to read the parts separately. After you master them at a slow tempo, then swing the groove (eighth notes played as triplets), and play the whole part using different keyboard sounds. Repeat them many times and practice with a metronome—keyboard players are expected to keep good time! After hearing the examples on the CD and learning the parts correctly, *stop reading the groove*—just relax and feel it. The exercises are short and easy to commit to memory. Transpose them to other keys, and try writing your own grooves and making them a part of your style. Now that you're on your way to being a funk-master, remember: put it on the *one*!

56 Fig. 1 – Rhodes

Dmi7

57 Fig. 2 – Rhodes

Dmi7

58 Fig. 3 – Synth

Cmi11

59 Fig. 4 – Rhodes

E♭mi7

A♭9

60 Fig. 5 – Synth

F7(#9) F7 F°7 F7 F°7 F7 *play 9 times*

61 Fig. 6 – Grand Piano

Ami7 D7 Dmi7 G11 G#°7 *play 9 times*

62 Fig. 7 – Synth

Fmi Gmi/F A♭ Gmi/F *play 9 times*

63 Fig. 8 – Clav

Emi7 A7 *play 9 times*

64 Fig. 9 – Rhodes

Dmi7

65 Fig. 10 – Clav

A^b7

F7 *play 9 times*

66 Fig. 11 – Synth

B^b7 *play 9 times*

67 Fig. 12 – Organ

Emi7 *F#mi7 Emi7* *F#mi7*

Emi7 *F#mi7 Emi7* *D#mi7 Emi7* *D#mi7 Emi7* *play 9 times*

68 Fig. 13 – Organ

Dmi7 C Dmi7 C N.C.(Dmi) *play 9 times*

69 Fig. 14 – Organ

Cmi *play 9 times*

**slide up*

70 Fig. 15 – Grand Piano

Handwritten: 5

C7 F11 F9 play 9 times

71 Fig. 16 – Synth

Cmi7(b5) Cmi7 play 9 times

72 Fig. 17 – Clav

Bmi7 F#mi7 G A play 9 times

73 Fig. 18 – Clav

Dmi G7 play 9 times

74 Fig. 19 – Organ

Emi6 play 9 times

75 Fig. 20 – Synth

F6 Gmi7/F Cmi7/F Dmi7/F play 9 times